

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

23-24 School Year



Divine Savior Academy
— DORAL —

course catalog

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

The purpose of this course catalog is to provide parents and students with information regarding middle school course offerings and graduation requirements. This catalog is designed to assist students in planning the most appropriate program for the next school year, as well as the remainder of their time at Divine Savior Academy. The student's homeroom teacher is one of the most important resources for each student to plan his/her middle school path. Students, parents, teachers, and homeroom teachers should discuss each student's selections prior to or during the pre-registration process.

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THREE-YEAR COURSE PLANNER

This tool assists students who would wish to plan their course work for all three of the middle school years at Divine Savior Academy. The Three-Year Course Planner is particularly useful to those who already have a clear idea of their intended career path or are certain of plans to attend a post-secondary institution.

6th GRADE (normally totals 7 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 / Course 2 / Course 3	
Science	1 credit	General Science 6	
Social Studies	1 credit	Geography	
PE/Spanish	1 credit	Physical Education 6	Native/Non-Native Spanish
Electives	1 credit		

7th GRADE (normally totals 7 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 1 / Course 2 / Course 3 / (H) Algebra 1	
Science	1 credit	General Science 7	
Social Studies	1 credit	Civics	
PE/Spanish	1 credit	Physical Education 7	Native/Non-Native Spanish
Electives	1 credit		

8th GRADE (normally totals 7 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 2 / Course 3 / (H) Algebra 1 / (H) Geometry	
Science	1 credit	Physical Science 8	
Social Studies	1 credit	American History	
PE/Spanish	1 credit	Physical Education 8	Native / Non-Native Spanish
Electives	1 credit		

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

Christian 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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

Civics

Credit: One (1) Credit

The goal of this class is to provide the students with a well-rounded understanding of how the American government and economy operate and affect their lives. This will allow students to better understand American culture and appreciate its government and values. This social studies course is required by the Florida Department of Education.

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: Civics 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, numerical and algebraic expressions and inequalities, ratios and rates, percents, coordinate geometry, geometric measures, and statistical measures and displays, as well as applications to life through real-world story problems. Through successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to advance to 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, proportional relationships, rational numbers, algebraic expressions and equations, inequalities, geometric figures and their measures, statistical measures and displays, 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 a PreAlgebra (Course 3) or an equivalent course.

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Course 1 or an equivalent course

Course 3 (Pre-Algebra)

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

Algebra 1

Credit: One (1) Credit

In this course, students are given instruction in all of the algebraic concepts and will have a mastery of such material. Course content includes complex use of arithmetic operations, graphs, number sets, measurement and conversions, ratios, exponents and roots, detailed expressions, complex equations, trigonometry and logarithms, advanced geometric manipulations, 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 II, Geometry, or an equivalent course.

Prerequisite: 73% or better in Course 3 or an equivalent class

Geometry

Credit: One (1) Credit

Geometry is an important component of every high school mathematics curriculum. Course content includes perspective, space, dimension, application and calculation of measurements, and an introduction to trigonometry. Students will use their own logic along with key geometry theorems to create proofs and constructions. Through successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to advance to Algebra II or Honors Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry (if Algebra II has already been successfully completed).

Prerequisite: 73% or better in (H) Algebra 1

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Prerequisite: Science 5

General Science 7 - Teachers' Curriculum Institute

Credit: One (1) Credit

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

Physical Science 8

Credit: One (1) Credit

- Waves: Students will explore mechanical waves and their properties by looking at patterns in data, waves in different mediums, the wave model of light, properties of light waves, and technologies using waves to transfer information.
- Forces and Energy: Students will 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.
- Matter: Students will apply the concepts of conservation of matter and energy transfer to model atoms, molecules, particle motion, state changes, and chemical reactions; and explore engineering solutions involving chemical reactions.

Prerequisite: Science 7

Biology – Advanced Class

Credit: One (1) Credit

Biology is a course designed to provide exploratory experiences, laboratory investigations, and real life applications in the field of biological sciences. The following are some of the major themes this biology course will include: the nature of life, the study of ecology, cells, genetics, the secular world's view of evolution and a Christian's view of the world in light of God's Word, microorganisms, plants, animals, and the human body.

Prerequisite:

Prerequisite: Science 7 and Recommendation

SPANISH

Spanish 6 – Spanish as a Second Language

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

The Spanish as a Second Language program is designed to build a solid foundation for communication skills in the language through immersion Spanish classes. Repeated exposure to the language in a carefully planned variety of themes and contexts leads to natural acquisition of linguistic skills. Students formulate oral and written Spanish skills as well as an appreciation of Hispanic culture. This curriculum develops multiple competencies such as listening and reading comprehension, oral and written expression, and cultural awareness in students.

Spanish 6 – Spanish as a Heritage Language

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

The Advanced Spanish Speakers program is a challenging program which leads students to develop literacy and gain higher competence in their heritage language. Intellectually and affectively meaningful, this program expands their knowledge about their culture and the Hispanic world.

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Middle School Physical Education

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

Course content is taught on a 3-year cycle.

Physical Education (PE) is a vital component for the development of a student's physical, mental, and social well-being. The middle school PE program is designed to create physically educated individuals. These individuals will be responsible, social, healthy, and skilled movers in a variety of activities. The national PE standards will guide instruction by being the clear end-goals of what the students will learn and be able to do by the end of each unit. Every day is planned to achieve daily objectives that are structured in a way to support student progress toward meeting these goals. Therefore, every day has a purpose, and students will be active every day. It is the vision of the program that the students will come to enjoy and seek physical activity while developing and maintaining a health-enhancing level of physical fitness throughout their lives.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GENERAL ELECTIVES

All middle school students are able to choose an elective class for each semester. Some of these courses are offered only during a single semester of the school year.

TECHNOLOGY

Computer Applications 1

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

Students in Computer Applications 1 will discuss the appropriate use of the Internet and its many resources. They will also learn how to protect their identity and safety online. Through this class, students will learn the basic functions of Google Applications and the Microsoft Product Suite. Students will use their new skills to complete practical projects that may be useful in future classes or careers.

Computer Applications 2

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

Students in Computer Applications 2 will learn how to carry out advanced work in Google Applications, the Microsoft Product Suite, the Adobe Suite and various photo and video editing applications. Students will utilize learn how to carry out basic and advanced 3D modeling skills using Autodesk software. Students will use their new skills to complete practical projects that may be useful in future classes or careers. Students will apply their understandings of various applications in a Project Based Learning unit to complete a major product.

Prerequisite: Computer Applications 1

Introduction to App Development with Swift

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

This course is designed to help students build a solid foundation in programming fundamentals using Swift as the language. Throughout the course, students get practical experience with the tools, techniques, and concepts needed to build a basic iOS app from scratch. They will also learn user interface design principles, which are fundamental to programming and making effective apps.

Coding with Minecraft

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

This is a semester-long course to introduce students to core computer science and programming concepts and computational thinking skills. It builds on the popularity of Minecraft, featuring Minecraft Education Edition, and introduces Microsoft MakeCode, a block- and JavaScript-programming editor in the free Code Connection app. The course is comprised of 10 units with each focusing on specific computer science concepts and programming skills. Each unit includes 1-4 lessons (of approximately 45-60 minutes each) that combine unplugged activities to introduce the concepts, guided or "birdhouse" activities to gain hands-on coding experience, self-directed independent projects to apply their new skills in creative ways, and assessments to test students' knowledge and skill development.

STEM - PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

PLTW Engineering is a nationally-recognized high school engineering program. A unique program that applies engineering, science, math, and technology to solve complex, open-ended problems in a real-world context. They learn how to apply STEM knowledge, skills, and habits of mind to make the world a better place through innovation. All students who are interested in joining the program must take a STEM test for teacher approval.

STEM – Design and Modeling – 6th Grade

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit – offered both semesters

This course is a foundation for STEM and provides a bit of exposure to the three major fields PLTW tackles: Biomedical Sciences, Computer Sciences, and Engineering. Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they have learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

STEM – Green Architecture– 7th Grade

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit – offered 1st semester only

This course introduces students to architectural scales and measurements. Students gain an understanding of environmentally friendly home design and construction. Autodesk Revit software is to design the interior and exterior of a home constructed of shipping containers. Students also work as a class to construct a basic wall which is used to compare the effectiveness of various insulating materials.

STEM – Medical Detectives – 7th Grade

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit – offered 2nd semester only

In this course, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, and investigate disease outbreaks.

STEM – Flight and Space – 8th Grade

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit – offered 1st semester only

This course overviews the history of flight and space. It then introduces students to the basic principles behind aerodynamics and lift through the construction of a hot air balloon, a glider, and rockets. The challenges of space travel explored through the design and testing of a balloon-powered mars rover.

STEM – Automation and Robotics – 8th Grade

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit – offered 2nd semester only

This course serves as a transition into the Principles of Engineering course offered in our High School STEM program. Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

Middle School Music 1

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

This elective course serves as an introduction to music appreciation, theory, and history for interested students in grades 6-7. The class uses various resources to explore music history and genres while also teaching basic music theory and sight singing skills in preparation for singing in a choir or playing in an instrumental ensemble. The class incorporates instruction on ukulele and drums to further develop an appreciation and understanding of musical performance. No prior choral or instrumental experience is required.

Middle School Music 2

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

This elective course is a continuation of Middle School Music 1. Students continue to develop their knowledge of music history and their understanding of music theory. The class uses various resources to explore music history and genres while also teaching music theory and sight singing skills. The class incorporates instruction on ukulele, drums, and keyboard to further develop an appreciation and understanding of musical performance.

Prerequisite: Middle School Music 1

Drumming and Percussion

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

This class is open to all students in 8th grade. No experience is necessary. The class will focus on the percussion music of various world cultures, percussion ensembles, and drum lines. Students will learn the music, rhythms, and culture of each genre. They will also learn to read music and perform basic percussion technique for both hand drums and stick drums.

Middle School Chess

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

This course involves studying a variety of aspects related to the game of chess. Emphasis is on the development of chess playing ability, the history of chess, the world's top players, tournament play, strategies, tactics, and chess for a healthier mind.

Introduction to Art – 6th Grade

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

Introduction to Art will focus on all the elements of art. Students will have experiences with different mediums and use different techniques to achieve proportions, management of size, and 2D & 3D effects.

Middle School Art Drawing – 7th Grade

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

Drawing will focus on applying principles of design, realism, and drawing techniques such as pointillism, crosshatching, and contour into their projects, using different numbers of pencils and ink pens.

Middle School Art Painting – 8th Grade

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

Painting will focus on learning and applying color theory, values, and light. Students will have the opportunity to observe and compare different techniques with historical paintings and artists.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Leadership and Service

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

This course helps students learn more about qualities of a leader. The course takes students through different character traits that quality leaders have. The curriculum, "C2: Character Challenge" is used in the course. Students have the opportunity to learn more about their own character traits and how they can best use those traits to become a better leader to serve others. There are also several opportunities for service throughout the semester.

Leadership and Character Development

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

This course helps develop leadership and character traits using readings, current events, movie clips, classroom activities, and writing assignments. The curriculum, "Character Development and Leadership", will be used throughout the course. Students will use knowledge developed in this course to develop and improve character traits and leadership skills. Students will be using these skills to be a blessing to those around them.

DIVINE SAVIOR ACADEMY ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

English as Second Language (ESL)

DSA offers ESL classes for students who need added support in learning English. All students are annually assessed in reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Those with a score below their grade level are enrolled in the ESL program until they have acquired the skills needed to learn independently.

Additionally, DSA offers co-teaching intervention for certain courses in the curriculum that are heavier in content and vocabulary. These classrooms feature a lead teacher and a trained ESL teacher who collaborate to meet the learning needs of students who are still developing their English proficiency.

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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