



CHAMINADE

COLLEGE PREPARATORY

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
CURRICULUM GUIDE
2017-2018**

19800 Devonshire Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311

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www.chaminade.org

COURSES OFFERED

Chaminade College Preparatory is a Catholic school and promotes Christian values through its academic program. All students are required to take the religious education classes and attend the liturgical celebrations and retreats.

The course of studies prepares students for academic success in high school and college. It is a reflection of California State and Common Core Standards, University Requirements, and individualized programs of study. The curriculum is designed to develop academic skills and to foster inquiry, creativity, and a love of learning:

SIXTH GRADE

REQUIRED

- ♦ Religious Studies
- ♦ Ancient Civilizations
- ♦ Earth Science
- ♦ Language Writing Skills
- ♦ Literature
- ♦ Mathematics
 - ♦ 6th Grade Math
 - ♦ Honors Mathematics
- ♦ Physical Education

SEVENTH GRADE

REQUIRED

- ♦ Religious Studies
- ♦ English
- ♦ Foreign Language
 - ♦ French
 - ♦ Spanish
- ♦ Life Science
- ♦ Mathematics
 - ♦ Pre-Algebra
 - ♦ Honors Pre-Algebra
 - ♦ Honors Algebra
- ♦ Physical Education
- ♦ World History

EIGHTH GRADE

REQUIRED

- ♦ Religious Studies
- ♦ English
- ♦ Foreign Language
 - ♦ French
 - ♦ Spanish
- ♦ Mathematics
 - ♦ Principles of Algebra
 - ♦ Algebra
 - ♦ Honors Algebra
 - ♦ Honors Geometry
- ♦ Physical Education
- ♦ Physical Science
- ♦ U. S. History to 1877

EXPLORATORIES

(Based on student interest & teacher availability)

- ♦ Art
- ♦ Band
- ♦ Drama
- ♦ Music
- ♦ Speech
- ♦ Intro to Foreign Language
- ♦ Creative Writing

EXPLORATORIES

(Based on student interest & teacher availability)

- ♦ Art
- ♦ Band
- ♦ Music
- ♦ Speech Communications
- ♦ Health
- ♦ Drama

EXPLORATORIES

(Based on student interest & teacher availability)

- ♦ Advanced Speech
- ♦ Art
- ♦ Band
- ♦ Chaminade Live:
 - ♦ Make Your Own Music
- ♦ Drama
- ♦ Film Class
- ♦ Leadership 101
- ♦ Mock Trial
- ♦ Social media
- ♦ Yearbook

REQUIRED CORE CONTENT AREA CLASSES

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Philosophy

The English Department at Chaminade Middle School embraces a belief in the fundamental power of language to define, shape, and enrich lives. In today's climate of instant information, critical language competencies and thinking skills empower students to discern the credible, the reasonable, and the valuable. The successful English curriculum, therefore, must build upon traditional foundations of grammar and composition to provide students with the tools to discover "truth" in an information-saturated society and the skills to communicate clearly as effective citizens. In addition, the curriculum must maintain a broad, inclusive canon that recognizes the realities of an ethnically diverse population without abandoning classic literary selections. Through an intensive reading, writing, speaking, and listening program, the department provides students with a solid body of knowledge and critical thinking skills. The program offers students the opportunity to confront important human issues, and to develop a strong sense of personal, social, and aesthetic values.

Literature – Sixth Grade, Yearlong

Sixth grade literature is an introductory course in the various styles and genres of literature. Students read short stories, poetry, nonfiction, drama, and novels. Concepts such as plot development, characterization, and theme are introduced. Comprehension strategies of finding main ideas and supporting details as well as discerning fact from opinion are reinforced. Students use these skills to develop other comprehension skills such as drawing conclusions and making inferences. Students explore the concept of analysis through writing a variety of responses to literature.

Language Skills – Sixth Grade, Yearlong

Sixth grade language skills are a basic course in the structure and usage of the English language with an emphasis on writing and grammar. Developing students' abilities to write and speak clearly and effectively is the central objective of the course. Exposure to the writing process, along with the development of grammar skills, is the main focus. The course also includes units on punctuation, usage and study skills.

English – Seventh Grade, Yearlong

Seventh grade English uses thematically based units to teach reading comprehension, vocabulary, writing, grammar, speaking, and listening. Students read two novels, one fiction and the other non-fiction; in addition, students read a variety of other texts, both fiction and non-fiction, in order to help them understand the historical and literary context of the novels read in class. Vocabulary is taught within the context of the reading assignments. Students learn to weave textual evidence and logical reasoning in their writing, as they experiment with a variety of ways to organize evidence and reasoning in persuasive, expository, and narrative paragraphs and essays

English – Eighth Grade, Yearlong

Eighth grade English focuses on the continuing development of skills of expression and of listening and understanding. Reading material includes a variety of short fiction, poetry, nonfiction essays, novels, and a Shakespearean play. Concepts such as

symbolism, plot development, character motivation, and theme are stressed. Students write analytical papers in which they use direct quotations from the texts to support their theses; they develop their writing fluency in a variety of assignments that may include descriptions, narratives, letters, journal entries, and expository paragraphs. Students are expected to master a basic level of analysis, as well as to develop their critical thinking skills. The course is thematically designed to prepare students for high school level English courses.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Philosophy

The Mathematics Department at Chaminade Middle School is committed to the belief that students should learn to appreciate and enjoy both the importance and the beauty of mathematics. Through instruction and practice, students should understand the relationship and patterns of arithmetical operations. Skills in computation, problem solving, and abstract thinking, coupled with an exposure to real life situations are of the utmost importance in order to develop a positive productive attitude about mathematics. When all these criteria are met, Chaminade students will be well prepared to further their study of mathematics in high school and beyond.

Mathematics – Sixth Grade, Yearlong

Sixth grade mathematics is an extension of the basic operations of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers. The curriculum also includes ratios, proportions, percents, and solving one-step algebraic equations. Basic geometric figures and measurements are explored and reviewed. Critical thinking skills and problem solving skills are developed through real-life applications to reinforce mathematical concepts.

Honors Mathematics – Sixth Grade, Yearlong

Honors sixth grade mathematics reinforces the basic operations of decimals, fractions, integers, and rational numbers. It also covers ratios, proportions, percents, statistics, and solving two-step and multi-step algebraic equations and inequalities. Geometry concepts in the course introduce the measurement and formula processes of geometry. Other geometric concepts include identifying and classifying triangles and quadrilaterals, and graphing linear equations. Consumer mathematics and statistics are touched on briefly.

Pre-Algebra – Seventh Grade, Yearlong

Pre-Algebra introduces the principles of algebra using integers and rational numbers in solving one-step and two-step equations. Areas covered include equations of proportions and percentages, inequalities, graphs and functions, radicals, and polynomials. Foundations in geometry are reviewed and three-dimensional geometric figures and measurements are explored. Verbal problems using real life scenarios are used in each of these areas.

Honors Pre-Algebra – Seventh Grade, Yearlong

Honors Pre-Algebra introduces algebraic concepts. Specific areas include but are not limited to solving number equations and inequalities, graphs, radicals, polynomials, and geometry. Continued development of problem-solving skills plays a pivotal role in this curriculum. The idea of “doing and undoing” is developed and students are taught to see

the relationships between the math they are learning and real-world scenarios. Current Chaminade students are admitted to honors pre-algebra by earning the grade of “B” or higher in sixth grade honors math.

Algebra – Eighth Grade, Yearlong

Algebra exposes 8th grade students to a variety of algebraic topics such as exponents, functions, solutions of linear equations, systems of linear equations, graphing, factoring polynomials, rational expressions, and an introduction to quadratics. Verbal problems and relevant applications are used in each of these areas to enhance mastery of these algebraic concepts.

Principles of Algebra—Eighth Grade, Yearlong

Principles of Algebra is a Grade 8 math class that transitions students to a high school Algebra I class in 9th grade. The course covers algebraic topics such as exponents, functions, solutions of linear equations, systems of linear equations, graphing, factoring, polynomials, rational expressions, and an introduction to quadratics.

Honors/Double Honors Algebra – Seventh or Eighth Grade, Yearlong

Honors Algebra develops the students’ conceptual knowledge, skills, and strategies essential to understanding sophisticated mathematics. This class builds the background of knowledge crucial for ensuring that students are able to understand and solve increasingly complex problems. Some of the topics covered are properties of real numbers, solutions of linear equations, graphing, factoring, polynomial computation, rational and irrational expressions, and quadratics.

Current Chaminade students are admitted to honors algebra by earning the grade of “B” or higher in honors pre-algebra. Incoming students are admitted to honors algebra based on their entrance exam and an additional placement test.

Geometry - Eighth Grade, Yearlong

Honors Geometry begins with a rigorous curriculum of proofs based on various theorems and postulates. Second semester focuses on using the theorems and postulates to solve problems based on two and three dimensional geometric figures. Throughout this course, algebraic skills are reviewed and strengthened.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Philosophy

The Physical Education curriculum has a scope and sequence based on goals and objectives that are appropriate for all students. It includes a balance of skills, concepts, games, rhythms, and dance experiences designed to enhance the cognitive, motor, and physical fitness development of every student.

Class Activities

Each of the activity units varies in length from two weeks to four weeks. The units allow the instructors adequate instructional time to structure the learning environment for success.

The chart below shows the activity units currently being offered. During the year, boys and girls participate in similar units, however, not at the same time. This allows for more efficient use of equipment and available facilities. Physical Education Instructors may not cover all of the activities listed in a single year.

Class Activities

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grades

Badminton
Basketball
Circus Arts
Dance
Football
Soccer
Team Building Games
Team Handball
Track and Field
Volleyball
Whiffleball

Chaminade Middle School participates in the Golden Eagle Fitness Challenge. All students are pretested in a battery of fitness

tests at the beginning of the year, and then are retested throughout the year. The pretest results are used as a starting point for each student. Post-test results are used to determine individual achievement and improvement. Awards are presented at the end of the year for students that meet the various test standards. The fitness tests are listed below.

Fitness Tests

Push-ups
Curl-ups (Sit-ups)
Shuttle Run
Sit & Reach (Hamstring Flexibility)
Mile Run

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Philosophy

Chaminade College Preparatory Middle School believes that parents have the primary responsibility for the religious education of their children. The Religion Department provides religious education in the Catholic Christian tradition, which nurtures, supports, and compliments the parental training which students receive. Students are taught the importance of self-discipline, respect for themselves and others, integrity, and service to others. Students are also encouraged to develop their individual talents and to recognize their own self worth. The Religion Department, while embracing the mission “to teach as Jesus did”, respects and celebrates the religious diversity of its student body.

Religion – Sixth Grade, Yearlong

In the sixth grade, students study Old Testament scriptures with an emphasis on the biblical roots of their faith. God is presented as the Creator, who cares deeply for His people and interacts in their lives. Special focus is placed on the importance of prayer, the celebration of liturgy, and an understanding of the events in the liturgical calendar. Students also explore Catholic values concerning family life and morality. Through these

studies and by applying Biblical lessons to their daily lives, students learn to appreciate their God-given talents as well as the gifts and talents of those around them.

Religion – Seventh Grade, Yearlong

In the seventh grade, students focus on the life, values, and person of Jesus as well as liturgy and the sacraments of the Catholic Church. Students are challenged to live a life-style that involves trust, the ability to handle temptation and the knowledge to make moral decisions. Students are guided towards an understanding of the importance of faith, and establishing a personal relationship with God through a study of the life of Christ, prayer, and an awareness of Social Justice issues in our world today. In addition, seventh grade morality deals with an Introduction to Sexual Education with a focus on virtues of chastity, purity, and modesty.

Religion – Eighth Grade, Yearlong

In the eighth grade, students identify individual beliefs and value systems, and students are encouraged to make decisions based on what is responsible and what is moral. Through the study of the history of the Catholic Church, students are given a religious foundation, which teaches that the life of Jesus is an example of total commitment to God. Using the example of Christ, students come to an understanding of their individual self-worth and the need for them to make faith-filled commitments to themselves, their community, and their God.

Sacramental Preparation in the Catholic Faith

For Students Desirous of Preparing for Sacraments of Baptism and/or Holy Eucharist. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults/Children (RCIA/RCIC) is a process by which young people are initiated into the Catholic faith. It is open to sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students, both baptized and non-baptized, who have not yet received the sacraments of Baptism, Penance, and Eucharist.

Chaminade, in partnership with St. John Eudes Parish, offers this preparation process for students and families who are interested. Students meet on campus during x-block for special instruction, and on Sunday mornings during the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. John Eudes Parish, located in Chatsworth.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Philosophy

The science curriculum is guided by the discipline specific model of the California Next Generation Science Standards. The curriculum supports the understanding of core ideas and practices in science, engineering, and technology.

Students will investigate key ideas in earth and space science, life science, and physical science by reading a variety of informational texts and engaging in the following practices as listed in the [California Next Generation Science Standards](#):

1. Asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for engineering)
2. Developing and using models
3. Planning and carrying out investigations
4. Analyzing and interpreting data
5. Using mathematics and computational thinking

6. Constructing explanations (for science) and designing solutions (for engineering)
7. Engaging in argument from evidence
8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

Therefore, the curriculum integrates mathematical computation and problem-solving, informational reading and research skills, argumentative writing skills, and hands-on labs where students engage in experiments and modeling in order to formulate and test hypotheses. The following courses will provide the fundamental knowledge and skills to prepare students for college preparatory high school science classes:

Earth and Space Science – Sixth Grade, Yearlong

Life Science – Seventh Grade, Yearlong

Physical Science – Eighth Grade, Yearlong

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Philosophy

The goal of the Social Studies Department is to develop literate citizens with both an active global awareness and respect for the cultures that have enriched and affected our society. The department, guided by the California Social Studies Framework, seeks to develop students' literacy skills, particularly close-reading of primary and secondary sources (images and text), research, and argumentative writing. The program weaves together essential knowledge and skills that will enable students to understand the complexities of our world. Additionally, the department seeks to motivate students to become actively involved in our pluralistic society and develop a recognition of and respect for human rights.

Ancient World History – Sixth Grade, Yearlong

Students explore the periods of the time from prehistory through the rise of Rome. The course links our modern society to the events, inventions, and ideals of past civilizations. Specific civilizations that are examined in depth include Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome. In conjunction with this, students explore ancient and modern world geography. Course work seeks to develop each student's critical thinking skills, geographic literacy, and research skills.

World History – Seventh Grade, Yearlong

Seventh grade world history is an overview of the social, political, economic, and geographic factors that have influenced the history of western civilization from the fall of Rome to the Age of Exploration. The course focuses on many major topics of European history including the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the rise of the Modern State. The course also examines the civilizations that developed in Africa and Asia during the same period. Course work stresses the development and improvement of critical thinking skills, historical research techniques, geographic literacy, and interpretation of edited primary source material.

United States History to 1877 – Eighth Grade, Yearlong

United States history examines the main features of the American experience from colonial times to the beginnings of the twentieth century. Major topics studied include Colonial America, the Revolutionary War, the Early National Period, Jacksonian Democracy, the Westward Movement, Civil War, Reconstruction, Industrialization, and

Immigration. Course work emphasizes the development and refinement of critical thinking skills, geographic literacy, recognizing cause and effect relationships, the historical writing process, historical research techniques, and the interpretation of edited primary source material.

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Philosophy

The Foreign Language Department of Chaminade College Preparatory Middle School is committed to preparing students for continuing their foreign language experience successfully in high school. Additionally, through the study of foreign languages and culture, students increase their global awareness and develop an appreciation for the cultures and contributions of others.

Seventh Grade 1A – Yearlong (Spanish or French)

The purpose of this course is to achieve mastery of grammatical concepts and vocabulary through current techniques in language acquisition. Students will achieve proficiency in conversation, writing, and reading based on the scope of level 1a French or Spanish.

Eighth Grade 1B – Yearlong (Spanish or French)

The purpose of this course is to continue to build upon the course work of level 1a. The curriculum includes additional vocabulary and more advanced grammatical concepts in preparation for a successful transition into the high school foreign language experience.

EXPLORATORIES

Philosophy

The cornerstone of the Marianist-Catholic education philosophy is “to educate the whole person.” The fine arts are essential for the completion of this Marianist-Catholic philosophy.

The Fine Arts Department of Chaminade College Preparatory Middle School is committed to the belief that students should have the opportunity to explore their potential in several areas. It is the intention of the department to provide a wide selection of experiences within the parameters of the prescribed curriculum. The department further believes that elective courses should provide the opportunity for the exploration and expression of talents in such a way as to create in the student a positive self-image.

The Fine Arts Department places high value on effort, participation, and teamwork. The department recognizes and appreciates the innate talent with which certain students are gifted; however we do not consider talent a prerequisite to success.

MUSIC AND BAND

The Music and Band Program

The music and programs are open to all grade levels. The music program exposes students to basic musical skills, including reading music, appreciating music, and playing the recorder and a variety of Orff instruments. Prior experience is not required.

The band program is progressive and cumulative. Each ensemble meets two or more times a week during the entire year to build skill, discipline, teamwork and organization. There are also opportunities to be involved with the high school band. Students can be in as many as five ensembles or as few as one. Lessons are a great way to enhance a student's learning.

Music – Sixth & Seventh Grade, One Quarter

The purpose of the music program is to help students acquire basic musical skills; to gain a keener awareness of their own and other cultures; to develop an appreciation of music of many kinds; to increase a sense of school community; and to develop self-esteem through performance. The following are some of the course offerings, which are chosen according to the abilities and interests of the class:

Music – Sixth Grade, One Quarter

In this course students will learn that music is an important part of the lives of all peoples and cultures. The students will discover that music speaks to every person in unique ways, emotionally and intellectually. Through this course, students will develop a basic understanding and knowledge of music which they will carry with them throughout their lives. Topics that will be covered in this course include: Music is Everywhere, What is Rhythm?, Let's Read and Compose Music, Let's Play Instruments, Meet the Families of the Orchestra, The Orchestra, The Science of Sound, Meet the Composers, and Music Around the World.

Music – Seventh Grade, One Quarter

This course continues to explore the basic elements of music in more depth. Students play the recorder and pass through a series of recorder "karate" belts as incentive to learn more advanced note reading and music. Students also play a variety of Orff instruments such as xylophones, metalophones, glockenspiels and timpani as they improvise and explore different rhythm patterns and ensemble playing.

Chaminade Live: Make Your Own Music – Eighth Grade, Semester

This course provides the opportunity to be a part of band or perform as a solo artist. Students will write music and/or play an instrument and sing. This course will foster the creative musical artist, culminating in a final performance at the end of the semester. Talented artists in the music industry will mentor students to get them started on their musical journeys.

Band – Sixth Grade, Yearlong

Band is a skill building, full year course that a student may choose. No experience is necessary. Students learn to play together as an ensemble. Those with prior experience have the opportunity to lead sections and or the entire band. Students learn musicianship utilizing good tone and articulation through sight-reading and rehearsed pieces. Enjoyment results from the accomplishment created by consistent playing, commitment, discipline, responsibility, practice and teamwork. Students perform at least two concerts.

Taking lessons greatly enhances the music playing experience. Concert Band is open to every student in addition to Beginning Band/Intermediate Band I.

Band – Seventh Grade, Yearlong

Band is a skill building, full year course that a student may choose to take. Seventh grade students with absolutely no or little musical experience may take this class. Students learn to play together as an ensemble. Students learn musicianship utilizing good tone and articulation through sight-reading and rehearsed pieces. Enjoyment results from the accomplishment created by consistent playing, commitment, discipline, responsibility, practice and teamwork. Students perform at least two concerts. Taking lessons greatly enhances the music playing experience. Intermediate students learn musicianship utilizing good tone and articulation through sight-reading and rehearsed pieces. Concert Band is open to every student in addition to Band.

Band – Eighth Grade, Yearlong

Pre-Requisite: Prior experience or enrolled in private lessons

Students will have the opportunity to learn a computer music program “Finale” where they can either create or arrange their own music. They will also have the opportunity to play in small ensembles if they choose. Students will learn how to perform with good tone production, articulation, sight-reading, and musicianship which depends heavily upon discipline, responsibility, and enjoyment. Students perform at school events and will be involved with the high school band. For further information, please call 818-831-9437.

Concert Band

Students learn musicianship utilizing good tone and articulation through sight-reading and rehearsed pieces. Concert Band performs at regional festivals, Disneyland, and participates in music clinics. In addition to regular rehearsals, there are coaching sessions for sections and individual players. Students will also be involved with the high school band. Experience is needed; however, if a student is taking the band elective they may take Concert Band in addition to the Band Class. This course meets daily at 7:00 a.m. and receives a grade.

Jazz Band – After School

Jazz band is in addition to advanced band or beginning band. Students work with a different style of music. Students perform at different events and concerts. 6th grade band elective experience is needed. Course meets Wednesdays and Fridays. **This is a non-credit course.**

Orchestra – After School

Students learn musicianship playing orchestral instruments utilizing good tone and articulation through sight-reading and rehearsed pieces. Enjoyment results from the accomplishment created by consistent playing, commitment, discipline, responsibility, practice and teamwork. Students perform at school events and concerts. Experience is required. Course meets Tuesdays and Thursdays. **This is a non-credit course.**

Percussion Ensemble – After School

Students learn musicianship playing percussion instruments utilizing good tone and articulation through sight-reading and rehearsed pieces. Enjoyment results from the accomplishment created by consistent playing, commitment, discipline, responsibility, practice and teamwork. Students perform at school events and concerts. Experience is required. Course meets Thursdays. **This is a non-credit course.**

Prerequisites

Instructor approval, school spirit, computer experience helpful

PERFORMANCE AND VISUAL ARTS

Drama – Sixth & Seventh Grade, One Quarter

The drama curriculum is designed to provide the student with an introduction to drama including theater history, acting techniques, play production, and performance. It is the premise of this course that theater skills are life skills. Training in theater can enhance a student's life whether or not that individual has the "talent" or the drive to pursue theater as a career. This course aims to further develop and strengthen basic life skills in the following areas:

- Concentration and cooperation and their application.
- Imagination and observation and their application.
- Physical and verbal expressiveness and their application.

Students will learn the advanced forms of improvisation, which is the basis for all acting.

Drama – Eighth Grade Drama, Semester

This course is designed with particular focus on theater performance, specifically the art of building a character. Students transition into the advanced elements of acting and hands-on theater. This class develops confidence in public speaking and performance.

Art - Sixth Grade quarter long course

This course will introduce students to the elements of art as well as establishing problem solving skills and creative independence. Students will work in a variety of mediums and create projects that will prepare them for 7th and 8th grade art.

Art - Seventh Grade quarter long course

This course will review the basic elements of art and establish concepts of 2-D design. Art history, creative independence as well as practical applications will be the focus of the course. Students will work with a variety of 2-D media to create projects that will prepare them for 3-D design.

Art – Eighth Grade, Semester

This course will review basic 2D design concepts before moving on to 3D design. Art history, aesthetics, cross cultural as well as practical applications will be the focus of the course. Students will work with found objects and a variety of materials to create theme based projects that enhance their relationship with the world around them. Concept to

design an implementation to critique will be the underlying curriculum of this semester long art class.

MOCK TRIAL/SPEECH AND DEBATE

Speech Communication – Sixth and Seventh Grade, One Quarter

Students are given the opportunity to develop their public speaking skills and overcome any apprehension they may have about speaking in front of an audience. Activities focus on research, composition, organization, and delivery of informative and persuasive speeches for various purposes and occasions. Students are also introduced to argumentation and participate in a final team debate.

Advanced Speech – Eighth Grade, Semester

Pre-Requisite: Speech Communication – Seventh Grade

Students will continue to develop their public speaking skills through the study of a variety of speech styles including: Impromptu, Original Oratory, Humorous, and Dramatic Interpretation. Students will also be exposed to public forum and Lincoln Douglas debate formats.

Mock Trial and Debate – Eighth Grade, Yearlong

Pre-Requisite: 3.2 cumulative GPA or higher – Spring Tryouts required for this course, Teacher Recommendation, and Instructor Approval

Students will have the opportunity to take the roles of attorneys, witnesses, bailiff, and court clerk as members of Chaminade Mock Trial Team. Students will learn how to prepare a real court case and will compete during the month of November against middle schools from Los Angeles County in the Constitutional Rights Foundation's Mock Trial competition. This program allows students to gain a better understanding of both the content and processes of our legal system; increase basic skills, analytical ability, and self-confidence; develop public speaking skills and learn to work as a team. There will be required after school meetings once a week or as needed while Chaminade remains in the competition. The second semester is a speech/debate course. Students will participate in several forensic tournaments as part of the Middle School Public Debate League.

ADDITIONAL EXPLORATORIES

Creative Writing—6th Grade, One Quarter

“You can make anything by writing.”—C.S. Lewis

The written word, often combined with images, has the power to change the life of the writer and the reader. Through independent and collaborative group activities, students will practice storytelling skills that incorporate elements of fictional writing. Students will read mentor texts that reflect strong fictional writing skills and attempt to incorporate the same strategies to enhance their own writing.

Health—7th Grade, One Quarter

The goal of the health class is to teach students information needed to make health-centered and informed decisions throughout their lives. Students explore the following topics in an interactive, collaborative classroom environment: body systems; nutrition; communicable and non-communicable diseases; First Aid and CPR; and goal setting, smart decision-making, and happiness.

Intro to Foreign Language—6th Grade, One Quarter

In this course students are introduced to the three languages offered at Chaminade: Mandarin Chinese, French, and Spanish. The purpose of this class is to explore the language and culture associated with each language to assist students in making an informed decision about what foreign language they will begin to take in 7th grade. The class also promotes respect for cultural diversity in our global society.

Film Class – Eighth Grade, Semester

This is a semester long Filmmaking class for eighth grade students based on the American Film Institute's Screen Education curriculum. The focus of the class will be learning how to utilize technology, specifically video, to tell stories digitally. Students will learn to appreciate classic film as well as how to plan, write, film, and edit their own movies.

Leadership 101: Eighth Grade, Yearlong

Pre-Requisite: Minimum 3.0 GPA, No NI's or U's in citizenship; participated in a Chaminade extracurricular activity during their time at the Middle School.

Interested students will submit an application, teacher recommendation, and take part in a group interview. Students must be available for Open House (November) and Prospective Parent Night (January) plus one of the following: the entrance exam or Saturday interviews. Apostolic Work hours will be awarded.

In this class we will explore what makes a great leader and develop the leader within us by applying *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. We will focus on learning key concepts of leadership and put them into action by planning and implementing the Middle School Open House, Teacher Appreciation Week, and various activities for the school community. This group of students will work with Admissions in representing the Middle School in our community by leading campus tours and hosting prospective parent/student events.

Social Media: Eight Grade, Semester

This course provides students with an introduction to the history, theory, technology, and uses of social media. Social media (such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook) are technologies that enable individuals to create, collaborate, and share ideas with audience of all sizes. Students will explore the possibilities and limitations of social media and will have hands-on experience with several forms of social media technology as contributors to Chaminade's Instagram and Twitter @nadesquad accounts. Students will also learn how to use social media productively and practice digital citizenship.

Yearbook – Eighth Grade, Yearlong

Pre-Requisite: 3.2 cumulative GPA or higher

This yearlong course is devoted to the production of the school yearbook, Wings. Under the direction of the teacher, the staff is responsible for selecting the yearbook theme,

designing the page layout, taking photographs, writing photo captions, and collaboratively building the various sections of the yearbook.