



## **Grades 6-8 Curriculum**

Shallowford Presbyterian School (SPS) offers a challenging, balanced curriculum that encourages exploration and discovery. Our classrooms are student-centered and focused on developing critical-thinking and problem-solving skills across all curriculums. Our small class sizes and student to teacher ratios allow our teachers to truly customize instruction to meet the diverse needs of each individual learner. We believe that every child is unique, which is why SPS believes in nurturing the whole child physically, emotionally, socially, cognitively, and spiritually.

SPS students in grades 6-8 have the opportunity to be leaders, tutors, and mentors to younger students. Socially and emotionally, SPS offers the opportunity to bolster self-assurance and guidance in navigating the social aspects of adolescence. Shallowford Presbyterian School provides a positive and equitable learning program in which students are challenged academically and given the support they need to develop into thoughtful, responsible, and self-aware students.

### **6th-8th Grade Language Arts**

- Students should be able to comprehend more challenging books and articles, basing all of their analyses, inferences, and claims on explicit and relevant evidence from the texts.
- Students will expand on their ability to identify central ideas by identifying how those themes are shaped and conveyed by particular details.

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- Their analysis of basic literary elements will extend to identifying connections and complexities within narratives and how individual elements weave together to advance plot and reveal character.
- The evaluation of the impact of language on tone and meaning will begin to include more sophisticated concepts such as analogy and allusion, subtleties in point of view such as dramatic irony, and a more sophisticated appreciation for connotative diction.
- These skills will be incorporated into the students' own narrative and expository writing.
- Students will become increasingly adept at understanding an author's biases, the use of complex rhetorical devices including logical fallacies, and tailoring his or her own prose for maximum influence.
- While continuing with a variety of literary non-fiction, students in grades 6-8 will begin to tackle more technical informational texts as well.
- Literary selections will include foundational materials from mythology, cultural histories, and religious traditions. Text complexity levels are assessed based upon a variety of indicators.

### **6th-8th Grade Math**

- By the end of grade six, students connect ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and use concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; complete understanding of division of fractions and extend the notion of number to the system of rational numbers including negative numbers; write, interpret, and use expressions and equations; and develop an understanding of statistical thinking.
- Seventh Grade Math: This course integrates applied arithmetic, pre-algebra, and pre-geometry by building upon the essential skills of arithmetic to develop and apply algebraic and problem solving strategies to real world situations. Algebra is introduced by examining real numbers, factoring, proportional relationships, linear equations and inequalities, unit conversions, graphing on the number line and coordinate plane as well as geometric relationships and measurement.
- Eighth Grade Math: Basic concepts of algebra; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in algebra; linear sentences; lines and distances; slopes and lines; exponents and powers; polynomials; systems of equations

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and inequalities; parabolas and quadratic equations; functions; matrices; probability; introduction to discrete math; right triangle trigonometry; spreadsheets.

### **6th-8th Grade Social Studies**

- In sixth grade Social Studies students begin a two-year world area studies course. They study Latin America, Canada, Europe, and Australia.
- In seventh grade they study Africa, Southwest Asia, and Southern and Eastern Asia.
- Eighth grade is focused on Georgia Studies.
- Students study elements of physical and human geography, government, economics, and history to explore these areas and the world in which they live.

### **6th-8th Grade Science**

- The sixth grade Science curriculum is designed to give students an overview of common strands in earth science including meteorology, geology, astronomy, and oceanography.
- Seventh grade is focused on life science.
- Eighth grade explores physical science
- Students keep records for analysis, use charts and graphs to interpret data, and construct explanations based on their evidence.

### **Specials**

- Christian Education
- PE and Health
- Spanish
- Technology/Study Skills
- Music and Chorus
- Art
- Library

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Students in sixth through eighth grades will change classes for ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Students will have recess daily.

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