

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

23-24 School Year



Divine Savior Academy
— SANTA RITA RANCH —

course catalog

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COURSE PLANNER

6th GRADE (normally totals 6 credits)

<u>Department</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Semester 1 Course</u>	<u>Semester 2 Course</u>
Theology	1 credit	Christian Worldview -Theology 6	
English Language Arts	1 credit	English Language Arts 6	
Math	1 credit	Course 1	
Science	1 credit	General Science 6	
Social Studies	1 credit	Geography	
Specials	1 credit	Physical Education 6	Spanish Music Art

7th GRADE (normally totals 6 credits)

<u>Department</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Semester 1 Course</u>	<u>Semester 2 Course</u>
Theology	1 credit	Competing Worldviews-Theology 7	
English Language Arts	1 credit	English Language Arts 7	
Math	1 credit	Course 2	
Science	1 credit	General Science 7	
Social Studies	1 credit	Texas History	
Specials	1 credit	Physical Education 7	Spanish Music Art

8th GRADE (normally totals 6 credits)

<u>Department</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Semester 1 Course</u>	<u>Semester 2 Course</u>
Theology	1 credit	Christianity in Action - Theology 8	
English Language Arts	1 credit	English Language Arts 8	
Math	1 credit	Course 3	
Science	1 credit	General Science 8	
Social Studies	1 credit	American History	
Specials	1 credit	Physical Education 8	Spanish Music Art

CHAPEL AND WORSHIP

The main focus of our Academy is to help students better understand Christ's love in their lives. While this is present in classes, we also reinforce this during our chapel and worship services.

On Wednesday mornings, students attend a chapel service that is led by a Divine Savior pastor or teacher. Each service features an applicable lesson based on a reading from the Bible, a worship song, and prayer.

Throughout the school year, students learn, prepare, and perform songs at worship services at Divine Savior Church. Various church holiday services include Thanksgiving, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday.

We invite all parents to attend our Divine Savior Church services!

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - CORE CLASSES

THEOLOGY

Walking In Truth - Biblical Worldview - Theology 6

Credit: One (1) Credit

What does it mean to be a Christian, to follow Christ? In Semester One, the course studies the Bible to discover answers to questions about God, the universe, people, truth, and right and wrong. In Semester Two, the course examines the historical narrative found in Acts of the Apostles to observe how the church grows and responds to challenges of sharing the good news of the life, death and resurrection of Christ with both Jews and Gentiles.

Walking In Truth - Competing Worldviews - Theology 7

Credit: One (1) Credit

What do others believe about God and man? In Semester One, the course compares other worldviews, such as Islam, naturalism, and new spirituality, with Christianity. In Semester Two, the course examines Romans, along with 1 and 2 Corinthians, to establish doctrines of faith and salvation, freedom in Christ, the certainty of the resurrection, and living as God's ambassadors.

Walking In Truth - Christianity In Action - Theology 8

Credit: One (1) Credit

How do Christians engage their culture with grace and truth? In Semester One, the course answers that question by exploring the Christian worldview through the disciplines of theology, philosophy, ethics, sociology, and biology. In Semester Two, a study of the Pauline Epistles focuses on the superiority of Christ, faith and works, humility and hope, and love

English Language Arts 6

Credit: One (1) Credit

Over the course of the Springboard program, students read and analyze a wide range of texts in genres including poetry, novels, plays, biographies, nonfiction narratives, speeches, and films. They also learn to write in forms including essays, personal narratives, argumentative texts such as editorials, and research papers.

The Grade 6 curriculum is built around the theme of "Change" and throughout the year students will:

- Read works by Langston Hughes, John Steinbeck, and Sandra Cisneros.
- Write narrative, explanatory, and argumentative texts.
- Learning strategies for planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing their own writing.
- Explore the fundamentals of research, including citations and how to evaluate the credibility of sources.
- Deepen their understanding of topics through film and multimedia.

Daily Grammar Practice:

Daily Grammar Practice is a 30-week learning program. Rather than individual topical lessons or units, students work with one sentence per week. Each day, the students must complete a different task with the sentence (e.g. on Mondays identify each noun, pronoun, and interjection; on Tuesday find the simple subject, verbs, adverbs, etc.).

English 6 students focus on correcting run-on sentences, direct and indirect objects, identifying objects of prepositions, verb tense, and more.

English Language Arts 7

Credit: One (1) Credit

Over the course of the Springboard program, students read and analyze a wide range of texts in genres including poetry, novels, plays, biographies, nonfiction narratives, speeches, and films. They also learn to write in forms including essays, personal narratives, argumentative texts such as editorials, and research papers.

In Grade 7 students explore the theme of "Choice" and throughout the year students will:

- Read works by Nelson Mandela, Robert Frost, Sojour Truth, and William Shakespeare.
- Learning close reading strategies to discover explicit and implicit content within texts.
- Write in narrative, explanatory, and argumentative modes.
- Examine how ideas are explored through film and multimedia.

Daily Grammar Practice:

Daily Grammar Practice is a 30-week learning program. Rather than individual topical lessons or units, students work with one sentence per week. Each day, the students must complete a different task with the sentence (e.g. on Mondays identify each noun, pronoun, and interjection; on Tuesday find the simple subject, verbs, adverbs, etc.).

English 7 students cover appositives and appositive phrases, adjective and adverb dependent clauses, nouns of direct address, adverb and adjective prepositional phrases, and more.

English Language Arts 8

Credit: One (1) Credit

Over the course of the Springboard program, students read and analyze a wide range of texts in genres including poetry, novels, plays, biographies, nonfiction narratives, speeches, and films. They also learn to write in forms including essays, personal narratives, argumentative texts such as editorials, and research papers.

Grade 8 is an important year for students as they prepare to transition to the rigors of high school. The curriculum for year explores the theme of "Challenges" and throughout the year students will:

- Read works by Ray Bradbury and Walt Whitman, an essay about Civil War heroes, narratives about the Holocaust and Elie Wiesel's Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech, and a Shakespeare drama.
- Learn about the hero archetype and hero's journey narratives.
- Write narrative, explanatory, and argumentative texts.
- Research an issue in current events and then create a multimedia presentation.
- Read scenes from Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, and then watch scenes on film to analyze how the adaptation differs from the original sources.

Daily Grammar Practice:

Daily Grammar Practice is a 30-week learning program. Rather than individual topical lessons or units, students work with one sentence per week. Each day, the students must complete a different task with the sentence (e.g. on Mondays identify each noun, pronoun, and interjection; on Tuesday find the simple subject, verbs, adverbs, etc.).

English 8 students learn noun dependent clauses, objects of infinitives and infinitive phrases, demonstrative pronouns, use of semicolons, identifying objects of gerunds, and more.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Geography

Credit: One (1) Credit

The sixth grade social studies course introduces students to the geography and cultures of North America, Europe, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, and the South Pacific. Students begin the year with the study of physical and human geography terms and concepts. These terms and concepts will then be applied throughout the year while studying the contemporary geography of the world. Historical background is provided to enable students to understand how these regions developed from the past to the present. Differences in governments, economies, and culture are examined.

Texas History

Credit: One (1) Credit

The goal of this class is to provide the students with a well-rounded understanding and background knowledge of Texas History. This will allow students to better understand Texas' history and appreciate its culture and values.

Prerequisite: Geography or equivalent course

American History

Credit: One (1) Credit

A solid understanding of history is essential to understanding the present. This course is designed to make students more informed about both past and present events. Students will be expected to identify important people, places, and events in American history. They will not only need to know what happened, but also the

significance and impact the people, places, and events have on our world today. They will be exposed to the different interpretations of history and should be able to defend various points of view on a given issue.

Prerequisite: Texas History or equivalent course

MATHEMATICS

Course 1

Credit: One (1) Credit

In this course, students are given instruction that provides a solid foundation as they are preparing to begin work at a more complex level. Course content includes mastery of arithmetic and orders of operation, number sets, measurements, work with functions, graphs, basic expressions, and geometric manipulations, as well as applications to life through real-world story problems. Through successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to advance to Saxon Course 2.

Course 2

Credit: One (1) Credit

Mathematics is an integral part of every school's curriculum. In this course, students are given instruction that provides a solid foundation as they build an understanding for the mathematical world of pre-algebra. Course content includes mastery of arithmetic and orders of operation, number sets, measurements, work with fractions, graphs, expressions, basic geometric manipulations, as well as applications to life through real-world story problems. Through successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to advance to a Pre-Algebra (Course 3) or an equivalent course.

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Course 1 or an equivalent course

Course 3

Credit: One (1) Credit

Mathematics is an integral part of every school's curriculum. In this course, students are given an instruction that provides the necessary building blocks to continue math at the algebraic level. Course content includes detailed use of arithmetic operations, graphs, number sets, measurement, ratios, exponents, expressions, equations, development of algebraic skills, geometric manipulations, introduction to statistics and probability, as well as applications to life through real-world story problems. Through successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to advance to Algebra 1 or an equivalent course.

Prerequisites: Passing grade in Course 2 or an equivalent course

SCIENCE

The Middle School Science curriculum covers a series of nine units over the course of three academic years, each grade completing three units in a school year. Sixth and seventh grade courses feature units that cover life and earth science, while 8th grade studies physical science. Elements of engineering and design are embedded throughout each unit. Within these units, content and activities are aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. All content is taught with a Biblical Worldview, with God's Word as the ultimate source of truth.

General Science 6 - Teachers' Curriculum Institute

Credit: One (1) Credit

- In the 6th grade science program, students will use evidence and engineering challenges to explore Earth's systems, severe weather patterns, cell theory, regional climates, and living systems.

Prerequisite: Science 5

General Science 7 - Teachers' Curriculum Institute

Credit: One (1) Credit

- In the 7th grade science program, students will use evidence and engineering challenges to explore Earth's systems, severe weather patterns, regional climates, ecosystems, and living systems.

Prerequisite: Science 6

General Science 8 - Teachers' Curriculum Institute

Credit: One (1) Credit

- In the 8th grade science program, students will use evidence and engineering challenges to explore ecosystems, waves, including modeling light in the solar system, and exploring how noncontact forces influence phenomena.

Prerequisite: Science 7

DIVINE SAVIOR ACADEMY ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Academic Support Program

Our Academic Support Program consists of qualified classroom teachers and special education professionals that are available to assist students who need additional academic support in the classroom. Standardized testing scores, academic performance, and teacher observation and feedback determine which students need support and what type of support to provide.

Academic support takes place both inside and outside of the classroom, in small groups or an individual setting, or through co-teaching.

School Counselor Classroom Initiatives

The school counseling program is an integral component of the school's mission by following the American School Counseling Association national model (ASCA). The ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors are organized in the following way:

Category 1: Mindset Standards

Includes standards related to the psycho-social attitudes or beliefs students have about themselves in relation to academic work. These make up the students' belief system as exhibited in behaviors. The main focus is the belief in the development of whole self, including a healthy balance of mental, spiritual, social/emotional and physical well-being.

Category 2: Behavior Standards

These standards include behaviors commonly associated with being a successful student. These behaviors are visible, outward signs that a student is engaged and putting forth effort to learn. The behaviors are grouped into three subcategories.

- a. Learning Strategies: Processes and tactics students employ to aid in the cognitive work of thinking, remembering or learning.
- b. Self-management Skills: Continued focus on a goal despite obstacles (grit or persistence) and avoidance of distractions or temptations to prioritize higher pursuits over lower pleasures (delayed gratification, self-discipline, self-control).
- c. Social Skills: Acceptable behaviors that improve social interactions, such as those between peers or between students and adults.

The school counseling curriculum also incorporates the five SEL competencies (self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, responsible decision making, and relationship skills).

K-8 School Counselor Lesson Themes:

- Growth Mindset/Attitude/Effort/Grit
- Respect/Differences/ Self-Esteem
- Responsibility/Behavior/Listening
- Feelings/ Emotion Regulation
- Friendship/Sense of belonging
- Bullying/Mean Behavior
- Kindness/Empathy
- Mental Health Education

These domains promote mindsets and behaviors that enhance the learning process and create a culture of college and career readiness for all students.

Our Philosophy of Education

We believe every child should know the love of Christ.
Sharing His love with children is the reason we exist.

Education gives our children a foundation for life.
They are future explorers and creators,
innovators and leaders, neighbors and parents.

We are a community of families, students, educators,
and friends who are dedicated to working together to
help our children thrive. That's why we call ourselves
"The Divine Savior Family."

Our mission has an eternal impact and
that education can change the world.
Because we believe this, we strive to give our children
excellence in all we do.



a family of four academies

DORAL CAMPUS | DELRAY BEACH CAMPUS
SANTA RITA RANCH CAMPUS | SIENNA CAMPUS

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