

# Eighth Grade



## OMNIBUS

Omnibus is a robust, cross-curricular course covering history, literature, and composition, that enters our eighth grade students into the Great Conversation. Here student's listen in as the greatest minds in Western history detail and debate the nature of God, man, meaning, and salvation. From these arise politics, education, virtue, pastime, culture, and everything else. Spanning from creation to Christ, students engage first hand with primary sources (as well as numerous secondary texts) from ancient Hebraic, Greek, and Roman traditions.

By providing a cumulative, chronological narrative of Western civilization, students are filled with a scope that allows for perspective. What is worthwhile? What is true, good, and beautiful? Since Christ is the Author, Sustainer, and Purpose of all things, history is the Christian's playground. Students of Omnibus travel from text to text, daily delighting in the Lord through this robust and exciting curriculum.



## ENGLISH COMPOSITION

Students, with full minds and full hearts, begin to explore the five canons of classical rhetoric: invention, arrangement, style, memory, and delivery. Our students 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, learn to produce and deliver their own. All composition is to be rooted in the Word of God and for the Word Who is God. Below is a list of Bible texts that students work through. These set the stage for our composition, for what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart.

- ✓ *Genesis*
- ✓ *Exodus*
- ✓ *First and Second Samuel*
- ✓ *First and Second Kings*
- ✓ *Isaiah*
- ✓ *Jeremiah*
- ✓ *Minor Prophets*
- ✓ *Luke*
- ✓ *Acts*



## LITERATURE

In 8th grade, students study a vast array of classic texts covering poets to prophets, heroes to historians, fantasy to philosophy, the words of tyrants to the Word of God- Omnibus truly covers it all. They are exposed to great books, great minds, and great ideas, and learn to process them all through Christ, the source and standard of all things.

*Texts Include:*

- ✓ *Gilgamesh*
- ✓ *Odyssey* by Homer
- ✓ *Oresteia* by Aeschylus
- ✓ *Theban Trilogy* by Sophocles
- ✓ *The Last Days of Socrates* by Plato
- ✓ *Aeneid* by Virgil
- ✓ *Julius Caesar* by Shakespeare
- ✓ *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis
- ✓ *Til We Have Faces* by C.S. Lewis



## HISTORY

Livy prefaces his history of Rome with the following words: "The study of history is the best medicine for a sick mind; for in history you have a record of the infinite variety of human experience plainly set out for all to see; and in that record you can find for yourself and your country both examples and warnings; fine things to take as models, base things, rotten through and through, to avoid." Omnibus is built on this very proposition. Our students enter into the broad and intriguing history of the Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans, always looking to Christ, the Sense-Maker of history. All that is true, good, and beautiful points to Christ, and all that is false, wicked, and ugly to our need for Him.

- ✓ *Hammurabi's Code*
- ✓ *Histories* by Herodotus
- ✓ *Plutarch's Lives*
- ✓ *The Early History of Rome* by Livy
- ✓ *The Twelve Caesars* by Suetonius



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### LOGIC

In accordance with the Rhetoric stage of the trivium, students continue their study of logic with the text, *Intermediate Logic: Mastering Propositional Arguments*. 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.



### SCIENCE

Our 8th graders study Physical Science using the text *Interactive Science: Physical Science*. Topics predominantly include Chemistry and Physics. Students will acquire a well-rounded understanding of matter, energy, and how they interact. In addition to basic Chemistry, the course includes dedicated units on Electrochemistry and Nuclear Chemistry. In Physics, they will study five areas including classical mechanics, energy and thermodynamics, wave characteristics and sounds, light and optics, and electricity and electromagnetism. There are numerous student labs and teacher demonstrations for each of these areas.



### LATIN

Having finished Fourth Form Latin, eighth graders continue to sharpen their grammar knowledge and translation skills using the workbook Review and Test Preparation Guide for the Intermediate Latin Student and Unit 2 of the Cambridge Latin Course. Grammar topics include subjunctive formation and usage, indirect statements, participles, gerunds, and gerundives. The year culminates in a capstone project involving actual Roman authors such as Caesar, Virgil, Ovid, and others.

- ✓ All Declensions and Conjugations of Nouns, Adjectives, Verbs, and Adverbs
- ✓ Pronouns and Subordinate Clauses
- ✓ Verbals
- ✓ Deponent Verbs
- ✓ Irregular Verbs, Indefinite Pronouns



### MEMORY WORK

Each year of middle school, our sixth through eighth-grade students memorize a different book of the Bible. This three year rotation includes *James, Philippians, and Galatians*.



### 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 will present and defend at least one homework exercise to their peers. Communicating their train of thought and ideas effectively will be 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



### OTHER

- ✓ Weekly Art, Music, PE and Chorale
- ✓ Twice per month students participate in a Scholastic class. With the aim of a restful learning environment, this class focuses on appreciating the cohesiveness of different disciplines.

