

*6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

*Elective*

*Curriculum Guide*

Northside Christian Academy  
Curriculum Guide

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Subject: Art

Grades: 6-8

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**Philosophy Statement**

Art education and the study of it is a way to reflect the character and works of God. The theoretical considerations, the materials and the resulting skills of art studies all come from and point to God, the Creator, as He manifests Himself in the handiwork of all His creation. The study of art teaches students to recognize the value of creation and the creative process. Art making stimulates imagination by asking a student to plan, revise, innovate, and finish a project. In this process students are being challenged to give their best artistic efforts to the One who created Art.

**Course Description**

Through hands on projects, students are taught the elements of art and the principles of design. These would include: line, shape, mass, texture, value, and color. Various color studies using warm/cool, contrasting colors, color wheels, etc. will be explored. Weaving with a loom is used in the study of texture to create African kente cloth.

**General Course Goals**

- Develop responsibility in taking care of art materials
- Understand and apply media, techniques, and processes
- Use knowledge of structures and functions
- Choose and evaluate a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas
- Understand the visual arts in relation to history and culture
- Make connections between visual arts and other disciplines

**Text(s)/Class Resources**

- *Arts and Activities*, Publishers Development Corp.
- *Schoolart*, Davis Publications, Inc.
- *Understanding Art*, Glencoe McGraw-Hill, 1999
- *A Survival Kit for Elementary/ Middle School Art Teachers*, H. Humes, the Center for Applied Research, Prentice Hall
- *Multicultural Art*, D. Bloom, the Center for Applied Research, Prentice Hall
- *Art Lessons for the Middle School*, a DBAE Curriculum
- Art Supplies
- Teacher resources

**Time Allotment**

- One 45 minute class per day, four-five times per week
- Course length: one semester

**Assessment**

- One quiz per unit
- One project per unit
- Worksheets
- Observation

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Subject: Band

Grades: 6-8

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**Philosophy Statement**

Every student has the ability to play a musical instrument given proper instruction, a quality instrument, and a personal desire to play an instrument. Instrumental music plays an important role in the overall development of every student's music education. Middle School Concert Band provides an opportunity for students to reflect God's character thru creativity, craftsmanship, and passion. Psalm 33:3 states "Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy."

**Course Description**

This course is designed to develop each student's ability to play an instrument, read music notation, create music thru improvisation/composition, understand the cultural relevance of instrumental music, and provide opportunities to edify the public, namely the body of Christ, thru public performances.

**General Course Goals**

- Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Improvising melodies
- Reading and notating music
- Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
- Evaluating music and music performances
- Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
- Understanding music in relation to history and culture

**Text(s)/Class Resources**

- *Enhanced Standard of Excellence: Comprehensive Band Method*, Book 2, Bruce Pearson. Neil A. Kjos Company, 1993
- *Standard of Excellence: Music Theory & History Workbook*, Book 2, Bruce Pearson. Neil A. Kjos Company, 1993
- Selections from Band Music Library
- Selections from Band Director's Files

**Time Allotment**

- One 45 minute per day, four-five times per week
- Course length: two semesters

**Assessment**

- One practice record per week
- One achievement evaluation per two weeks
- Two performances per semester

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Subject: Choir

Grades: 6-8

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**Philosophy Statement**

Because each student is created in the image of God, the goal of music education in the Christian school setting should be to encourage the student to worship the Creator. Providing a level of excellence in music instruction nurtures the student's musical aptitude. Providing training and opportunities for performance allows the student to refine musical skills that can be used to witness to a lost world as well as to edify the Body of believers. And since, ultimately, we are created for worship, and God has given us music as a means of this expression, music education in the Christian school should challenge the student to higher levels of accomplishment as this gift of music is offered back to God, a sacrifice of praise.

**Course Description**

Students will learn the fundamental skills for singing in a choral setting. This includes the physiology of the voice, sight-reading of printed music, and the discipline of following a director. Students explore elements of music such as rhythm, melody, form, harmony, and expressive qualities. Students form concepts through sequenced skill development in listening and performing.

**Music is selected with these considerations:**

- Art for God's sake-The greatest concentration of instruction should be geared toward this highest level. This includes sacred music and classic works by the masters who created their work to the glory of God.
- Art for art's sake-This is worthy to teach because students should be exposed to this type of music. This includes music that has value because of its composition and intricate harmonies.
- Art for man's sake-This has no place in music education. This music appeals to the nature of the unregenerate man and feeds base appetites.

By teaching students the characteristics of the highest levels of music, we may teach the students to become discerning in their personal choices.

**General Course Goals**

- The student will recognize and identify ways that music reflects worship.
- The student will develop and demonstrate vocal practices and refine the use of the voice.
- The student will sing a varied repertoire of music alone and with others.
- The student will read and sight-sing music.
- The student will evaluate music and musical performance.

**Text(s)/Class Resources**

- Selected choral music
- Sight reading handouts
- Overhead projector
- Personal resources of the director

**Time Allotment**

- One 45 minute class per day, four-five times per week
- Course length: two semesters

**Assessment**

- Participation grade given quarterly
- Weekly grades based on posture, singing, attentiveness, having music ready, and encouraging others
- Oral and written quiz grades
- Performance grades

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Subject: Computer

Grades: 6-8

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**Philosophy Statement**

Computer skills are essential for students to be active, lifelong learners in a technology intensive environment. Our approach is to combine these skills with a Biblical World view of the responsibilities we have to use technology in such a way that it bring honor to the Lord. Skills developed will enhance student's opportunities in future careers.

**Course Description**

This course is designed to enhance correct keyboard operations, introduce computer concepts and to prepare students for more advanced computer classes. Students take an in depth look at Microsoft Word 2007, and are introduced to the fundamentals of Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint. Students are required to take this elective once while in Middle School.

**General Course Goals**

- Develop responsibility for safe use of online resources
- Identify the ways technology has changed the way we communicate
- Increase productivity and accuracy with the keyboard
- Develop Word processing documents and make use of formatting tools
- Utilize spreadsheets, charts, and tables to represent data
- Create presentations

**Text(s)/Class Resources**

- *Learning Microsoft Office Word*, DDC Publishing, 2007
- Office 2007
- Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing

**Time Allotment**

- One 45 minute class per day, four-five times per week
- Course Length: one semester

**Assessment**

- One term quiz each week
- Application tests given periodically throughout the semester
- One class presentation at the end of course

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Subject: Creative Writing

Grades: 6-8

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**Philosophy Statement**

Knowing how to communicate God’s Word as well as how to express our God-given creativity are essential to the Christian life. Learning excellent writing skills remains the most effective tool used to accomplish these purposes. Creative Writing enhances the God-given writing abilities and interests of young people who wish to learn to express themselves more effectively through their writing.

**Course Description**

This course is designed to develop the student’s writing skills through various writing activities. Examples include how to write interesting sentences and paragraphs, description, dialogue, short story writing (including development of plot, theme, characters and setting), designing invitations and travel brochures, writing plays, poetry writing (including theme, purposes and mood), various poetic forms (including haiku, limericks, alpha poems, cinquain, acrostics, and shape poetry as well as regular free writing.

**General Course Goals**

- Design and illustrate notebooks according to their personal interests
- Compose sentences and paragraphs which use the five senses to describe
- Make boring sentences more interesting
- Write a story using correct dialogue form
- Compose well-developed paragraphs
- Develop story plot situations and themes
- Create interesting story characters
- Plan and write creative short stories
- Plan and write a mystery story
- Design a travel brochure
- Design an invitation
- Compose a scene for a play
- Write poetry which demonstrates chosen themes, purposes and mood
- Compose poetry of unique forms

**Text(s)/Class Resources**

- *Middle School Creative Writing*—by Susan Etheridge

**Time Allotment**

- One 45 minute class per day, four-five times per week
- Course length: one semester

**Assessment**

- Free writings
- Daily work as assigned
- Approximately three test grades per quarter

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Subject: Discovering Science

Grades: 6-8

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**Philosophy Statement**

Throughout the Scriptures nature is used to illustrate Biblical principles. In Proverbs, the instruction is to look at the land for work habits. The book of Romans reminds everyone that one simply needs to look at nature to see the hand of God. Because of this vital link between nature and Scripture, it is important for students to have a thorough understanding of things created in order to know the Creator. The physical and biological sciences are the vehicles we can use to demonstrate His nature.

**Course Description**

Discovering Science is a lab science course that exists to develop a Christian worldview through the medium of the living physical world, God's handiwork. The major topics included are the physics, earth science, chemistry, and biology. This course also offers an introduction to the Scientific Method, which is the necessary first step to conducting science experiments.

**General Course Goals**

The goal of Discovering Science is to allow the student to gain insight and general knowledge in each of the following areas related to the observable world:

- The student will understand the basic forces in physics.
- The student will understand the basic building blocks of our planet, rocks and minerals.
- The student will understand the basic states of matter, how matter changes states, and the physical or chemical changes involved.
- The student will understand the basics of forensics.

**Text(s)/Class Resources**

- *Science and the Bible* (Vol. 1-3) by Donald DeYoung, 1994, 1997, 2002
- *Detective Science* by Jim Weise, 1996
- Teacher Resource File by Brooke Williams

**Time Allotment**

- One 45 minute class per day, four-five times per week
- Course length: one semester

**Assessment**

- Project (per unit)
- Daily Investigations
- Homework checked (as assigned)
- Notebook/Journal checked (as assigned)

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Subject: Guitar

Grades: 6-8

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**Philosophy Statement**

In recent years the guitar has become the most popular musical instrument for individuals in America to learn to play. At Northside Christian Academy we desire to foster this interest students might have and utilize it as a tool to glorify God, provide aid for potential church needs and help our students become more well-rounded in their educational experiences. It should be pointed out too that the guitar has proven to be a worthy instrument for the classical stage. The guitar can be a serious instrument a student may choose to be involved in his entire life. Our purpose is to offer a comprehensive beginning of fundamentals in guitar study.

**Course Description**

Students will learn the fundamental skills for playing simple melodies on the first three frets. Basic chords in the keys of G, D, A, and E major will also be developed. This includes the physiology of finger dexterity, sight-reading of printed music, chordal structure and contributing to an ensemble sitting. Students explore elements of music such as rhythm, melody, harmony, and expressive qualities. Students form concepts through sequential skill development in listening and performance.

**General Course Goals**

- The student should have the ability to play all diatonic and some chromatic notes on the first three frets of each of the six strings.
- The student should be able to count and play melodies that involve basic note values.
- The student should be able to know and play tonic, subdominant and dominant 7<sup>th</sup>. Chords in the keys of A, D, E and G major.
- The student should be able to accompany songs using the above keys and strum in triple and quadruple meters.
- The student should have a working knowledge about how to use a capo to play in more difficult keys and different chord inversions.

**Text(s)/Class Resources**

- Personal files, various song collections, C'D's and guitar manuals.

**Time Allotment**

- One 45 minute class per day, five times per week
- Course length: One semester
- Guitar

**Assessment**

- Personal observation
- Records of practice time
- Written quizzes and performances.

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Subject: Speech & Drama

Grades: 6-8

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**Philosophy Statement**

Communication is a necessary art form in today's world. God communicated to His people in various ways. Jesus, as the Great Communicator, told stories that were relevant to the hearers of His message of Life. Therefore, as Christians, we need to learn to glorify God through different art mediums, which include speech and drama (I Cor. 13:35). God has given each Christian gifts which are to be utilized for the spreading of His gospel.

**Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce middle school students to various genres of speech and drama. The students learn how to control movement on stage as well as control stage fright through various techniques. Theater games are also utilized to enhance the learning process and reinforce the principles studied in class.

**General Course Goals**

- Creating and strengthening self-confidence through public performances.
- Identification of basic speaking techniques
- Evaluation of performances based on basic speech principles.
- Identifying correct stage positions.
- Employing oral reading techniques

**Text(s)/Class Resources**

- *Let's Talk*, Gary C. Collins, Publisher, 2003
- Teacher Resource Files
- Various internet resources
- *Creative Communication*, Fran Averitt Tanner, Perfection Learning, 1996

**Time Allotment**

- One 45 minute class per day, five times per week
- Course length: one semester

**Assessment**

- One speech per unit
- One written grade based on assignment per unit
- Homework checked as assigned
- One skit per drama unit