

# Curriculum Guide

## Omaha Street School

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## **Student Context**

The Omaha Street School caters to students who have been unsuccessful in traditional academic settings. Typically, students are functioning academically below grade level standards as indicated by standardized testing, and they are lacking the self-discipline and spiritual resources necessary to become productive members of society. The Omaha Street School seeks to provide them with opportunities to grow by placing them in smaller class sizes, surrounding them with nurturing relationships, and adopting a curriculum that specializes in mental, spiritual, and social development.

## **Philosophy of Education**

We believe the primary goal of the Omaha Street School is to present Jesus Christ as the Savior of all those who believe and the ultimate eternal solution to all earthly problems. (2 Peter 1:3)

We believe that Christian education takes place in both formal and non- formal settings.

We believe that all people have the potential to learn because they are created in the image of God. (Genesis 1:26)

We believe that Christian education involves the total student in terms of mental, physical, spiritual, and social development. (Luke 2:52)

We believe that Christian education is modeled through nurturing relationships between teachers and students. (Philippians 3:17)

We believe that the Bible is the inspired, infallible, and authoritative word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16)

We believe that all curriculum material should be presented from a Biblical worldview.

We believe that God's truth can be witnessed in all areas of academic study.

## Course Offerings

### English

General Literature  
Expanded Reading / Language Arts  
English 1 & 2  
English 3 & 4  
English 5 & 6  
English 7 & 8

### Social Studies

World Geography  
World History  
American History  
American Government

### Natural Sciences

General Science  
Physical Science  
Biology  
Chemistry

### Bible Courses

Bible I  
Bible II  
Advanced Bible

### Mathematics

Accelerated Math  
Math Foundations I  
Math Foundations II  
Pre Algebra  
Algebra  
Geometry  
Advanced Mathematics

### Elective Courses

Fine Arts  
Vocational Awareness  
Human Growth and Development  
Social Awareness

### English

The study of grammar, spelling, vocabulary, composition, and literature allows students to communicate God's truth to all mankind. God chose to reveal His will and His ways to us in written form, the Bible. We must give students the necessary tools and standards of language which will help them to speak, read, and write effectively.

### **General Literature**

A reading and comprehension class designed to encourage students to enjoy reading . A variety of books which present a Biblical worldview are offered; and expanded vocabulary, comprehension strategies, as well as reflective writing are stressed.

### **Learning Goals:**

1. Gain oral and written mastery of vocabulary words contained in reading materials
2. Become comfortable with reading aloud in a public setting .
3. Experience the enjoyment of reading.
4. Improve oral reading fluency and expression.
5. Practice a variety of oral and written comprehension / reflection strategies.
6. Apply listening skills for a variety of purposes.

### **Expanded Reading / Language Arts**

Extends proficiency with word analysis, vocabulary development, fluency and comprehension for reading, speaking and writing of the English language.

### **Learning Goals:**

1. Read unfamiliar words
  - Letter sound relationships
  - Context clues
  - High frequency words
  - Structural analysis
  
2. Read a variety of assigned materials fluently.
  
3. Use a variety of strategies to develop vocabulary.
  - Multi - meaning words
  - Prefixes / suffixes
  - Synonyms / antonyms
  
4. Summarize and reflect on fiction and non-fiction selections both orally and in writing .
  
5. Self - select and independently read fiction, non fiction and poetry.
  
6. Apply basic rules of grammar, usage and punctuation to given assignments.

### **English 1 & 2**

Applies the rules of grammar, usage, punctuation, sentence writing, paragraphing and spelling / vocabulary to various forms of reading and writing and speaking.

## **Learning Goals:**

1. Read and comprehend a variety of written selections to demonstrate understanding: poetry, short stories, newspaper articles, and selections from novels. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic elements of fiction and non-fiction; such as conflict, plot, theme, characters, and main idea.  
**[NE standards R/W 12.1.1, 12.1.3, 12.1.4, 12.1.5, 12.1.6, and 12.1.8]**
2. Use note taking, outlining and summarizing to record and present information from both oral and written material.  
**[NE standard R/W 12.2.5]**
3. Students will learn the elements of basic sentence structure. Write sentences in patterns to form paragraphs and three or more paragraphs to form narratives. Students will be introduced to the pre-writing process.  
**[NE standard R/W 12.2.1]**
4. Students will learn to apply conventional rules of grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation to their writing. Students will expand their vocabulary and demonstrate the ability to use new words in sentences of their own construction.  
**[NE standard R/W 12.2.1]**
5. Use speaking skills for discussion and presentation showing consideration for audience, purpose, and information needed. Students will demonstrate the ability to read aloud to classmates.  
**[NE standards R/W 12.3.1, 12.3.2]**
6. Apply listening skills for a variety of purposes demonstrating comprehension of material presented orally.  
**[NE standard R/W 12.3.1]**

## **English 3 & 4**

Focuses on the writing process to communicate and produce varied types of narratives, descriptive and creative writing which demonstrate

consideration for the six traits of good writing.

### **Learning Goals:**

1. Read and comprehend a variety of selections which demonstrate good writing: poetry, short stories, newspaper articles, and selections from novels. Students will be able to identify conflict, resolution, themes, and perspective, as well as analyzing character profiles.  
**[NE standards R/W 12.1.1, 12.1.2, 12.1.3, 12.1.4, 12.1.5, 12.1.6, 12.1.8]**
  
2. Students will demonstrate proficiency in the writing process (pre-write, write, revise / edit, publish) to communicate ideas, giving consideration to the “six traits” of good writing. Students will demonstrate the ability to write persuasive, expository, and narrative essays including four or more paragraphs. Students will successfully apply pre-writing organizational techniques. Creative writing will become a comfortable medium for expressing their thoughts relative to personal environments and life experience.  
**[NE standards R/W 12.2.1, 12.2.2, 12.2.3, 12.2.4]**
  
3. Apply the rules of English grammar, usage and spelling / vocabulary as they approach a variety of writing tasks, such as: poems, stories, and reports. Students will demonstrate a continually expanding vocabulary.  
**[NE standard R/W 12.2.1]**
  
4. Use speaking and listening skills for discussion and presentation purposes. Demonstrate proficiency in reading aloud and note taking for the development of questions, summarizing, and outlining.  
**[NE standards R/W 12.2.5, 12.3.1]**

### **English 5 & 6**

Poetry, fiction and non-fiction literary works by American writers are used to analyze and explore differing perspectives, styles, points of view,

attitudes, and cultures.

### **Learning Goals:**

1. Read and comprehend a variety of selections to demonstrate understanding, including advertising to identify voice, perspective, and target audience. Students will learn to hear a writer's voice and give an objective oral or written presentation of a point of view.  
**[NE standards R/W 12.1.1, 12.1.2, 12.1.3, 12.1.4, 12.1.5, 12.1.6, 12.1.8]**
  
2. Students will continue to develop skills in: character analysis, identifying conflict/resolution, and themes.  
**[NE standards R/W 12.1.1, 12.1.4, 12.1.5, ]**
  
3. Practice oral and written summarizing (including note-taking), paraphrasing, and analyzing a variety of works for the processes of cause - effect and problem - solution.  
**[NE standards R/W 12.1.8, 12.2.1, 12.2.2, 12.3.2]**
  
4. Express own ideas about human issues both orally and in writing. Creative sentence and paragraph construction for a variety of writing tasks, such as: poetry, stories, and reports, giving consideration to the "six traits" and vocabulary development. Demonstrate the ability to write well for formal and business purposes.  
**[NE standards R/W 12.1.1, 12.2.2, 12.2.3, 12.2.4]**
  
5. Use speaking skills for discussion and presentation that demonstrate appropriate consideration of audience, purpose, and Information. Students will demonstrate the ability to make oral Presentations of original material.

**[NE standards R/W 12.3.1, 12.3.2]**

6. Apply listening skills for a variety of purposes, including the development of self-generated questions, and discussions.

**[NE standards R/W 12.2.5, 12.3.1]**

## **English 7 & 8**

The works of classical British writers and poets are used to promote literary comprehension and appreciation.

### **Learning Goals:**

1. Read and comprehend a variety of selections to demonstrate understanding. Students will continue to develop skills in: character analysis, identifying conflict/resolution, and themes.  
**[NE standards R/W 12.1.1, 12.1.2, 12.1.3, 12.1.4, 12.1.5]**
2. Practice critical and creative thinking skills through evaluation, analysis, and making inferences.  
**[NE standard R/W 12.1.8]**
3. Demonstrate comprehension through oral and written reaction, reflection and processing as well as exploring ideas through research.  
**[NE standard R/W 12.1.2]**
4. Develop advanced types of personal writing through journaling and essays. Demonstrate competency writing a research paper and business correspondence.  
**[NE standards R/W 12.1.2, 12.2.1, 12.2.2, 12.2.3, 12.2.4]**
5. Use speaking skills for discussion and presentation that demonstrate appropriate consideration of audience, propose and Information. Students will be able to make formal speeches.  
**[NE standards R/W 12.3.1, 12.3.2]**

6. Apply listening skills for a variety of purposes.  
[NE standards R/W 12.3.1]

## Social Studies

The study of history, government, and geography allows students to develop perspective on what man has done with the time and resources God has given. This world view will create in them a love for God's people around the world, pride in their won country, and a desire to become citizens who practice Christian values.

### **Geography**

Recognize the pluralistic nature of our geographical world, and demonstrate an understanding of the interrelationship of cultures and environments.

#### **Learning Goals:**

1. Begins with the fundamentals of identifying the location of nations, people, landmarks and natural events.
2. Demonstrate an understanding that the physical and human characteristics of a place provide the keys to identifying both basic and complex interrelationships between people and their environment.
3. Recognize that the most visible evidences of geographic interdependence and interaction of places are the transportation and communication lines that link every part of the world.
4. Analyze several ways in which people inhabit, modify and adapt to culturally to different physical environments.
5. Recognize that the region is a human construct and that it is the basic unit of geographic study.

### **World History**

A comprehensive survey of history, including the people and events that changed the world, from the beginning of time to the present.

## **Learning Goals:**

1. Analyze the causes and the processes in the emergence of civilization.
2. Describe the economic, social and political developments that led to the Renaissance and the Reformation, including the Middle Ages, feudalism and the role of the church in western thought.
3. Describe the creation, growth and results of nation-states in Europe.
4. Explain the eighteenth and nineteenth century political revolutions and the growth of nationalism.
5. Describe and explain the cultures and civilizations of the world, and analyze how imperialism has interacted with the interrelationships of those nations/regions.

## **American History**

Surveys American History from its inception to the present while emphasizing the underlying causes and issues behind events that shaped the nation.

## **Learning Goals:**

1. Identify the reasons for the first settlers arriving to America, the early discoveries that helped form their allegiance to the region, and analyze the interrelationships between the different groups living in this land.
2. Understand the process of developing a nation, the formation of new political systems, and the barriers to the freedoms established by the founding fathers.
3. Examine the growth of a nation, the interdependence between regions (north and south), and the events that led to the Civil War, and the Reconstruction Era.
4. Understand the impact of industrial growth on American society, and the resulting influence of the United States on international policy and foreign affairs.
5. Examine twentieth-century America, including the world wars, economic depression and development, and the importance of the principle of

human rights and freedom for all people.

## **American Government**

Develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed for responsible participation in a democracy, and demonstrate critical thinking in the context of a political system that is multicultural and ethnically diverse.

### **Learning Goals:**

1. Analyze the organization and purpose of national, state and local governments.
2. Describe the roots of the American system of government.
3. Analyze the rights that serve as a foundation for American society, and understand how those have developed through the passage of time.
4. Examine the political process and develop interest in participation in that process.
5. Recognize the structure of the American government, and comprehend how each branch of the government operates and for what purpose each serves.

## **Science**

### **Physical Science**

The study of the major topics, concepts, processes and interrelationships of physical science.

**Learning Goals:**

1. Examine the properties and interactions of matter.
2. Analyze force and motion in relation to energy.
3. Examine the interactions of matter and energy.
4. Detail how energy systems of the earth are related.
5. Investigate the origin and evolution of the universe and solar system.

**Biology**

The study of the structure, function, processes, classification, evolution, interrelationships and environments of living organisms.

**Learning Goals:**

1. Assess the importance of cells to life, and be able to describe basic cell processes and characterize cell diversity.
2. Apply basic genetic principles, evaluate the importance of cell division and utilize genetic knowledge in determining inheritance.
3. Explain the scientific theory of evolution, outline evidence of that theory, and discuss alternative theories for the creation of cells.
4. Analyze ecological interrelationships and diversity in the biosphere.
5. Compare the diversity in the function of organisms to the environment in which they exist.

**Chemistry**

The study of the composition, structure, and properties of matter and changes in matter including the accompanying energy phenomena.

**Learning Goals:**

1. Describe the nature of matter, and recognize and describe the basic unit of the atom.
2. Recognize the significance of the Periodic Table in Chemistry.
3. Describe the nature of chemical bonding and its relationship to chemical formulas and equations.
4. Describe the nature of solutions, and identify the components of each.

The study of mathematics reveals the glory of God's logic, order, and beauty. Mathematical laws are practical for use in science and daily living. These laws are the creation of the Great Engineer and Architect of the universe, and they remain absolute.

## **Mathematics**

Mathematics is constructed on a building block theory. Each student begins at the start of general mathematics, even if it is just to review prior principles. The level of comprehension is derived from academic testing performed prior to enrollment, and a student's ability to actually perform the work in class. Once the principles are understood, students progress to higher levels of mathematics. This guide reflects those classes offered once it is determined that the foundation is in place for moving to a higher level:

### **Pre-Algebra**

Students must add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals, fractions and integers, including proper use of order of operations. Students must convert values among fractions, decimals and percents; graph inequalities; graph ordered pairs and linear equations; use mean, median, mode and range to interpret data; and solve linear equations and inequalities requiring multiple steps.

### **Algebra 1-2**

Students must add, subtract, multiply and divide using real numbers; add, subtract, multiply, divide and factor polynomials; solve linear equations; solve quadratic equations; express answers in simplified radical form; write linear equations; and simplify algebraic expressions involving both positive and negative exponents.

### **Geometry**

Students must use the concepts of congruence and similarity to name, label, describe and determine missing parts of various figures; apply properties related to parallelism and perpendicularity to two and three dimensional figures; solve problems involving polygons, solve problems involving right triangles, circles, including area, circumference and arc length; apply formulas for measurement of perimeter, area and volume of two-and three-dimensional figures; use a variety of methods of proof; and use coordinate geometry to solve distance, midpoint and system of equations/inequalities problems.

### **Algebra 3-4**

Builds on the previous algebra. Students must solve equations and inequalities involving integers, fractions, decimals, radicals, exponents, absolute values, logarithms and rational expressions; use appropriate technology, including calculators and computers, to construct and interpret graphs; solve linear systems using substitution and linear combination; solve polynomial equations using factoring, synthetic division; write equations for and sketch, translate, and transform the graphs of quadratic relations; and use counting methods to solve simple probability problems.

### **Bible**

The study of God's word provides the foundation for all of life and eternity. Students will be engaged in a course of study that emphasizes Biblical understanding and application using Bible based content with the goal of transformation to the image of Christ.

#### **Bible I**

Examines the structure, content, and theological significance of the Old Testament in terms of understanding and modern day application.

#### **Learning goals:**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic structure of the O.T.
2. Understand the content and theological significance of the O.T.
3. Establish the Bible as the sole authority for faith and practice
4. Recognize man's need for salvation from sin
5. Develop the discipline of daily devotions
6. Demonstrate the ability to apply Biblical truth to daily life

#### **Bible II**

Examines the structure, content, and theological significance of the New Testament in terms of understanding and modern day application.

#### **Learning goals:**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic structure of the N.T.

2. Understand the content and theological significance of the N.T.
3. Develop an appreciation for the person and work of Jesus Christ
4. Understand and articulate the message of the gospel
5. Develop the discipline of daily devotions
6. Demonstrate the ability to apply Biblical truth to daily life

### **Advanced Bible**

This course is targeted for those who desire to continue in their Biblical understanding and spiritual growth. Bible I and II are required for this course. It focuses on spiritual growth and the integration of faith into modern society.

#### **Learning goals:**

1. Review the Biblical structure content and theological significance of the Old and New Testaments
2. Systematically analyze the major doctrines of the Bible
3. Demonstrate an understanding and application of the principles of spiritual growth
4. Develop in the skill of person to person evangelism
5. Commit to developing and maintaining a Biblical worldview
6. Apply principles of servant leadership within a specific context

### **Electives**

These courses are offered in an exploratory format designed to allow students an opportunity to experience multiple career opportunities. Courses are usually offered around lunchtime or the end of the day.

#### **Fine Arts**

This track explores individual and group creativity through musical and artistic expression. Classes often include music technology, gospel choir, drama, and stage movement

**Vocational Awareness**

This set of courses focuses on transitioning students to life after high school. Topics include job shadowing, career interest and awareness, and job skills. This track also offers several opportunities for field trips and in-house speakers.

**Human Growth and Development**

This track deals with the area of physical and spiritual development. Courses include physical education, health and nutrition, and spiritual development.

**Social Awareness**

Social awareness focuses on preparing students to interact in global society. Topics include citizenship, current events, and cultural studies.