

**VALLEY CHRISTIAN
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2007-2008

18100 Dumont Avenue
Cerritos, California 90703
(562) 865-6519
www.vcschools.org

REGULAR DAILY SCHEDULE

8:15-8:55	Advisement (Devotions & Attendance)
8:58-9:40-10:22	Core Block I (Period 1 and 2)
10:22-10:34	Break
10:37-11:21-12:05	Core Block II (Period 3 and 4)
12:08-12:18	Lunch
12:18-12:35	Break
12:38-1:18	5 th Period
1:21-2:01	6 th Period
2:04-2:45	7 th Period

WEDNESDAY INTRAMURAL and CHAPEL SCHEDULE

8:15-8:55-9:38	Core Block I (Periods 1 and 2)
9:38-9:50	Break
9:53-10:33-11:15	Core Block II (Periods 3 and 4)
11:18-11:55	Chapel
11:55-12:08	Lunch
12:08-12:35	Break
12:38-1:18	5 th Period
1:21-2:01	6 th Period
2:04-2:45	7 th Period

MONDAY INTRAMURAL SCHEDULE

8:15-8:45	Advisement (Devotions & Attendance)
8:48-9:32-10:17	Core Block I (Period 1 and 2)
10:17-10:29	Break
10:32-11:14-11:55	Core Block II (Period 3 and 4)
11:55-12:08	Lunch
12:08-12:35	Break
12:38-1:18	5 th Period
1:21-2:01	6 th Period
2:04-2:45	7 th Period

FOREWORD

Valley Christian Middle School was established because a group of Christian parents had a vision of Christ-centered education for their children. What is a Christian school? It is, above all, a place where the presence of Christ prevails, a place where the Lord is in charge. More specifically, a Christian school can be defined as an educational institution in which all teaching and learning activities are directed and controlled by the Scriptures. A school is a full-fledged Christian school when all of its principles, purposes, facets, and processes are illuminated and governed by the revealing and redeeming light of the Bible, God's Word. The Christian school, facing the world together, functions as an indispensable component of the task "to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:12,13).

In the preceding paragraph John Van Dyk in his booklet The Beginning of Wisdom describes our concept of Christian education and the task we face with you through the Holy Spirit. Middle school in particular poses an added challenge as students experience a once-in-a-lifetime metamorphosis into the adult world. Early adolescence is a time of transition, a time of questioning, a time of openness, and a time of decision. Our students with young minds and growing faiths are attempting to establish themselves as Christian young people living in a secular world. At Valley Christian Middle School, we have developed a program that addresses the needs and concerns of middle school students, and promotes continued growth in all areas of their lives.

The purpose of this student handbook is to familiarize you with the curriculum and policies of Valley Christian Middle School. Much time, thought, expertise, and prayer have gone into the construction of the student academic program and offerings that are compiled in this guide. It is very important that you familiarize yourself with the information contained in this booklet. We encourage both parents and students to read and discuss this material.

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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to be honest in all their actions and words. Students should complete all assignments, papers, and tests from their own knowledge or, when appropriate, give credit to sources of information. Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade on the assignment or test and a fault. Further action may be taken by the administration as warranted by the specific situation.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Valley Christian Schools is pleased to offer students access to a computer network for research, email, Internet and other applications. The Internet offers access to Christian resources that will assist our children in their work with the Lord. However the Kingdom of God is not limited to “spiritual matters.” Christ is redeeming the whole of Creation, and His Kingdom extends into the so-called secular areas of life as well. Math, science, social studies, languages, business, fine arts, and other subject areas are disciplines that require godly insight and Christian perspective. We believe that supervised access to the Internet will open up vast resources of current and archived information.

We will be integrating Internet use into our school’s educational program in the following way. Class assignments using the Internet will be under the guidance of the classroom teacher, lab coordinator, or the librarian. These individuals closely supervise students’ access to the Internet. Like a modern technology, the Internet has the potential either to serve or dishonor Christ. We believe that our students will learn to use this technology to “solve problems, and access information with discretion.” Then our students will be equipped to “impact contemporary society for Christ.”

General Guidelines:

1. Observe Christian standard of behavior, etiquette, and sensitivity towards others.
2. Use the system for non-commercial, educational purposes like investigation of topics studied in school or out of school, careers, colleges, community services.
3. Respect the property of others. Remember: the ability to access certain information does not mean you have the right to do so.
4. Do not violate copyright laws by copying software, or “borrowing” from the Internet. Software and any material that is printed on the Internet is considered to be copyrighted.
5. Do not give out your password to anyone or access anyone else’s account.
6. Do not provide personal or confidential information to others over the Internet like your address and phone number on-line. Never agree to meet a person that you have met on-line. Notify your parent or teacher if someone attempts to do so.
7. Do not play games, attempt to load your software on school computers or use chat rooms or other interactive sites.
8. Do not engage in any activity on the computer that violates a school rule or a local, state, or federal law.
9. Always assume that people for whom it may not be intended will view the information you send out.
10. Recognize the limits of your own privacy while on the network. Network administrators may audit individual Internet user access and determine:
 - a. What files a user downloaded.
 - b. What information and graphics were viewed during a network session.
 - c. What sites a user visited.

Consequences for Abuse

1. The teacher or administration may revoke computer privileges at any time for failure to follow the guidelines (Hardware/Software/Internet Abuse)
2. Students may receive additional consequences if deemed necessary by the teacher and administration.

ATTENDANCE & TARDIES

In order for you to experience success, regular and punctual attendance is very important. All absences other than for illness are discouraged. When you return to school you must submit a note to the office signed by a parent indicating the reason for your absence. Absences for reasons other than illness should be approved in **advance** with a written note to the office.

Please check each teacher’s web page or ask a friend for the missing assignments for the day that you are absent. ***After three days of absence, you may notify the office and ask them to gather the student’s missing homework from the teachers to be picked up at the end of the school day.***

To be excused from school for doctor or dental appointments, bring a note to the office before that day's classes begin.

You are expected to make up work the day you return to school. Students are to only leave campus with people who are listed on their emergency card unless a written note from the parents is given to the office for additional permission.

You are to remain on campus at all times unless you are given special permission to leave by the office. Skipping class is considered a very serious offense. A student will receive a minimum of a fault for skipping school.

To encourage regular attendance, the school has adopted the following policy:

7 Absences per semester: The student will have a conference with the principal and the parents will receive a letter.

10 Absences per semester: The parents and student will meet with the principal.

Promptness to class is very important. When students enter their classroom, they are to get in their seats and prepare to work. **After the fifth tardy in each semester, you will receive a demerit for each additional tardy regardless of the reason for the tardiness.** Only late buses, approved doctor's/dentist's appointments and/or illness will be excused. Tardiness also includes failure to be prepared for class (i.e. Failure to bring books and class supplies). These tardies are called unprepared tardies. To help prevent tardiness to class, we ask that you come to the office for assistance only at break and at lunch. Being at the office is not an excuse for tardiness.

BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS & ROLLERBLADES

If you ride a bike to school, you should provide a padlock and lock the bike by the bike racks. Riders are urged to bring their bikes to and from the compound by using the streets and vehicle pathways. Bikes should always be walked across campus where pedestrian traffic is heavy. After school, bicycle riders may only exit the middle school at the north gate on Dumont Street or ride through the high school PE field and exit at the high school.

If you ride roller blades or a skateboard to school, you must be able to fit them into your locker. You may not ride your roller blades or skateboard on the campus at any time.

BOOKS & SUPPLIES

All basic texts are loaned to students for their use during the school year. Textbooks are to be kept clean and handled carefully. All students are required to put a book cover on their books. You will be required to pay for lost or damaged books before your child's yearbook will be distributed at the end of the year.

A planner is provided for all students at the beginning of the year. Students are responsible for purchasing this and all other school supplies. They are also responsible for having a Bible at school for their Bible class (NIV version suggested, but not required).

BUSING

The following rules were adopted by the School Board after being recommended to the Board by a committee composed of parents, bus drivers, administrators, and Property and Bus Committee members. Their objective was to provide safety for the students. The rules are as follows:

1. Maintain good order in the bus lines.
2. Follow the instructions of your bus driver. He or she is in charge at all times.
3. Be courteous to your driver and your fellow passengers.
4. Remain in your seat while the bus is in motion.
5. Positively no profanity.
6. Keep your head and arms inside the bus at all times.
7. No loud talking or yelling on the bus.
8. Yelling at people outside of the bus is prohibited.
9. Throwing of any object out the window is unlawful.
10. No eating, drinking, or smoking is allowed on the bus.
11. There is to be no tampering with the bus or bus equipment.
12. Be alert for traffic when leaving the bus.

Remember your good conduct can be your Christian witness! Failure to comply with the above rules will result in being issued a "citation" which may result in denying the offender the privilege of riding the bus.

During the month of August, you will receive a bus schedule from the business office with any new information you need to know about the bus service.

Students must have a signed note from home approved by the office in order to ride a bus other than their assigned bus. This should be done only in very rare instances; for emergency type reasons. Our buses are full!

CELL PHONES

VCMS students are not allowed the use of their cell phones at any time during the school day. If a student is found with a cell phone, the phone will be taken from them and brought to the office where the student can retrieve at the end of the school day. A formal warning will be issued. If a student is found with their cell phone more than once, their phone will be taken and placed in the office where the student can retrieve at the end of the school day and that student will receive a demerit. Student cell phones are to be turned off and kept in the students' locker. If an emergency takes place, parents are to call the school and students are to use the in-office school phone.

CHAPEL & ASSEMBLIES

Chapel is held once a week on Wednesday morning. You are expected to be active participants through singing and by leading various aspects of the worship time. We use this time to express our love and thanks to our Lord.

There will be many school assemblies during the school year. It is very important that you behave in a manner that is respectful and supportive of those people presenting the assembly. Therefore, you are requested to be considerate and treat the performers, as you would like to be treated. Please do not whistle, stomp feet or talk in loud tones. Be on your best behavior; represent Valley Christian well!

COMMUNICATION

1. Report Cards are our primary method of reporting student progress to students and parents. The cards are generally mailed on the Thursday following the end of the nine-week marking period.
2. Progress Reports are mailed home at the mid-point of each marking period to all students. Parents are encouraged to use this means of communication to help their child reach their academic goals.
3. All parents are urged to attend "Back to School Night" in the fall. This evening will give parents a chance to visit several classes and find out what the teachers in these classes expect of their students. This night is of extreme importance!
4. Scheduled student-led conferences are held in November. These conferences are scheduled by appointment and you will receive information concerning them in the month of October.
5. Parents are encouraged to check their child's progress via the school's website and their guardian password. If there are still questions please feel free to leave a voice mail, email, or send a note to the teacher. Honest, open communication is essential to the success of Christian education.

CONDUCT

Students are not permitted on campus before 7:45 A.M. unless under teacher supervision. Students are not to enter the hallways until the first school bus has arrived or 8:00 A.M. whichever comes first. This gives staff time to prepare for their day.

All students must be out of the buildings by 3:00 P.M. unless they are participating in a school activity under direct teacher supervision.

Students should be in the halls only at the beginning and close of school and while moving from one class to another unless they have special permission or special duties that require them to be there. Students are asked to be courteous at all times and to keep to the right when moving in the halls. Running and shouting in the halls is never permitted.

Students are held responsible for all school equipment, which is used by them. Writing on desks, walls or books, and defacing of school property in any way is not permitted.

CURRICULUM

Requirements

7th Grade

Advisement (year)
Art 7 (9 weeks)
Bible 7 (18 weeks)
Computer I (9 weeks)
Language Arts (year)
Mathematics (year)
Physical Education (18 weeks)
Science (year)
World History (year)

8th Grade

Advisement (year)
American History (year)
Bible 8 (18 weeks)
Computer II (9 weeks)
Language Arts (year)
Mathematics (year)
Music (9 weeks, if no other music has been taken)
Physical Education (18 weeks)
Science (year)

Exploratory Elective Offerings

(All courses nine weeks unless otherwise indicated)

Artistic Creations	Flash Animation/Graphic Art	Photography
Basic Spanish	Healthy Living	Printmaking
Calligraphy I	Interior Design	Rocketry
Calligraphy II	Journalism	Scrapbooking
Ceramics I	Leadership	Sports & Games
Ceramics II	Mixed Chorus (year)	Such A Time As This
Christian Perspective, Media	Music Appreciation	Wind Ensemble (Year)
Concert Band (Year)	Novels	Women's Ensemble (3/4 year)
Creative Drama	Orchestra (Year)	Yearbook (8 th grade only, 2 nd , 3 rd quarter)
Digital Music Composition		
Figure Drawing	Personal Finance	

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Required Courses

ADVISEMENT

Instructors Grade 7: Mr. Huisman, Mrs. Kaemingk, Mr. Scholte, Miss Stenson, & Mr. Tiersma

Instructors Grade 8: Mrs. Alford, Mrs. Brouwer, Mr. Groen, Mr. Noteboom, Mr. Protzmann, & Mr. Slager

GRADE SEVEN ADVISEMENT

The advisory program provides students with an adult with whom to identify, encourage group cohesiveness, provide opportunities for sharing feelings, and improve teacher-student relationships. Advisory groups also give students that chance to build self-esteem, to recognize their own special uniqueness and respect the differences in others. Prayer concerns are shared through a group prayer/share time. Channel One provides an opportunity to be aware and pray for world concerns. Birthdays are celebrated in advisement. All contests and school notices go through advisement. Our advisement groups are the HEART of our school.

GRADE EIGHT ADVISEMENT

In eighth grade the advisory program provides a home base for students where the benefits of seventh grade Advisement continue. Students have an adult to identify with, a group to belong to, and a place to share feelings and grow spiritually. The goals of Advisement include learning to evaluate community conditions with a Christian perspective, cultivating an appreciation for cultural diversity and beauty in creation, and promoting personal growth in academic strategies. The goals help students prepare for the diverse and challenging environment they will encounter in high school.

BIBLE (18 Weeks)

Instructors: *Mr. Choh, Mr. Huisman, Mr. Scholte, & Mr. Tiersma*

The Bible curriculum is based on materials produced by Christian Schools International (CSI).

GRADE 7: Old Testament Survey

Two nine-week courses are required for seventh grade students that provide them with an overview of the Old Testament from the establishment of the monarchy to the fall of Judah. The key theme is God's redemptive plan presented in the Bible, which provides freedom from sin and death and grants salvation and eternal life. Great stories of the Old Testament are covered with an emphasis on God's creation, man's sinfulness, heroes of the faith, God's covenant promises, the story of the Israelite nation, kings and prophets, and finally looking forward to the coming Messiah. An NIV Bible is required.

GRADE 8: New Testament Survey

Two nine-week courses of Bible are required for the eighth grade students. These nine week courses provide a deeper study of the Intertestamental period and the life of Christ, covering topics such as the themes of the 4 Gospels, Jesus' miracles, claims, suffering, and resurrection. An NIV Bible is required.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Instructors: *7th-Mr. Huisman & Mr. Scholte*

8th-Mr. Protzmann & Mr. Groen

The Holt, Rinehart and Winston Social Studies textbooks are used for the social studies courses.

GRADE 7 - World History

This course takes the students across the centuries and around the world. The students will take an engaging approach to World History from the Ancient World through the Age of Enlightenment. Students will also discover the different religions of the world and compare these religions to Christianity. This will include studies of the Islamic culture, Africa, Asian civilizations, and Europe during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. The course will help students to understand the past and present as they probe more deeply into the connections between history, geography, and social and cultural events.

GRADE 8 - American History

This course is a survey of United States History from the age of exploration through the Civil War. This course will help students understand many of the foundational reasons for current domestic action in the United States. The History and English classes will work in conjunction to create strong writing skills with all of the students.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Instructors: *7th- Mr. Huisman & Miss Stenson*

8th- Mrs. Brouwer & Mr. Protzmann

In both 7th and 8th grade, students will be using textbooks from Prentice Hall and various supplemental sources.

GRADE 7

7th grade Language Arts covers literature, grammar, vocabulary and writing skills. Students are encouraged to explore a variety of writing styles through the Writer's Workshop process. Students also have online access to the Reader's Companion, which provides extra notes, activities, and quizzes.

GRADE 8

8th graders cover a variety of topics. One quarter of the year is spent studying areas of grammar and how they directly influence student writing. During the other quarters, students read 2 novels and a variety of short stores, as well as completing a number of written assignments. Throughout the entire year, two things are emphasized. First, students are challenged to evaluate and respond to their reading as Christians. Second, they are encouraged to explore their own interests in the areas of reading and writing. Also, History and English classes work together on several integrated units, with a focus on strong writing and communication skills.

MATHEMATICS

Instructors: 7th-Mrs. Kaemingk & Mr. Tiersma

8th-Mrs. Alford & Mr. Slager

The middle school curriculum in mathematics has been developed to meet the needs of each student and all classes are taught with the conviction that one learns mathematics by doing mathematics. Prior to entering the 7th grade, it's required that each student take a placement test in order to accurately place students in a class that best meets his or her abilities. The test is administered during the Spring/Summer before 7th grade school year begins. Pre-Algebra is offered in the 7th grade and Algebra in the 8th grade for those students exhibiting advanced abilities. We realize many parents are concerned at this level about the appropriate placement of their child, Please know that we understand this concern, and at the same time are committed to correct placement as well as providing a strong foundation to ensure success in future math classes in high school and college. The California colleges and universities require three years of college preparatory math that includes Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra 2. UC schools recommend Pre-Calculus. The chart below shows the Valley Christian High School Math Department's possible flow of classes for a student depending on that student's future plans. *Regardless of the 7th grade placement, all students will be prepared and on track to take the necessary courses needed for their high school and college plans.*

	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
General	Algebra 1A	Algebra 1B	Informal Geometry	
4-Year College	Algebra 1A	Algebra 1B	Geometry	Algebra 2
4-Year College	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2 or Honors Algebra 2	Advanced Math or Honors Adv. Math
Advanced	Geometry	Honors Algebra 2	Honors Adv. Math	AP Calculus

GRADE 7

Students placed in Math 7 would be prepared for the General or both 4-year College flow of courses above. Students placed in Pre-Algebra would be prepared for either the 4-year College or Advanced flow of courses above. Once a student is placed in their math class, parents can appeal to the teacher/administrator for a change before the 1st quarter report card. At that time, the teacher/administrator will determine if a change is warranted. Once placement is set, summer "catch up" courses and/or tutoring will not allow students to advance beyond their scheduled course for the following year.

The Pre-Algebra 7 and Math 7 courses use the same *Transitions Mathematics* text from the University of Chicago Mathematics textbook series. This series is a continuation of the program taught at Valley Christian Elementary School. The text integrates a variety of problem types throughout each lesson and emphasizes reading and application to learn. Although both classes emphasize pre-algebra concepts, the Pre-Algebra 7 class covers more material preparing students to take Algebra 1 in the 8th grade. In Math 7, students will cover the first 6 chapters of the text which involves decimal notation, large and small numbers, measurements in both the metric and customary systems, variables, patterns and properties of addition, geometry, and problem-solving strategies. The Pre-Algebra 7 course will cover the aforementioned material as well as patterns leading to subtraction, multiplication and division where equations with decimals, percents, fractions, and ratios are explored, and displays and graphing of equations. *Scientific calculators (Texas Instruments TI 30IIS recommended), protractors and rulers are required tools for the year.*

Students placed in the Pre-Algebra 7 course will need to maintain a B- average on tests as well as their overall grade throughout the school year to be considered for Algebra 1 in 8th grade. Those students with C+ grades and below may need to be moved down to Math 7 during the school year or repeat Pre-Algebra the following year in the 8th grade.

GRADE 8

Students taking Math 7 in the 7th grade will be automatically placed into Pre-Algebra * in their 8th grade year, completing the last 6 chapters of *Transitions Mathematics*. Student will cover the following topics: patterns leading to subtraction, multiplication and division where equations with decimals, percents, fractions, and ratios are explored, and displays and graphing of equations. This course will prepare these students for Algebra in their 9th grade year. Students who took Pre-Algebra 7 in the 7th grade would be eligible for Algebra 1* in their 8th grade year. This course is a formal development of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for students who will take a geometry course and other advanced college prep courses. Topics covered will include solving equations and inequalities, proportions, graphs and functions, linear equations and systems of equations, exponents and exponential functions, simplifying and factoring polynomials, quadratic equations and functions, and radical expressions and equations. All students in the 8th grade will take a readiness test before entering high school. Those in Pre-Algebra 8 will take an Algebra readiness test which will help place them in the appropriate 9th grade algebra class. Those taking Algebra 1 will need to take a geometry readiness test. *Scientific calculators (Texas Instruments TI 30IIS recommended), protractors and rulers are required tools for the year.*

*Students placed in Algebra 1 need to maintain a B- average on tests as well as their overall grade throughout the school year to be eligible for geometry in 9th grade. Those students with C+ grades and below may need to be moved down to Pre-Algebra 8 during the school year or will need to repeat Algebra 1 the following year in the 9th grade.

SCIENCE

*Instructors: 7th-Mr. Scholte & Mr. Tiersma
8th-Mr. Groen & Mr. Slager*

7TH GRADE SCIENCE

7th grade science's exploration of God's creation leads to a greater understanding and appreciation of God's wisdom, creativity, power, and sense of humor. The classes are taught with the belief that God created the universe with natural laws and an intricate, amazing plan of balance and order.

The seventh grade text is the *Science Explorer* series from Prentice Hall. Students will receive a new "mini" book for the different units we cover. We explore life science with units such as: scientific method, cells, characteristics of life, and each of the six kingdoms. We also study the human body and its systems, including reproduction. Students will become critical analyzers and debaters as they learn to apply a Christian perspective toward controversial issues such as the big bang theory, evolution, and stewardship in an ever-growing consumerist society.

8TH GRADE SCIENCE

God's creation is awe-inspiring. Science is an attempt to lead students into an awareness of the intricacies and beauty of nature. Using a general science text, we cover physical science, life science, and earth science. Studying genetics makes us aware of the uniqueness of each person as a creation of God and gives meaning to Psalm 139:13, "For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb." We then study physical science, particularly chemical reactions. We end with a study of earth science and the majesty of His creation. Believing that science is best learned by doing, lab activities are included for the students as often as possible.

We also include human sexuality, taking some material from the Healthy Living series published by Christian Schools International. The following is an overview from pages 305 - 306 of that text.

The focus is on developing a view of sexuality that recognizes God as the Creator of sexuality and Christ as the ruler over all of life. Topics include the distorted cultural view of sexuality and the need to reclaim a Christian perspective of sexuality, biblical norms for sexuality, the awakening sexuality of the adolescent and the dangers this brings, the need to develop healthy dating relationships and attitudes, abstinence as a lifestyle choice, and preventing sexually abusive relationships.

ART 7

Instructor: *Mrs. Gardner*

The students will be introduced to the main art elements and concepts through a variety of media including charcoal, craypas, markers, pen and ink, and watercolor. They will learn about many styles and techniques of art and will acquire the ability to recognize and identify art concepts and elements both in works of art and in nature as created by our God.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Instructors: 7th - *Mrs. Looney, Mr. Protzmann, & Mr. Overduin*
8th - *Mrs. Looney, Mrs. De Jong, & Mr. Overduin*

The individual, as created by God, is a unit. His mind and will and emotions function through the body and cannot be educated and trained apart from the body. Moreover, this whole person, body and soul, is called in Scripture, the temple of God, and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. The school has the responsibility of training the whole person including the physical so that he can live most effectively to the glory of God.

7th GRADE

The emphasis of the seventh grade physical education program is on team sports such as flag football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, and softball. Two units of health fitness are also included.

8th GRADE

The eighth grade curriculum includes an introduction of individual sports and other fitness oriented activities. Activities include racquet sports, power walking, track and weightlifting. Two units of health fitness are also included.

COMPUTERS: *Mr. Matt Schuring*

One 9-week class of computers is required during the seventh and eighth grade years. Students will learn practical uses of standard computer software and will receive training and practice with digital software.

7TH GRADE COMPUTERS I

This class introduces students to Microsoft Office tools; Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel, as well as one multimedia tool. Content for this class is cross-curricular: there will be one project for each one of the core classes, utilizing the above named tools to produce quality projects as part of the required curriculum. There is also an element for keyboard instruction and practice to help students improve their overall typing skills.

8TH GRADE COMPUTERS II

The focus in this class is to extend student proficiency in the Microsoft Office tools and/or Multimedia tools. Projects for this class are taken from the core curriculum classes and are designed to compliment existing study themes. There will be opportunity in this class to explore more advanced areas for those students who express interest. Keyboarding practice is also an element of this class to allow students improvement on their existing keyboard knowledge.

Exploratory Elective Courses

ARTISTIC CREATIONS (9 weeks)

This class is a combination of two and three-dimensional works. A variety of media is used including; paper, metal, wood, plaster-of-paris, and wire. Projects include wood cut outs, paper, wire sculpture, mosaics, and plaster sculptures. Projects follow the elements of art: line, shape, space, texture, mass and color and also are applied to the study of a variety of modern artists.

BAND (One year)

The great number of students enrolling in band has led us to split the group in two. The instructor will assign students to one of the following groups.

CONCERT BAND

This class is designed to enable students to express themselves musically in a group setting as well as nurture each student's individual musical gifts and talents. Students will continue to master the skills of their individual instruments and continue to develop the concepts of listening and balancing with the rest of the group. *(100 minutes of practice time is required each week)*

WIND ENSEMBLE

Honor Band is a small group of band students who are dedicated to playing with excellence. The Honor Band students have more opportunities to perform and compete. In addition, the honor band members will meet with the Orchestra on a regular basis throughout the school year as a full symphonic orchestra. Honor Band students are selected by tryouts. *(100 minutes of practice time is required each week)*

The Band program has two extra-curricular offerings:

JAZZ BAND

This class is an extra curricular class that will develop the musical style of Jazz. This class is open to instrumental music students enrolled in a performing group and to those who play a traditional jazz band instrument, i.e. saxophone, trumpet, trombone, electric guitar, bass guitar, piano, and drum set. Jazz Band meets before school two days a week. The director determines enrollment in the group.

HANDBELLS

This is an extra-curricular music opportunity open to any students at VCMS. The handbell group will meet one morning a week at the high school. The group will offer beginning handbell technique and a variety of music to put those skills into practice. The ensemble will participate in a variety of performances throughout the school year.

Rental Policy

Students in grades 5-8 may rent band and orchestra instruments from the school for \$65 a year. These may be taken home. Parents are responsible for damage that occurs as a result of misuse. They are also responsible for the replacement of the instruments if they are lost or stolen. Priority in rental is given to the fifth grade students. Subsequent grades may participate, as instruments are available.

BASIC SPANISH (9 weeks)

This class is designed as a first look at a foreign language. Emphasis will be on learning basic Spanish vocabulary and conversation through a variety of activities. Highlights include piñata-making and a Spanish day.

CALLIGRAPHY I (9 weeks)

This course is for students who wish to improve their penmanship as well as learn italic alphabet letter forms. The class will undertake various projects employing "the art of beautiful writing." Students must purchase a Shaeffer 3 Nib Pen Set (approximately \$10).

CALLIGRAPHY II (9 Weeks)

This course is a continuation of Calligraphy I. It will further explore the art of beautiful writing using the italic, chancery, and backhand alphabets. Emphasis will be on flourishes, embellishment and layout. Projects will include making books, layout, color use using a dip pen set.

CERAMICS I (9 weeks)

The main emphasis in this class will be on making hand-built clay projects. A variety of building and glazing techniques will be discussed and demonstrated. Emphasis will be on self-expression, creativity and craftsmanship. Clay and glaze are provided.

CERAMICS II (9 weeks)

This class is a continuation of Ceramics I and allows for a more in-depth study of the craft. Projects will be based on previous experience with clay with emphasis on techniques in larger forms and a variety of glaze.

CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON MEDIA (9 weeks)

This class will look at various forms of media and critique them from a Christian perspective. Media to be considered will be print, music, television, advertising, and movies. Students will be taught proper Christian discernment when using media.

CHOIR (One year)

Mixed Chorus

The choir offers students an opportunity to use their vocal talents together to glorify God. The students will be able to improve their vocal skills collectively and individually. Choir students are exposed to a wide variety of musical styles. They are given the opportunity to learn more in the areas of music history, literature, and theory. The choir gives several performances throughout the year. Because choir is a one-year course, it limits the number of exploratory courses a student can take.

Women's Ensemble (3 Quarters – 1st, 2nd, & 4th)

The Women's Ensemble offers female students an opportunity to use their vocal talents together to glorify God. The students will be able to improve their vocal skills collectively and individually. The class emphasizes a wide variety of choral styles, music reading skills, and exposure to music history, literature, musical theater, and theory. The choir gives several performances throughout the year which choir members are expected to attend.

CREATIVE DRAMA (9 weeks)

This class will teach techniques in improvisation, pantomime, and interpretive reading, through the use of interactive games, poetry, reader's theater, skits, and monologues. Students are graded on participation, effort, and improvement, and written assignments.

DIGITAL MUSIC COMPOSITION: (Advanced Computers) (9 weeks)

Students with a strong interest in computers *and* music won't want to miss this class! This 9 week course will offer students a chance to learn the basics of composing digital music, with hands on experience in creating and mixing original songs and loops. Students will also learn more advanced features of video production, with focus in blending film and sound. Other music software will most likely be incorporated, including drum-loop design.

Pre-requisites:

- completion of VCMS Computer 7 course (i.e. 7th graders may take this class provided it is offered after the student completes his/her Computer 7 course)
- basic experience with iMovie
- some musical instrument or percussion experience, in or out of school

FIGURE DRAWING (9 weeks)

This course is for any student who has completed Art 7 and loves drawing figures of any kind. Materials used would include pencil, watercolor, ink, marker, colored pencil, & other miscellaneous media. Types of figures would include everything from cartoons and caricatures, to sports figures and self-portraits.

FLASH ANIMATION/GRAPHIC ARTS (9 weeks)

Flash Animation will introduce the students to the process of creating moving objects on the computer. They will learn to draw using the Flash program, to communicate effectively through computer art, design banners for web pages, and produce short movie clips with moving and interacting objects.

HEALTHY LIVING (9 Weeks)

Students will learn how to maintain good physical, mental, and spiritual health by studying how the body's major systems respond to good exercise and eating habits. They will discuss good and bad lifestyle choices and how they will affect overall health. Topics discussed may include alcohol, tobacco products, and sun tanning. Students will also learn basic Red Cross First Aid.

INTERIOR DESIGN (9 weeks)

Interior design will explore design elements used in room decoration. We will learn different styles and periods of decorating as well as color coordination. Each student will plan an entire room using color, furniture, floor plans, traffic patterns, etc.

JOURNALISM (9 weeks)

This Journalism is a class that encourages students to report current events while maintaining a sense of responsibility to the truth. By producing a school newspaper, students in this class will learn the process of interviewing, reporting and compiling articles. This class is also geared to encourage students to build their writing skills through creative writing exercises.

LEADERSHIP (9 weeks)

This class will explore what it means to be a Christian Leader. The emphasis will be placed on deciding to become a leader, pursuing a leadership position, learning to handle controversial topics and planning, organizing and carrying out school events. Finally, this class will be responsible for coordinating traditional and popular VCMS activities.

MUSIC APPRECIATION (9 weeks)

In this class we will be exploring God's gift of music. We will be studying a broad variety of musical styles, talented musicians and their instruments, the history of American Popular Music (from folk to rock & roll!), and discerning music from a Christian perspective.

NOVELS (9 weeks)

In this class we will read and discuss some of the books which have become classics for young people. We will also read some modern novels written especially for young people. We will examine and learn to identify the things that make a novel. The main purpose of the class is to read books and to enjoy them.

ORCHESTRA (One year)

Orchestra provides string players an opportunity to further develop their God given talents. The students work as a team to achieve excellence on string instruments. The orchestra gives several concerts throughout the year, performing the beautiful classics of hundreds of years ago, as well as the new hits of today. Because orchestra is a one-year course, it limits the number of exploratory courses a student can take. *(100 minutes of practice time is required each week)*

Rental Policy

Students in grades 5-8 may rent band and orchestra instruments from the school for \$65 a year. These may be taken home. Parents are responsible for damage that occurs as a result of misuse. They are also responsible for the replacement of the instruments if they are lost or stolen. Priority in rental is given to the fifth grade students. Subsequent grades may participate as instruments are available.

PERSONAL FINANCE (9 weeks)

Students will learn the importance of understanding their personal finances as a gift from God – knowing that our money is God's money. Students will learn about a variety of financial topics including investing, stocks, credit cards, real estate, insurance and checking accounts.

PHOTOGRAPHY (9 weeks)

Students will learn how to properly use and care for their cameras. They will learn the rules for properly composing their photos. They will learn appropriate darkroom technique so that they will be able to process their own negatives and print some of their pictures. Using digital cameras students will create a powerpoint presentation of slides, demonstrating rules of composition. **Students must have a camera to use in order to take this class.**

PRINTMAKING (9 weeks)

The Print Making Class will include different styles of printing such as: relief prints, blue printing, glass etching, block

printing, and silk screening on T-shirts.

ROCKETRY (9 weeks)

This course will involve the study of topics such as the history of rocketry and techniques used in building a model rocket. Students will build a rocket from a kit and then finish the quarter by building a rocket of their design. This class contains an additional cost, which ranges from \$15 - \$30.

SCRAPBOOKING (9 weeks)

Students will learn the fundamentals of scrapbooking. Creativity, imagination and language arts will be developed while documenting special memories. Students will be required to bring their own scrapbook. A class fee of \$10 will cover materials used in class.

SPORTS AND GAMES/OUTDOOR LIVING (9 weeks)

This course will study several non-traditional sports and games. Students will also learn some of the history of popular sports. Students will be given an opportunity to play various sports and games. A three-week unit on outdoor living will be taught.

SUCH A TIME AS THIS (also known as Women of Faith)

This class is offered twice a year and is for girls only. Lisa Ryan's book, "For Such A Time As This" is used to teach the story of Esther. This class is designed to help young women understand God's purpose for Esther's life as she was set apart to save her people. In addition, the girls will examine their own relationship with the Lord and be encouraged to be set apart as Christians and Modern Day Esthers.

YEARBOOK (18 weeks) - *for 8th grade students only*

This class will be devoted to learning how to put a yearbook together. A complete classroom curriculum will be used teaching the students such elements as layout, writing copy and photography. The students will be producing the middle school yearbook as a part of their class work. In order to be enrolled in the Yearbook class, students must fill out an application and be accepted into the class by the Yearbook teacher.

DISCIPLINE

One of the most important lessons education should teach is discipline. While it does not appear as a subject, it underlines the whole educational structure. It is the training that develops self-control, character, orderliness, and efficiency. It is the key to good conduct and proper consideration for other people.

With an understanding of the purposes of discipline in a school, you may form a correct attitude toward it, and not only do your part in making your school an effective place of learning, but develop the habit of self-restraint which will make you a better person.

•Demerits:

- Given for minor infractions
- A three part form will be filled out by the teacher: 1 is given to the student, 1 is mailed home, 1 is kept in the office.

•Faults:

- Given for major infractions.
 - The same three-part form is used for communication.
 - In the case of serious infractions, the principal can give multiple faults or move a student to any point on the fault scale.
 - Students will receive a **fault for three demerits**.
 - Faults will be served on Wednesday mornings from 7:15-8:00 a.m. Please be prompt!
- At **two faults** in a semester, a student becomes **ineligible** for extra-curricular activities for that semester. Extra-curricular activities include, but are not limited to athletics, plays, Fine Arts Festivals, Broadway Showcase, and the Disneyland trip. A letter from the principal will inform parents.
 - At **three faults** in a semester, parents of the student will be asked to come to school for a conference.
 - At **four faults** in a semester, the student will serve a **one day on-campus suspension**. Parents will be notified. *Student reaching the fourth fault will be placed on behavioral probation for the following semester. Parents will be notified of the conditions of the probation.*
 - At **five faults** in a semester, the student will serve a **two day off-campus suspension**. Parents will be notified.
 - At **six faults** in a semester, the student will be recommended for **expulsion**.
 - At the semester, "discipline clocks" are turned back to "0".

DRESS CODE

Our standard for dress at the Valley Christian Schools is designated to reflect on the Christian nature of our school and to serve as an acceptable guide for our parents and students. We are image bearers of our Lord and should, in every way, reflect Him - in our behavior, in our manner of speaking, in our attitude towards learning, and in our dress. The purpose of this school is "to instruct the students in cooperation with the home as creatures of God, in such a manner that they shall attain unto their distinction in society to the honor of God, their own well-being, and the benefit of others." A modest appearance is expected at all times. Modest is defined as not calling attention to one's self and appearance that indicates a wholesome respect for one's self

The Board of Directors has elected to have students wear school uniforms from the company Truegrits. You may purchase these school uniforms at their store location in Anaheim, California. 1515 S. Sunkist St. #A (714)-634-0411 or from their on-line store at www.truegrits.com. PE Uniforms must also be purchased from Truegrits.

Uniform Guidelines

1. All students will dress in the contracted school uniform from True Grits for Valley Christian Middle School when in attendance during the regular school day, 8:15 AM through 2:45 PM.
2. Girls will wear the contracted uniform for girls and boys the contracted uniform for boys. (No Dickies or Dockers, etc. will be allowed).

3. Alterations to the uniform are unacceptable, ie: shortening skirts, rolling, altering or adding to the uniform.
4. Undershirts may be worn UNDERNEATH the contracted uniform.
5. Belts will be worn with pants or shorts with belt loops.
6. Clothing must fit appropriately. Students wearing clothes that are either too tight, too small or too big will be asked to call home and have appropriate clothing brought for them.

Jackets/Outerwear (*Must have a zipper or buttons to be considered a jacket/outerwear*)

- Students may wear a jacket of their choosing.
- Reminder: shirts are not jackets.
- No blankets will be allowed.
- No scarves or gloves.

Sweatshirts (*Pull over*)

- Acceptable sweatshirts will include purchases from True Grits.
- Valley Christian sweatshirts from athletic teams, the Parents' Association, or Boosters Club are acceptable.

Hats, Headwear and Sunglasses

- No bandannas for boys or girls.
- Hats are not to be worn on campus at any time during school hours.
- Sunglasses are not to be worn in the buildings or during class time.

Footwear

- All students must wear shoes.
- Students may wear any style that they prefer with the exception of bedroom slippers.

Teachers will inform students of footwear requirements that are to be followed in specific classes (i.e. Science classes, Physical Education).

Earrings, Body Piercing, and Tattoos (applies in school and at after school activities)

- Boys – No earrings or body piercing
- Girls – Earrings in ears only, no body piercing
- No visible tattoos for boys or girls

Fieldtrips

- All students will stay in uniform during any and all field trips and school sponsored activities, unless the school announces otherwise.

Hair (applies in school and at after school activities)

- Boys:
 - Boys' hair should be clean and well groomed and no longer than collar length.
 - No hair hanging over the collar, in the eyes, spiked, razor shaved portions, ponytails, unnatural hair color, or extreme styles
 - No beards, mustaches, goatees, or excessively long side burns
- Girls:
 - Girls' hair is to be clean, well-groomed and simply styled.
 - No extreme hairstyles, razor shaved portions or completely shaved or spiked hair, or extreme hair coloring

Outside of the School Day (After 3:00 p.m.)

Students are not required to wear the school uniform to athletic events, dances and other outside of the school day activities. However, a DRESS CODE applies to these activities.

Students who break the code may be asked to leave the event and/or may face consequences from the administration in the school days that follow the event. Potential consequences include demerits, faults, and loss of privilege to attend future outside of school activities.

The following are not allowed:

- Any clothing that advertises secular rock groups, alcohol, drugs, sex or offensive material.
- Revealing sleeveless, tank, halter, crop, spaghetti strap, low-cut, off the shoulder or revealing tops; sheer or see-through blouses.
- Short skirts (shorter than 4 inches above the knee) or short shorts (shorter than mid thigh) on girls.
- Shirts and blouses that allow skin to show at the waist.
- Skin tight clothing.
- Clothing with holes.
- All sheer or see-through skirts/dresses without a slip.
- Underwear showing on male or female students.
- Fishnet stockings.
- Camouflage.

School Uniform Violation Disciplinary Actions

(All disciplinary actions will be subject to the discretion of the administration.) Suggested disciplinary actions are as listed:

1st Offense – Warning is given to student. Student must fix violation immediately if possible. If violation is not readily fixed, student will be given a Dress Code Demerit and will be sent home immediately.

2nd Offense - Will result in an **Office Referral Demerit** and student will be sent home immediately.

3rd Offense - Will result in **Fault Service** and student will be sent home immediately.

4th Offense – Will result in **Fault Service** along with **parent conference** and student will be sent home immediately.

5th Offense - Will result in **Suspension**.

6th Offense - Will result in **Expulsion**

FAILING STUDENT & RETENTION PROCEDURE

(Students failing 2 or more core classes)

During 1st quarter:

Grade level teams meet with the principal, school counselor and/or school psychologist to develop educational interventions for students with F's in 2 or more core classes. Meeting is documented.

Parents meet with the appropriate grade level team to discuss implementation of interventions at school and at home. Psychoeducational evaluation is introduced as an option. A 2nd meeting is scheduled to assess student progress. The meeting is documented.

2nd quarter:

The grade level team meets with parents for a 2nd time to discuss student progress over the course of the semester. Interventions may be modified and new interventions implemented. The meeting is documented.

End of First Semester:

3rd quarter:

The grade level team reviews progress of students failing in 2 or more core classes. Parents meet with team a 3rd time also with principal, who introduces possibility of retention. Interventions are reviewed and revised. The meeting is documented.

4th quarter:

Parents meet with principal to make decision regarding retention.

RETENTION TIME-LINE SUMMARY (for all students failing 2 or more core classes)

Each step is documented.

1st quarter

Grade level teams meet to discuss necessary student interventions
Grade level teams meet with parents re: concerns.
Testing, if it has not yet taken place, is offered.
2nd parent meeting scheduled

2nd quarter

2nd team meeting with parents.

Beginning of 3rd quarter, if student received F's in 2 or more classes:

3rd team meeting with parents and principal.
Interventions reviewed and revised.
Possibility of retention introduced by principal

4th quarter

Parents meet with principal to make decision regarding retention.
Parents and principal sign retention agreement.

FIRE AND EARTHQUAKE DRILLS

These drills will be conducted on a regular basis. Procedures for evacuation are on display in each classroom. Students are expected to become familiar with these instructions.

FOOD & GUM CHEWING POLICY

- Eating food or having open beverages in the school building is not permitted as it leads to a maintenance problem. The only open beverage that is allowed in the building is bottled water.
- Gum chewing is also not permitted because it too is a maintenance problem.
- Violation of food and gum chewing policy will result in a demerit.

FUND RAISING

A magazine campaign is conducted for two weeks at the beginning of the school year. The school makes 40% on the dollar cost of each subscription, and these funds are used to purchase items outside of the regular budget. The athletic program has a fund-raiser each year.

GRADUATION HONORS

For the graduation ceremony at the end of the year, the eighth graders select one boy and one girl to serve as class speakers. They also select three seventh grade boys and three seventh grade girls to serve as graduation ushers, and one-seventh grade boy and one-seventh grade girl are selected as honor guards. In order to be eligible for any of these honors, a student must be on the Honor Roll (3.0 and above) each marking period during the current school year, and may not

have received more than two faults during either semester of the school year.

GRADING SCALE

To provide uniformity in grading, we have established the following school-wide grading scale:

A	95-100	C	73-76
A-	90-94	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

1. Students should come to class prepared. They should bring the necessary books and equipment.
2. Students are expected to be quiet while a teacher or fellow student is talking. They should listen to instructions and ask questions if instructions are not clear.
3. When work is completed in class, the student should have something constructive to do (read a book, work on other assignments).
4. It is the student's responsibility to get all work in on time.
5. Every student should be conscious of the fact that he/she, as well as our school bears the name "Christian," and all of his or her words and actions should be worthy of that name. Every student should remember, too, that while he or she is at school and on the way to and from school, they are being judged, not so much as an individual, but as a student of Valley Christian Middle School. His or her actions will determine to a great extent the effectiveness of the witness of our school in the community. Remember that we represent Christ in and out of class. Make every attempt to let all thoughts, words, and actions reflect Him.

HARASSMENT POLICY

Valley Christian Schools is committed to providing a learning environment that is free from harassment in any form. Harassment of any student by any other student or employee is prohibited. The school will treat allegations of harassment seriously and will review and investigate such allegations in a prompt, confidential and thorough manner.

A charge of harassment shall not, in and of itself, create the presumption of wrongdoing. However, substantiated acts of harassment will result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. Students found to have filed false or frivolous charges will also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

Harassment occurs when an individual is subjected to treatment or a school environment which is hostile or intimidating because of the individual's race, creed, color, national origin, physical disability or sex. Harassment can occur any time during school or during school related activities. It includes, but is not limited to, any or all of the following:

VERBAL HARASSMENT – Derogatory comments and jokes; threatening words spoken to another person;

PHYSICAL HARASSMENT – Unwanted physical touching, contact, assault, deliberate impeding or blocking movements or any intimidating interference with normal work or movement;

VISUAL HARASSMENT – Derogatory, demeaning or inflammatory posters, cartoons, written words, drawings, gestures; and

SEXUAL HARASSMENT – Includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when any or all of the following occurs:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's academic status or progress.
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by a student is used as the basis of academic decisions

- affecting the individual,
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment.

Specific examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

1. Making unsolicited sexual advances and propositions.
2. Using sexually degrading words to describe an individual or an individual's body;
3. Displaying sexually suggestive objects or pictures;
4. Telling inappropriate or sexually related jokes;
5. Making reprisals, threats or reprisals or implied threats of reprisals following negative response to sexual advances.

It is the responsibility of Bellflower Christian Schools to:

1. Implement this policy through regular meetings with all administrators, ensuring that they understand the policy and its importance.
2. Make all faculty, staff, students, and parents aware of this policy and the commitment of the school toward strict enforcement.
3. Remain watchful for conditions that create or may lead to hostile or offensive school environment.
4. Establish practices designed to create a school environment free from discrimination, intimidation, or harassment.

It is the student's responsibility to:

1. Conduct himself or herself in a manner which contributes to a positive school environment;
2. Avoid any activity that may be considered discriminatory, intimidating or harassing;
3. Consider immediately informing anyone harassing him or her that the behavior is offensive and unwelcome;
4. Report all incidents of discrimination or harassment to the principal;
5. If informed he or she is perceived as engaging in discriminatory, intimidating, harassing or unwelcome conduct, to discontinue that conduct immediately.

COMPLAINT FILING AND INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

The following procedures must be followed for filing and investigating a harassment claim:

1. The student may first choose to tell the individual causing the harassment that his/her conduct is offensive and must stop. If the objectionable behavior does not cease immediately, the student must report the harassment to the principal, or to a teacher who will report it to the principal or superintendent. Additionally, in the case of sexual harassment allegations, the student is free to raise the issue with another, same sex administrator if he/she prefers to do so.
2. The student alleging harassment will be asked to complete a formal, written complaint. The claim will be investigated thoroughly, involving only the necessary parties. Confidentiality will be maintained as much as possible.
3. The investigation will include a meeting with the person alleged to have harassed, sharing with that person the nature of the allegations as well as the name of the person bringing the allegations. If appropriate, the alleged harasser will be placed on administrative leave during the course of the investigation.
4. Once the facts of the case have been gathered, the principal, in consultation with the superintendent will decide what, if any, disciplinary action is warranted. The disciplinary action will relate to the nature,

context, and seriousness of the harassment and can include all disciplinary actions up to and including immediate termination.

5. If the complaint is against a non-employee or non-student, such as a parent, volunteer or vendor, the school will take steps, within its power, to investigate and eliminate the problem.

HOME BULLETINS

The Valley Christian Schools sends out a weekly bulletin on Friday to keep you informed about school activities. These bulletins are sent home with the youngest member of the family. It is also available at www.vcschools.org.

HONOR ROLL

At the end of each nine-week marking period, an Honor Roll will be published. Students who have a grade point average of 3.0 to 3.59 will make this honor roll. Another roll has been established called the Merit Roll. It includes all students who have a grade point average between 3.6 and 4.0.

IMMUNIZATION

California added a 7th grade immunization requirement to the California School Immunization Law, effective July 1, 1999. Students entering 7th grade in public and private schools will need to have three hepatitis B shots and a second measles (or MMR) shot. A TB booster is recommended as well. The school will ask to see your child's Immunization record as proof of immunization.

Children who have not started their hepatitis B shots before the first day of 7th grade will be excluded from school. Make sure your child has completed the three-shot series before school starts.

Exemption provisions of the California School Immunization Law for medical reasons or personal beliefs apply to the 7th grade requirements. Contact the office for details about exemptions.

LIBRARY GUIDELINES

1. The library schedule is posted at the beginning of the school year and is open for students who wish to do research, check out books or simply read.
2. While using the library, students are expected to work quietly. There will be no talking or visiting permitted in the library.
3. Students must have all books and necessary supplies with them when they come to the library.
4. Those who need to check out or return books or pay fines may come to the library for that purpose. However, they should return to their classroom when they have completed their business.
5. All library books must be checked out with the librarian. Books are checked out for two weeks and may be renewed if necessary.
6. Reference books and magazines are to be used only in the library.
7. Books may be returned by placing them in the book drop provided by the library.
8. A fine of five cents per day will be charged for overdue books.
9. The fines on any books that are restricted to overnight check out will be ten cents for each school day.

LOCKERS

Lockers and combinations are issued to students at the beginning of the year. Your locker should be kept locked at all times. Students are cautioned against telling their combinations to each other or they cannot expect their property to be safe. Each student is responsible for keeping his or her assigned locker clean both inside and outside. Damages caused by misuse of tape, stickers, etc., will be charged to the student responsible. Any locker malfunction should be reported to the office. Students are cautioned not to keep money or other valuables in their lockers. "Rigging" lockers for easy opening is not permitted.

LUNCH

Students will eat their lunches at the lunch tables. Milk may be purchased and paid for on a yearly basis. Hot lunch is

served each day. Orders will be placed on a monthly basis. The canteen will always be open at break and after lunch for your snacking pleasure.

MAKE-UP WORK

It is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher for any make-up work. If you are absent for two days or less you should make arrangements for assignments, books, etc., through other students. If you will be absent for three or more days you may contact the office for your work. Please check our web-page at www.vcschools.org for each teacher's page.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Students who violate the property of any staff member will be suspended from school. They will receive zeroes in each class for the duration of the suspension and will not be allowed to make up the work missed for credit. This policy includes "toilet papering."

PHONE USE

Middle school students have a variety of reasons to call home, some of which are necessary and some of which are due to irresponsible behavior. A telephone is available for all students to use without having any questions asked of them. Should students ask to use the office phone, they will be allowed to call home only for unavoidable and legitimate reasons. Cell phones are not allowed at anytime during school hours of 8:15 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. Cell phones are only to be used outside the school building after or before school hours. If a student is caught using their cell phone to call, text message, or take pictures, the cell phone will be taken away from them and discipline will be issued. In some cases, parents may be asked to pick up their student's cell phone. 1st offense – warning; 2nd offense – demerit; 3rd offense – demerit & parent pick-up from school.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Individual pictures will be taken in October. Price information will be sent home with the students soon after school begins in the fall.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Students are expected to provide the following supplies for school:

- Bible (preferably New International Version)
- At least one three ring binder. The binder(s) should include a folder for each class and plenty of loose leaf, lined, white paper.
- Be equipped with their school-supplied planner during each class.
- Math Supplies: Ti 30xa solar calculator, protractor, ruler, pencil pouch.
- Pens (blue and black ink), colored pencils and highlighters.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Athletics-Valley Christian Middle School is part of the Christian School League. Athletic teams are open to seventh and eighth grade students. **There will be tryouts for every sport and students will be placed on teams. Not every student that tryout will make the team. Placement of student on a team will be based on skill as well as attitude.**

If a 7th grader is equal in skill and attitude to an 8th grader, placement will be in favor of the 8th grade student.

The middle school will offer an intramural program throughout the school day for all interested students wishing to participate. The following sports shape our seasons:

Boy's Flag Football	Fall
Girl's Volleyball	Fall
Cross-Country	Fall
Basketball	Winter
Soccer	Spring
Girl's Softball	Spring

Boy's Baseball
Boy's volleyball
Track

Spring
Spring
Spring

The athletic program at Valley Christian Middle School is an extension of the academic and physical education programs. Its main purpose is to help develop the physical, emotional, spiritual and scholastic dimensions within each student, as well as, to allow those who are more gifted in athletics to excel. Participating on an athletic team is a **PRIVILEGE** for those students who are interested and have the ability and right attitude. **Membership** must be earned by the student through the maintenance of acceptable scholastic grades as well as irreproachable conduct in class and on the playing field.

Athletics is much more than just competition. In athletics you will be exposed to fair play, sportsmanship, and seeing the benefits of teamwork. You will learn that quitting means failure and you will also learn that it is hard, continuous work that brings out the real rewards of competition. You will also learn that acceptance of responsibilities and making personal sacrifices will bring satisfaction.

Valley Christian Middle School has adopted a philosophy that each student has an equal opportunity to become an athletic team member. Each member of the team will receive playing time, however not all playing time will be equal. Participating in interscholastic athletics is positive experience that encourages each participant to simply do his or her best.

Athletes are placed on teams according to ability level. Varsity and Junior Varsity teams are available for most sports (excluding soccer, softball, baseball, track and cross-country). Intramural teams are available for all students during the school day.

Our school exists to **HONOR GOD**, and our schools involvement in athletics seeks to promote his kingdom. As a member of a VCMS team, you must realize this priority and strive to make it happen. In order to honor God, a player must live in such a way as to bring glory to his name. Part of this shows when winning comes free from boasting and losing comes free from excuses. Each athlete must continue to remember that they represent their team, their school, their family, and their God.

Conduct of an Athlete

A. On the Field/Court

1. All athletes are expected to observe the regulations and procedures which are specified by the coach.
2. Be a modest winner and a gracious loser.
3. Profanity is out of place and will not be tolerated.
4. Respect the officials. They are doing the best they can and we must respect their authority. The coach and team captains are the only ones who should talk to them, and it should be done in a manner that is respectful.
5. Our team bench should always be under control and supportive of those team members playing at the time.
6. Any behavior contrary to the desires of the coach reflects negatively on the player, teammates, the school, and most importantly the Lord. Violations as such will not be tolerated and could result in expulsion from the team.

B. In the Classroom:

1. Academically, the criteria of a GPA of 2.0 or above and no F's in any class must be maintained. Behaviorally, once a student reaches the 2 Fault level of our discipline policy, they are deemed ineligible.
2. Be prompt to class and maintain a good attendance record. Cutting classes are causes for suspension or expulsion from the team.
3. An athlete must attend 4 class periods in order to participate in practice or a game that same day.
4. It is up to each student athlete to make up required work in each class you might miss because of game trips. Get the necessary information before you miss the class.

C. On and Off Campus:

Any connection with cigarettes, alcohol or drugs means an automatic expulsion from the team.

- D. On Game Trips:
1. Any time you leave campus you represent the school and team as well as the Lord.
 2. Dress in a clean freshly washed uniform.
 3. Conduct yourself with dignity to all you come in contact with, and always show respect for property.
 4. Remember to show good sportsmanship at all times.
 5. It is strongly encouraged as a member of a team that you stay for all games to show support for your fellow teammates.

Rules and Regulations

- A. Legal Requirements:
1. To be eligible to play, each student must be covered by the required amount of insurance mandatory by state law.
 2. Each participant must have on file a parental consent form and one blue emergency data card.
 3. If a student athlete wishes to leave an away game with their father and/or mother **only**, they must submit a completed and signed transportation form to the coach prior to their departure from school.
- B. Academic & Behavioral Eligibility Requirements:
1. Academic
 - a. A student who receives below a 2.0 GPA or has any F's on a Progress Report or a Report Card will be placed on probation.
 - b. Any student who is placed on probation will have their next report (progress report or report card) reviewed for satisfactory grades. Students on probation are allowed to continue participation with the team.
 - c. If a student's grades improve to a 2.0 or above and/or no F's at the end of the probation period, he or she will retain their eligibility. If, however, the student's GPA is again below a 2.0 or the student has one or more F's, the student will be put on suspension from the team until his or her grades are reported eligible again on the next report (progress report or report card). Students on suspension may not practice, participate, perform, or compete with the team.
 - d. Any student who is placed on suspension at the end of an unsatisfactory probation period WILL NOT receive another probation period for the remainder of the school year. If he or she receives another report that is unsatisfactory, he or she will be placed immediately on suspension and may not return to the team until his or her GPA has returned to at least a 2.0 and/or has no F's.
 - e. Any student who is placed on probation but retains their eligibility by receiving a 2.0 and/or no F's on the next progress report or report card will continue to be allowed a probation period prior to a suspension.
 2. Behavioral
 - a. A student is declared behaviorally ineligible when they have accumulated two faults on the school discipline plan. Behavioral eligibility is lifted at the end of the semester.
 - b. Any player that tries out for a team and then quits once the teams have been chosen will be penalized by not being able to tryout for the following season. i.e. tries out for football (fall sport), quits, then cannot tryout for basketball (winter sport).
- C. Uniform & Equipment Requirements:
Each team member will be issued a uniform and will be held responsible for it. The uniform must be turned in when requested or it is to be paid for. Failure to comply will result in loss of athletic awards and ineligibility of further school sports. Team uniforms will be worn only for VCMS games or meets and must be turned in clean.
- D. Practice Sessions:
1. Each player must be properly dressed in practice attire (shorts, T-shirts, sweats, etc.) and at the designated practice area at the designated time.
 2. Practices will be held three times a week on weeks when a contest is scheduled and four times a week when no contest is scheduled.

3. If an athlete misses a game or a practice due to a conflict with another school sponsored activity and has given his coach advanced notice, there will be no penalty. IF no notice is given, it is at the coach's discretion.
4. If a student misses a game or a practice due to an activity that is not school sponsored (i.e., trips, vacations, appointments, etc.) the penalty will be as follows:
 - a. Missed Practice: the athlete will miss on half of the next game.
 - b. Missed Game: the athlete will miss the next game.
5. If an athlete needs to leave practice early or arrive to practice late, it must be cleared ahead of time with the coach.
6. All players must come to practice with an attitude of hard work and improvement. To do less would hurt the progress of the individual player as well as the team.

Awards

- A. Eligibility for Awards:
 1. The player must have remained on the squad all season.
 2. The player must have maintained a satisfactory grade in all academic work as well as behavior.
- B. Types of Awards Available:
 1. All team members will receive a special certificate to show their participation on the team.
 2. If the team should win the Championship of the league, each member will receive a trophy, which states that fact.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Awards Program: In order to recognize our students for their accomplishments and development over the course of the entire school year, we have established a comprehensive awards program.

The STRIDE (Showing Transformation Relevant in Daily Experiences) Program has been developed to recognize students who excel in academics, leadership, character development, and have a desire to serve.

To Be Eligible:

- The program is open to students in the 7th and 8th grade.
- Cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.5. There can be no grade below a C- on the most recent report card in *any* class.
- Completion of three character recommendations.
- Completion of a Questionnaire
- If one or more faults have been accumulated in the discipline system, the student's application may be denied.

Membership Requirements

- Attendance at STRIDE Meetings
- Involvement in STRIDE activities and completion of service projects
- Attendance at our STRIDE ceremony

Dismissal Criteria:

- Grade Point Average drops below 2.5 at the end of any quarter. Members must not have any grades below a C- on the most recent report card in *any* class.
- If one or more faults have been accumulated in the discipline system, the student's eligibility may be revoked.
- Behavior in STRIDE meetings or STRIDE activities has not been consistent with what was required or expected.

Seventh, and eighth graders are eligible for the Presidential Physical Fitness Awards.

Graduating 8th graders are eligible for Presidential Academic Fitness Awards.

Student Fees: Every student will be charged a student fee to cover all fees for the entire school year. The fee covers such things as student planner, science labs, elective fees, assemblies, activities, yearbook, and for 8th graders, graduation robe rental. In addition to the student fee, students may also be requested to purchase PE uniform (also from Truegrits), and locks if needed.

Field Trips: At the middle school, it is important that students be given the opportunity to explore learning environments outside of school as well as within the formal classroom. Consequently, we have developed a regular program of field trips that give students a wide variety of learning opportunities. In addition to the irregularly scheduled special events that occur each year, the following field trips have become traditional:

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| 7th Grade - | IMAX Theater
Los Angeles County Art Museum
Beach Clean-Up (Ecology Unit) |
| 8th Grade - | Museum of Science & Industry
Malibu Creek Canyon State Park |

The newspapers and aluminum cans that are recycled by our families fund these field trips, in part. A large bin is provided at the middle school for your papers, and the cans are deposited in barrels that are next to the paper bin. We appreciate the great support that we get from so many of our school families.

Fine Arts: The Fine Arts are a very important part of the curriculum at Valley Christian Middle School. In addition to the choir, band and orchestra, students are encouraged to further develop their gifts through band lessons and small vocal ensembles. Concerts are held periodically throughout the year with two concerts spotlighting the Middle School.

During the spring, students can participate in the Fine Arts Festivals. Music, drama, speech and art are the emphasis of these festivals. In conjunction with the Fine Arts Festivals, the Middle School holds a special Fine Arts week in which the students are exposed to a variety of the arts through assemblies, concerts and other special activities. Whatever the art, whatever the student's level, there is a place for everyone in the Middle School Fine Arts Program.

Student Insurance: Student insurance is available to all students. A packet will be available for each student on the first day of classes. Purchase of this program is optional.

Theater: Each year the 8th grade class puts on a melodrama. Rehearsals for the melodrama begin in the spring and the performances are given at the end of May. All students in 8th grade may audition and all class members are encouraged to be a part of this production.

Theme: Each year, the administration selects a Biblical theme on which to center the total school program. The teachers present the theme to the students on the first day of school, and many of the activities and events of the school year are then structured around the theme. Chapels particularly are directed at getting students to thoughtfully consider the implications of the theme on their own personal walk with Jesus. This focus on one specific aspect of the Christian life provides direction for the school year.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The use and/or possession of tobacco, tobacco products, alcohol, or drugs is prohibited and any student who violates this rule is subject to the provisions of the Discipline and Conduct Code. The rules apply on the way to and from school, during lunch, at school activities, and during the school day. For the first offense, students may be suspended for one week and are eligible for expulsion depending on the situation.

VISITORS

Visiting parents, guardians, and patrons are always welcome to the campus. However, you may not bring friends,

relatives, or younger brothers or sisters to attend classes with you. **All visitors to the campus must check in with the office.** We cannot assume supervision of students not enrolled here.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS – MINIMUM STANDARDS

A student should hand in work which he or she believes is their best, work they can take pride in, and work that is written in such a way that a teacher can give a grade which reflects the quality of the content rather than the weakness of the form.

- I. Identification Entry
In the upper right hand corner of the paper should appear the student's first and last name and some key to identify that particular assignment.
- II. Neatness
 - A. Assignments should be neatly written.
 - B. There should be a consistent margin around the entire paper. This not only improves the appearance of the paper, but it also gives the teacher ample space in which to comment on the work.
 - C. Erasures and insertions should be kept to a minimum. Anything about the form of the written assignment, which detracts from the content, definitely is not to the student's advantage.
 - D. Standard size (8 1/2 x 11) composition paper is acceptable for written assignments: these can be easily kept in a loose-leaf notebook or a folder. Spiral notebooks are fine for note taking, but pages torn out and submitted for assignments are unacceptable.
- III. In any writing assignment other than an in-class test situation, there is no excuse for spelling errors. A dictionary should be consulted if there is any doubt whatsoever as to the correct spelling of a word. Minimum standards are left to the teacher.
- IV. Students should also be conscious of the following minimum standards of formal writing: acceptable grammar, correct punctuation.

CITING SOURCES

1. **Make it the last page.** On the last page of your report center the title *Works Cited* one inch from the top. Double space before the first entry and continue to double -space between and within each entry.
2. **List all the sources you used.** Give credit for information that is copied directly from a source or that is written in your own words but contains ideas or key words taken from a source.
3. **Use alphabetical order.** List the works alphabetically by author's last names. Use the first letter of the titles to alphabetize works that have no authors. (disregard a, an, the)
4. **Follow standard style.** The following page contains some examples. Notice the punctuation. Also note that the second line is indented 5 spaces.

