

WHAT TO EXPECT IN Eighth Grade

MATH

In eighth grade, our students continue in the Prentice Hall middle school math series with Prentice Hall *Algebra 1*. During most class periods, students present and defend at least one homework exercise to their peers. Communicating their train of thought and ideas effectively is a daily objective for the students.

Topics Include:

- Solving equations and inequalities
- Graphing and solving linear and quadratic functions
- Solving Systems of Equations and Inequalities
- Operations with Polynomials
- Factoring Polynomials
- Data Analysis and Probability
- Exponential Functions and the Rules of Exponents
- Simplifying and Solving Radical Expressions and Equations
- Simplifying and Solving Rational Expressions and Equations

CAPSTONE

During our students' eighth grade year, they will prepare, present, and defend a substantive argument in their Capstone Thesis Project. This project engages students with a topic of modern debate, and gives them the opportunity to analyze it in light of Christ and the Classics and under the guidance of a trusted advisor. Students will exercise critical thinking, engage in research, and practice rhetorical skills. Students prepare a research paper, present it in front of an audience, and then respond to questions from a panel. This is an amazing opportunity for students to learn to engage the world with the Word, to grow in essential academic and social skills, and to ultimately move towards "the good man speaking well." Students learn to "speak the truth in love" that they might "grow up in every way into Him who is the head." Without fail, this is a transformative experience for our students, and one worth getting excited about!

MEMORY WORK

Each year of middle school, our sixth through eighth grade students memorize a different book of the Bible. This three year rotation is Philippians, Colossians, and 1st Peter.

SCIENCE

Students study God's handiwork of earth and space using the text *Novare Earth Science: God's World, Our Home*. Topics include types of landforms, minerals, and planetary phenomena along with topics of conservation of natural resources, climate change, pollution, environmental justice, and the current scientific consensus concerning geologic history. This curriculum seeks to develop a sense of wonder and responsibility for God's world.

ENRICHMENT / SPECIALS

- Daily convocation
- Weekly art, music, physical education, and chorale classes
- Twice per month students participate in a Scholé class. With the aim of a restful learning environment, this class focuses on appreciating the cohesiveness of different disciplines.
- Students have many opportunities to grow spiritually and academically through service projects, our mentoring program, a class trip and their Capstone project.

LATIN

Eighth graders continue to develop their skills in reading Latin with *Cambridge Latin Course Units 2 and 3*. In this course, students have extensive practice reading and comprehending continuous Latin texts.



LOGIC

In accordance with the Dialectic stage of the trivium, students continue their study of logic with the text, *Intermediate Logic: Mastering Propositional Arguments*. Students also study informal fallacies using Amazing Dr. Jaxson's Bestiary of Adorable Fallacies. Students begin their study of propositional logic by exploring truth tables and formal proofs to challenge their ability to think abstractly and develop their puzzle-solving skills. They will learn to apply the tools and techniques of formal logic to the world around them by evaluating writings from philosophy, theology, and the Bible. The students study of arguments, both valid and invalid, will culminate in a number of formal debates which help them to apply their knowledge and skill to the art of persuasion.

HUMANITIES II: HISTORY

Our Humanities II History curriculum is a chronological compilation of some of the most influential texts in Western Civilization, covering the medieval ages and more, beginning with Christ, and ending with Luther at the Reformation. Students engage a series of primary texts, both secular and sacred, and through these, are instructed in the characters and concepts to which Western Civilization is indebted. Omnibus history focuses on the chronology, geography, and characters of each text, allowing a student to then comprehend and command each one. Students will read firsthand witnesses of Christ like John and Paul; the stories of second, third and fourth generation witnesses through Eusebius; and then the stories of the overflow of the gospel into later history with Benedict and Athanasius.

Texts Include:

- *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*
- *Ephesians*
- *Eusebius*
- *History of the Kings of Britain*
- *Gospel of John*
- *On the Incarnation of Our Lord*
- *The Rule of St. Benedict*

HUMANITIES II: LITERATURE

In Literature & Composition, students cover classics like Beowulf, the Canterbury Tales, Dante's Inferno, and Macbeth- books that have formed the culture, informed the mind, and shaped the spirit of Western Civilization. Students in Humanities II will consider all Literature in light of the Transcendentals which Plato and the Church Fathers alike adored: truth, goodness, and beauty. Since God is true, good, and beautiful, it stands to reason that all his works will bear these qualities. Students will seek out, delight in, and be shaped by these Transcendentals as they encounter them in the characters and concepts of God's world- these are God's fingerprints. All Classics bear the fingerprints of our Maker, and thus may lead us to worship. Yet, this world contains not only the fingerprints of God, but the dark smudges of sin. Thus when the student encounters falsity, wickedness, and ugliness in our deep medieval curriculum, the student understand just how short man has fallen from the glory of God.

Texts Include:

- *Beowulf*
 - *The Bondage of the Will*
 - *The Canterbury Tales*
 - *Confessions*
 - *Divine Comedy: Inferno*
 - *Macbeth*
 - *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
 - *The Song of Roland*
 - *Tolkein's Lord of the Rings Trilogy*
 - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
 - *Henry V*
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HUMANITIES II: ENGLISH COMPOSITION

Drawing on texts from over four thousand years of history, across three of Western civilization's greatest traditions, from both secular and sacred sources, students continue to explore the five canons of classical rhetoric: invention, arrangement, style, memory, and delivery. They learn to think and express clearly by analysis of difficult texts and subsequent creation of concise, coherent, and powerful essays. Students are exposed to varied influential speeches, and through analysis and mimesis, produce and deliver their own. All composition is to be rooted in the Word of God and for the Word Who is God.

