

5TH GRADE

6TH GRADE

7TH GRADE

8TH GRADE



ENGLISH

The primary goal of the middle school English program is to teach and model the skills necessary for students to effectively articulate responses to literature, the world and themselves. Students are taught to read, think and write in a careful, critical and creative manner. A student-directed Writer's Workshop emphasizes prewriting, organizing, drafting, editing and revising. In language arts, students receive additional writing instruction. As they experiment with a variety of literary forms, students work on grammar, style, format and mechanics. There is additional grammar instruction through the *No Red Ink* program.

5TH GRADE

Reading, reading strategies and skills, vocabulary, spelling, higher order of thinking and questioning skills, expository and creative writing

Language Arts: Writer's Workshop and grammar instruction

Texts may include: Among the Hidden, Fever 1793, Tuck Everlasting, Al Capone Does My Shirts

6TH GRADE

Literary elements, fiction and nonfiction reading strategies and skills, vocabulary, storytelling, expository and creative writing

Language Arts: Writer's Workshop and grammar instruction

Texts may include: The Outsiders, The Fun Jungle Series, Trouble, Keepers of the Earth, Shelf Life

7TH GRADE

Literature, fiction and nonfiction reading strategies, expository and creative writing, grammar, short stories, myths, and poetry

Language Arts: Writer's Workshop and grammar instruction

Texts may include: Animal Farm, Diary of Anne Frank, House of the Scorpion, It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood, Shadow Hero

8TH GRADE

Literature, fiction and nonfiction reading strategies expository and creative writing, grammar, vocabulary, short stories and poetry

Language Arts: Writer's Workshop and grammar instruction

Texts may include: Romeo and Juliet, The Warmth of Other Suns, The House on Mango Street, March



HISTORY & SOCIAL STUDIES

The middle school social studies program uses the study of geography, modern world issues and American history to explore the development of the global and local world. As social scientists, students hone their critical thinking, research and writing skills through a variety of projects using MIT Scratch Coding, React Learning SIMS and the Project-Based Learning model. By focusing on the rights and responsibilities of global citizenship, Latin students will become better prepared to address the complex issues the U.S. and other countries face in a rapidly changing and increasingly interconnected world.

5TH GRADE

Units: Geography, Hunter-Gatherers, Guns, Germs & Steel, European Exploration, Colonial America, Revolutionary War, the Founding of America

Sample project: Students design an imaginary map during the geography unit. Also, speeches are written on current events that represent the Bill of Rights.

6TH GRADE

Units: America and Guns, Germs, and Steel, Early Republic, Slavery and Reform Movements, Industrial Revolution and Migration, American Culture Project

Sample project: Focusing on an aspect of American culture of their choosing, students utilize historical skills and design thinking to develop a project that requires an action component.

7TH GRADE

Units: Migration and Its Global Impact on Society, Immigrants and Cultural Integration, Soccer as a Microcosm for Globalization: World Cup 2030, The Scramble for Africa, The World in a Candy Bar: Chocolate's Evolution From New World Currency to Global Addiction, and The Day the World Fell Silent: Human Rights Violations from 1915-2003

Sample project: Using the Project Based Learning model (PBL), students create a coding project focused on the Syrian Refugee Crisis, and participate in a digital exchange with middle school students in Karachi, Pakistan which culminates in a joint problem-solving exercise. Students also learn about global interdependence by working in pairs to create the World in a Candy Bar Project and a bid to host the 2030 World Cup.

8TH GRADE

Units: 9/11, Constitution, Civil War, World War I, The 1920s and America between the wars, World War II, Cold War and Communism, Civil Rights, Gay Rights, Oral History, Current Events

Sample Project: Family History Project: students research, interview, and write about their own families over a period of months. They present the final product to classmates and family.



MATHEMATICS

The middle school mathematics curriculum expands on the areas of number theory, geometry and other pre-algebra concepts and skills. As students are introduced to higher levels of abstract thinking, they are taught to apply previously learned skills to solve more complex problems. Problem-solving skills and strategies are emphasized. At a minimum, all students will complete an Algebra 1 course. Students gain experience with technology including iPad applications, scientific and graphing calculators, geometry software, experience with coding and interactive whiteboards.

5TH GRADE

Number theory; estimation and calculation; geometry; fractions, decimals and percents; coordinates, area and circles; pre-algebra concepts and skills

6TH GRADE

Pre-Algebra: Operations with and uses of fractions, decimals and integers; scientific notation; metric conversions; order of operations; rates and ratios; percent; exponents and square roots; commutative and associative properties; dimensional analysis

Accelerated Pre-Algebra: Additional topics: probability, multiplication and division with scientific notation, geometry, logic statements, translating words into algebraic expressions and equations

7TH GRADE

Pre-Algebra/Algebra 1 (Part 1): Statistics and displays; ratio and proportion; introduction to geometry; probability; variables; rational numbers; solving equations and inequalities with one variable

Honors Algebra 1: The real number system; polynomials and exponents; functions and relations; linear, quadratic and exponential models

8TH GRADE

Algebra 1 (Part 2): The real number system; polynomials and exponents; functions and relations; linear, quadratic and exponential models

Honors Algebra 2: Functions; conic sections (parabolas, circles, and ellipses); properties of exponents and logarithms; rational functions; right triangle trigonometry



SCIENCE

An experiential, inquiry-based approach is at the heart of middle school science teaching and learning. Middle school students discover and learn about biological, physical, earth and space sciences. They also learn to observe, measure, experiment, think critically and communicate their scientific understandings through a variety of methods.

5TH GRADE

Chemistry: Properties of matter, atoms, the periodic table

Physics: Simple machines, electricity, engineering

Biology: Plant growth and development

6TH GRADE

Cells: Microscope skills, cell structure and function, cellular life cycles

Animal Life: Classification, behaviors, characteristics, adaptations

Ecology & Environmental Science: Biomes, human impact, environmental solutions

7TH GRADE

Biomolecules: protein, carbohydrates, lipids, fats

Heredity & Genetics: DNA, genes, meiosis, cloning

Human Biology: Organ systems, structures, functions, anatomy, biomimicry

Physical Science & Perception: Optics and the eye, sound and the ear

STEM: Robot Hand project

8TH GRADE

Meteorology: Weather elements, systems and data analysis; extreme weather patterns

Geology: Plate tectonics, Earth's interior, rocks and minerals

Astronomy: Moon, astronomical motions, planetary characteristics and geology, history and future of space travel

Environmental Stewardship: Effects of climate change and conservation of natural resources



LANGUAGES

The modern languages curriculum at Latin follow an oral proficiency program, which focuses primarily on speaking and listening. Using comprehensible texts and authentic resources, students develop their reading and writing skills as they become proficient speakers. The middle school Latin language curriculum prepares students to read authentic texts and introduces them to Roman civilization.

5TH GRADE

Latin: Read texts that include nouns in the nominative and accusative cases in the first three declensions and verbs in the present, imperfect and perfect tense

French: Basic greetings and salutations; talking about likes, dislikes, school, family, and food

Chinese: Basic greetings and salutations; talk about family, pets and the Chinese zodiac; write and type Chinese characters

Spanish: Talk about myself and others, life at school, time, neighborhood, house chores and free time

6TH GRADE

Latin: Read texts that include nouns in the dative and ablative cases, pronouns, relative clauses, adjectives and irregular verbs

French: Describe your typical day at school, at home and in the community

Chinese: Describe personalities, appearances, country of origin and languages spoken, school, sports and hobbies

Spanish: Talk about food and health, daily routines, past experiences and weekend plans

7TH GRADE

Latin: Read texts that include verbs in the pluperfect tense, nouns in the genitive case, 4th and 5th declension nouns and perfect participles

French: Discuss weekly routines, helping others, how we celebrate together around the world and travel

Chinese: Discuss time, daily routines, weekend plans; extend invitations or ask permission

Spanish: Important historic events and celebrations, shopping, routines, leisure time and technology, movies and TV

8TH GRADE

Latin: Read texts that include verbs in the subjunctive, deponent verbs and present participles

French: Discuss childhood experiences, feelings, health, art, literature, current events and future plans

Chinese: Buy and negotiate prices; discuss food preferences; study Chinese culture through readings, class activities and presentations

Spanish: Talk about childhood experiences, the environment and helping others, Spanish and Indigenous heritage in the Americas



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In middle school physical education, students participate in a wide variety of activities designed to develop skills, improve fitness, increase cognitive function and social development by encouraging leadership, cooperation and problem solving. The program's goal is to establish lifelong fitness through unique and relevant experiences.

5TH GRADE

Units: Striking, throwing and catching, organizational games, swimming, racquet sports, fitness, yoga, diamond games, basketball, soccer, fitness challenge, Human Growth and Development

6TH GRADE

Units: Football, field hockey, volleyball, team building, fitness, swimming, yoga, ultimate games, unique games, softball, fitness challenge

7TH GRADE

Units: Volleyball, floor hockey, Frisbee, golf, swimming, unique games, fitness, fitness challenge, racquet sports, yoga/Pilates, basketball, track and field

8TH GRADE

Units: Team building, fitness, football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, water polo, swimming, fitness challenge



PERFORMING ARTS

Music, Theater, Dance, Movement

The goal of the middle school performing arts program is to give students the time and opportunities to explore their artistic interests and talents. Students participate in Band or Chorus as well as Dance and Drama. They are introduced to the fundamentals and develop skills in each area. Throughout the year they perform in musical concerts, dance presentations or in middle school theater productions.

5TH-8TH GRADES

Fifth through seventh grade students choose Band or Chorus (year-long), and have one trimester each of Drama, Dance and Visual Arts. Eighth grade students choose Band, Chorus or Arts Cycle.

Band/Chorus: Posture, diaphragmatic breathing, and tone production; rehearsal and performance etiquette; solfège and ear training (Chorus); scales (Band); theory and composition; and developmentally appropriate repertoire

5TH-7TH GRADES

Drama: Students are introduced to story dramatization, pantomime, theatre vocabulary, character development, dramatic structure, vocal characterization, stage direction, playwriting and theatre history.

8TH GRADES

Students refine drama skills and work on units including: costume design, radio plays, performance and a study of Thornton Wilder's Our Town.

Movement/Dance: Students learn about the elements of movement; locomotor and axial movement; core; posture and alignment; dance technique, beginning choreography; folk dance, ballet and modern dance history.



VISUAL ARTS

Latin believes that students learn art best through creating it and that every child has the potential to be an artist. Our visual arts program focuses student attention on observation and communication through creative challenges that help our students develop visual-spatial skills and build habits of mind through artistic practices. As they explore a variety of traditional and new media students build visual literacy skills. By looking at the work of traditional and contemporary artists students gain insight into the meaning and purpose of visual art and how it serves as a window and or a mirror into a time period and or a culture. We also collaborate to integrate art with other disciplines.

5TH-6TH GRADE

Fifth and sixth grade students learn how to refine their drawing skills as well as concepts such as composition, visual balance, line, rhythm, scale and perspective.

7TH-8TH GRADE

Seventh and eighth grade students learn how to develop their visual problem-solving skills. The students also continue refining their use of design, mixed media, technology and drawing.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

The middle school computer science program aims to highlight the foundational concepts of computer science in a manner all students will find accessible and relatable. An interdisciplinary approach further illustrates the universal applicability of the discipline. Students will achieve an understanding of how digital information is encoded, how to approach problems algorithmically, and how programming can be used in both creative and problem solving capacities. Students will be exposed to a wide array of programming concepts and environments and will further explore these topics via "unplugged" activities and cross-curricular projects.



LIBRARY

The middle school library program is structured around two major components: the teaching of research and library skills and promoting the love of reading. While there are no separate library classes, librarians work closely with faculty in developing units that integrate library and research skills into the curriculum.



LEARNING RESOURCES

The goal of the middle school learning resources program is to create successful, independent learners who are capable of advocating for themselves and utilizing the resources available to them. Students receive support with study skills and strategies, classroom assignments, and executive functioning skills. Support is provided through small group study halls, accommodations within the classroom and/or consultative services.



COUNSELING

Safety and well being are the main priorities of the counseling program in the middle school. The counselor offers assistance and expertise to students who may be experiencing psychological stress, social difficulties and acute crisis, or are participating in high-risk behaviors. The middle school counselor offers an open and accepting environment in which each student is treated with care while promoting respect for diversity, equity and inclusion. The counselor also serves as a consultant and liaison to families, faculty, staff and administrators, while helping community members to understand the child/adolescent development process.

Any student or family member may request to be referred to the counselor, who will work collaboratively with students to develop the best plan to address that student's needs. Students are also always welcome to stop by the counseling office informally to discuss any issues concerning their own wellbeing or the wellbeing of others. The counselor provides programs around social/emotional wellness for students, and provides parent education opportunities around these themes throughout the year.