

# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG 2024-2025



Divine Savior Academy  
— DELRAY BEACH —

course catalog

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# COURSE PLANNER

## 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE (normally totals 6 credits)

<u>Department</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Course</u>
Theology	1 credit	Christian Worldview - Theology 6
English Language Arts	1 credit	English Language Arts 6
Math	1 credit	Reveal Mathematics Course 1
Science	1 credit	General Science 6
Social Studies	1 credit	History Alive! The Ancient World
Specials	1 credit	Physical Education    Technology    Spanish    Music    Art

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE (normally totals 6 credits)

<u>Department</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Course</u>
Theology	1 credit	Growing in the Word - Theology 7
English Language Arts	1 credit	English Language Arts 7
Math	1 credit	Reveal Mathematics Course 2
Science	1 credit	General Science 7
Social Studies	1 credit	Civics Alive! Foundations and Functions
Specials	1 credit	Physical Education    Technology    Spanish    Music    Art

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE (normally totals 6 credits)

<u>Department</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Course</u>
Theology	1 credit	Christianity in Action - Theology 8
English Language Arts	1 credit	English Language Arts 8
Math	1 credit	Reveal Mathematics Course 3
Science	1 credit	General Science 8
Social Studies	1 credit	History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism
Specials	1 credit	Physical Education    Technology    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. In addition to weekly Sunday morning worship services, special church holiday services include Christmas Eve and Good Friday evening services.

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.

#### **Growing in the Word - Theology 7**

Credit: One (1) Credit

In seventh grade, students are given their own Bible copy, which is used to read and study in class. This course unites the historical narratives of the Old and New Testament into one cohesive story that reveals God's amazing plan of salvation from sin, death, and Satan through His one and only Son. The secondary focus is to lay the foundation of Christian doctrine by introducing the Six Chief Parts of the Catechism (10 Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Lord's Supper, Use of the Keys and Confession).

Students will focus on one Bible passage or song each week that relates to the theme of the Bible lessons being studied.

#### **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

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### History Alive! The Ancient World - TCI

Credit: One (1) Credit

History Alive! The Ancient World builds the students' foundation for understanding world history. Students learn about the rise of civilization by studying the geography, history, economics, and governments of the following:

- Ancient Sumer, Mesopotamia, and Persia
- Ancient Egypt and the Middle East
- Ancient India
- Ancient China
- Ancient Greece
- Ancient Rome

### Civics Alive! Foundations and Functions - TCI

Credit: One (1) Credit

Civics Alive! Foundations and Functions prepares students to be active citizens. This social studies course is required by the Florida Department of Education. Students learn about the U.S. Government at the local, state, and federal level in the following units:

- Foundations of Government
- The Origins and Purposes of Government
- The Organizations and Functions of U.S. Government
- The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens
- Political Processes
- Contemporary Issues in World Affairs

Prerequisite: The Ancient World or equivalent course

### History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism - TCI

Credit: One (1) Credit

History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism connects student learning about ancient civilizations and civics to the United States through a journey beginning with the indigenous people through the industrial era. Students will continue their study of social studies through the lens of claims, evidence, and reasoning through the analysis of both primary and secondary sources. Each unit includes connections to geography, economics, government, and an inquiry project. The historical units of study include:

- Foundations of History
- America Before and After Colonization
- Revolution in the Colonies
- Forming a New Nation
- Launching a New Republic
- An Expanding Nation

- Americans in the Mid-1800s
- The Union Challenged
- Migration and Industry
- A Modern Nation Emerges

Prerequisite: Civics or equivalent course

## MATHEMATICS

### Reveal Mathematics Course 1 - McGraw Hill

Credit: One (1) Credit

Successful math learning thrives on exploration, conversation, and reflection. Reveal Math is a complete K-12 core math program built on contemporary academic research and designed so all students can succeed in mathematics. By encouraging curiosity, exploration, and a growth mindset, Reveal Math allows students to learn problem-solving strategies and not simply memorizing computational procedures.

During sixth grade, students study the following content:

- Number and Operations
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Measurement
- Data Analysis and Probability
- Problem Solving
- Communication
- Reasoning and Proof
- Connections
- Representation

### Reveal Mathematics Course 2 - McGraw Hill

Credit: One (1) Credit

Successful math learning thrives on exploration, conversation, and reflection. Reveal Math is a complete K-12 core math program built on contemporary academic research and designed so all students can succeed in mathematics. By encouraging curiosity, exploration, and a growth mindset, Reveal Math allows students to learn problem-solving strategies and not simply memorizing computational procedures.

During seventh grade, students study the following content:

- Number and Operations
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Measurement
- Data Analysis and Probability
- Problem Solving
- Communication
- Reasoning and Proof
- Connections
- Representation

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Course 1 or an equivalent course

### Reveal Mathematics Course 3 - McGraw Hill

Credit: One (1) Credit

Successful math learning thrives on exploration, conversation, and reflection. Reveal Math is a complete K-12 core math program built on contemporary academic research and designed so all students can succeed in mathematics. By encouraging curiosity, exploration, and a growth mindset, Reveal Math allows students to learn problem-solving strategies and not simply memorizing computational procedures.

During eighth grade, students study the following content:

- Number and Operations
- Algebra
- Functions
- Geometry
- Measurement
- Data Analysis and Probability
- Problem Solving
- Communication
- Reasoning and Proof
- Connections
- Representation

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. 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 living systems, severe weather patterns, regional climates, and waves. Students further develop their understanding of science and critical thinking skills to learn about and analyze the world around them. All content is taught with a Biblical Worldview, with God's Word as the ultimate source of truth. Students will study the following units:

- Ecosystems: Students will model interdependence in ecosystems, photosynthesis and cellular respiration, energy flow and cycling of matter, biodiversity, and explore the human impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Waves: Students explore mechanical waves and their properties by looking at patterns and data waves in different mediums, the wave model of light properties, properties of light waves, and technologies using waves to transfer information.
- Weather and Climate: Students will investigate the atmosphere and energy transfer, the water cycle, air pressure and air masses, weather prediction, climate factors and patterns, and Earth's changing climate.

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 adaptations in living systems, matter, and space. Students further develop their understanding of science and critical thinking skills to learn about and analyze the world around them. All content is taught with a Biblical Worldview, with God's Word as the ultimate source of truth. Students will study the following units:



- Adaptations: Students will identify cause-and-effect relationships between Earth's history and the fossil record, natural selection and changes in species, genes and patterns of inheritance; and humans, evolution, and heredity.
- Matter: Students apply the concepts of conservation of matter and energy transfer to model atoms, molecules, and particle motion and state changes and chemical reactions. Students also explore engineering solutions involving chemical reactions.
- Space: Students will model cause-and-effect relationships involving Earth's rotation, revolution, and tilted axis; lunar phases and eclipses, the solar system, galaxies, and the universe.

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 matter, waves, including modeling light in the solar system, forces and energy, exploring how noncontact forces influence phenomena. Students further develop their understanding of science and critical thinking skills to learn about and analyze the world around them. All content is taught with a Biblical Worldview, with God's Word as the ultimate source of truth. Students will study the following units:

- Cells and Genetics: Students will explore traits, survival, and reproduction; the structure and functions of body systems and cells; genes and inheritance of traits, mutations, and engineering and genetics. (moving to 8<sup>th</sup> grade for 2025-2026 school year, current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students already had this in 7<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Matter: Students apply the concepts of conservation of matter and energy transfer to model atoms, molecules, and particle motion and state changes and chemical reactions. Students also explore engineering solutions involving chemical reactions.
- Waves: Students explore mechanical waves and their properties by looking at patterns and data waves in different mediums, the wave model of light properties, properties of light waves, and technologies using waves to transfer information.
- Forces and Energy: Students solve engineering problems and plan investigations about forces, Newton's laws of motion, kinetic and potential energy, thermal energy, heat, and the thermal properties of matter.
- Planet Earth: Students will construct explanations about Earth's natural resources, the rock and water cycles, rock layers, fossils, geologic time, plate tectonics, and natural hazards using varied time scales. (current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students already had this unit in 6<sup>th</sup> grade)

Prerequisite: Science 7

## EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

# DIVINE SAVIOR ACADEMY ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

### 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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