

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG 2024-2025



Divine Savior Academy
— SIENNA —

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 Alive! Regions and People	
PE/Computers	1 credit	Physical Education 6	Computers
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	Texas History	
PE/Personal Finance	1 credit	Physical Education 7	Personal Finance
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	History Alive! The United States through Industrialism	
PE/Spanish	1 credit	Physical Education 8	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 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

Geography Alive! Regions and People - TCI

Credit: One (1) Credit

The sixth-grade social studies course begins with an introduction to physical and human geography. Throughout the year, students are introduced to the geography and cultures of the United States and Canada, Latin America, Europe and Russia, Africa, Southwest and Central Asia, Monsoon Asia, Oceania and Antarctica. 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

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: Texas History 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

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 thirteen units over the course of three academic years. 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 integrated science program, students will use evidence and engineering challenges to explore:

- Systems and Subsystems of Earth and Life Science: the atmosphere, energy, and cells
- Earth Systems, Weather, and Organisms: weather patterns, traits, and bodies
- Regional Climates and Living Systems: climate patterns, genes, and genetics

Prerequisite: Science 5

General Science 7 - Teachers' Curriculum Institute

Credit: One (1) Credit

In the 7th grade integrated science program, students will use evidence and engineering challenges to explore:

- Organisms and Nonliving Things made of Atoms: matter, ecosystems, and Earth's geological processes
- Matter Cycles and Energy Flows: Earth's systems and chemical reactions
- Distribution of Earth's Resources: Earth's processes, resources in ecosystems, and states of matter
- Living Systems in a Changing World: Earth's natural hazards, humans and changing ecosystems

Prerequisite: Science 6

General Science 8 - Teachers' Curriculum Institute

Credit: One (1) Credit

In the 8th grade integrated science program, students will use evidence and engineering challenges to explore:

- Speed of Objects and Waves: forces and mechanical waves
- Modeling Light in the Solar System: the Earth-Sun-Moon system and light waves
- Noncontact Forces Influence Phenomena: noncontact forces and the solar system
- History of Life: the solar system and beyond, and the history of life on Earth
- Life's Unity and Diversity: life's unity and diversity, and kinetic and potential energy
- Sustaining Local and Global Diversity: human impact, thermal energy, & waves for information transfer

Prerequisite: Science 7

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.

TECHNOLOGY

6th Grade Computer Applications

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

6th Grade Computer class provides foundational knowledge and practical skills in using Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, along with an understanding of basic computer components. Students will learn essential features and functions of each software application, including formatting documents in Word, creating spreadsheets and performing calculations in Excel, and designing dynamic presentations in PowerPoint. Additionally, the course covers fundamental concepts of computer hardware and software, such as understanding the components of a computer system, basic troubleshooting techniques, and file management skills. Through hands-on exercises, and real-world examples, students will gain proficiency in using these essential productivity tools and develop confidence in navigating computer systems effectively. Whether for personal or educational use, this class equips students with the necessary skills to excel in today's digital world.

PERSONAL FINANCE

7th Grade Personal Finance

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

The 7th grade Personal Finance course uses the Ramsey Middle School Personal Finance curriculum materials as the basis for a beginning introduction to personal finance.

SPANISH

8th Grade Introduction to Spanish

Credit: Half (1/2) Credit

The Introduction to Spanish course 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.

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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