



# Middle School Profile

## Grace Christian School

GCS provides an education that encourages a vital love for God, a commitment to academic excellence, and a dedication to service. Serving Central Ohio families for over 35 years, we provide an excellent, distinctly Christian education from K through 8th grade.

### The Student Body

The GCS Middle School covers grades 6, 7 and 8 and class sizes range from 16 to 25. The school enrolls students of average to above average ability and is focused on preparing students for success in high school and college. The GCS Middle School provides excellent preparation, not just for high school, but for life as a Christian. Our faith is an integral part of the experience that occurs at the GCS Middle School.

### Memberships

- Assn. of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
- Christian Schools International (CSI)

### Grades/Honor Rolls

Students in 6-8 are graded on a A-F scale. Students with a 3.0 GPA at the end of each grading period are members of the honor roll.

### Middle School Statistics

Faculty Members	9
6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	102
Core Class Student to Teacher Ratio	15:1



The beginning of adolescence marks the beginning of dramatic changes. Students at this age, though young and inexperienced, are in the process of putting childhood behind them. They often feel self-conscious and unready for adult responsibilities, but they yearn, nevertheless, to be mature.

We recognize the traits of this period of transition and address them in the design of our Middle School. From the start of sixth grade, to eighth grade graduation, students are guided, encouraged, and challenged toward becoming young adults.

During these three years, students will advance from self-contained classrooms to rotated scheduling and greater academic demands. Emphasis is placed on acquiring the skills necessary to work capably as independent learners. Students learn how to study, budget their time, prepare for a test, plan a project, and work in a group. Our focus is on preparing our students for both the academic challenge of high school and the challenge of making life decisions.

Our Middle School students are held to high standards of behavior. We stress personal responsibility for actions and actively reinforce character development. We expect students to be active partners in their learning, giving their best effort toward developing a strong academic background that enables them to use, to the fullest, their God-giving potential.

The curriculum provides a challenging academic program that integrates the Christian faith with the learning process in each classroom and in each activity. Student life and learning are rooted in the richness of knowing that God loves them and understands them and that they belong to Him.

### Course Outline by Grade

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English</li> <li>• Math or Pre-Algebra</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Ancient History</li> <li>• Bible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English (College Prep or Honors)</li> <li>• Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• US History</li> <li>• Bible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English (College Prep or Honors)</li> <li>• Algebra 1 or Geometry 1</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Civic &amp; Government</li> <li>• Bible</li> </ul>

#### Middle School Required Electives:

Music, Art, Health, P.E., Spanish, Technology

#### Middle Optional Electives:

Yearbook, Creative Writing (Power of the Pen), Student Council, Drama, National Junior Honor Society, Orchestra, Vocal Ensemble

# Current Course Offerings for Grades 6-8

## Bible Instruction

One of the defining characteristics of GCS is that Biblical principles are integrated into all classes and the entire educational experience. Middle School Bible Courses, led by our Senior and Children's pastors, include Old Testament Studies, comparative World Religions, and New Testament Studies. We also have weekly chapel with students with guest speakers leading the program.

## English

Students use an integrated approach to study grammar, writing, literature, and vocabulary each year. Writing instruction and standards are in place across all academic subjects in the Middle School curriculum. Independent reading is required at each grade level. Through study of contemporary and classical literature, students will analyze how literature and the world influence one another.

## Mathematics

Math classes include General Math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1 and Geometry. Sixth grade Pre-Algebra and General Math continue mathematical thinking and practical application of math concepts and facts. Seventh grade math emphasizes Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1 preparation. 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra and/or Geometry is a high school level course for which students may receive high school credit upon successful completion of the course.

## Science

Middle School science classes include: Biology & Environment, Life Science (Anatomy and Physiology), and Physical Science. Instruction is highly interactive with labs and activities to reinforce learning.

## History & Social Studies

Students take Ancient World History, U.S. History, and Government Civics. Emphasis is placed on the importance of historical thinking and understanding. Geography, economics, and governing concepts are woven through each course.

## Physical Education

Middle School students take physical education each year. Skill building, health, and lifetime fitness & activity are highlighted.

## Spanish

Middle School students take introductory Spanish in grade 6, Spanish 1 is taken over two years in grades 7 and 8. Students who excel may qualify for high school credit.

## Technology

Students receive technology training each year. Students are instructed using Microsoft Office, Google apps, iPads, and media production. Instruction is connected with the classroom projects.

## Community Service

Community Service is an important aspect of the GCS educational experience. Some of the organizations we support include:

- Grace Close to Home (see [gcsblacklick.org](http://gcsblacklick.org) website)
- Operation Christmas Child
- ESGBC Food pantry
- Urban Hope in Philadelphia, PA

## Activities & Clubs

As part of the effort to educate the whole child and enable each child to find their God given talents and interests, we offer a variety of activities and clubs including:

- Drama Jam/Drama Club
- Vocal Ensemble
- Orchestra
- Jterm
- Washington D.C. & Colonial Virginia
- New York
- Gilder Lehrman
- Power of the Pen
- National Junior Honor Society
- Yearbook

## Before Care/After Care

We offer supervised before/after care for all students with supervised afterschool study tables 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## Bus Service

Some local districts offer bussing. Check with your school district for more details.



## Performing Arts: Music & Theatre

GCS has an excellent and comprehensive performing arts program providing a wide range of music and theatre opportunities.

### Music

GCS offers MS classes in general music for all 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students. For those interested in specific aspects (vocal or instrumental music), we offer two elective options:

- MS Vocal Ensemble: with 3 concerts each year
- MS Orchestra: with 4 concerts each year

### Theatre

Middle School students may audition for our annual Drama production held in the Spring of each year.

### Visual Arts

Middle School students meet for art classes twice a week for one semester in 6 through 8 grade.

## MS Athletics

We believe that if we compete with strong character, even when we lose a match or game, we have accomplished our mission. Conversely, if we win every game, but fail here, we will have achieved little of lasting significance.

At the Middle School level, in addition to the physical education that is part of the school's general course of study, students begin to have an opportunity to compete on an interscholastic team in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Middle School Sports

- Co-Ed Cross Country
- Co-Ed Soccer
- Girls Volleyball
- Boys/Girls Basketball
- Girls Cheerleading
- Co-ed Track & Field

