



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

2019-2020

Arts & Music Department

Music Culture

This course explores music in relation to several of the major American populations. This is not a history of American music but an examination of some key moments and elements in musical life in America. Central to the course are issues of identity and identification through music, histories of cultural contact and exchange. Students will also be introduced to basic musical concepts, terminology, performance basics, theory and listening skills that can be applied to any kind of music of interest. *Duration: One trimester*

Music: Intro to Music Technology

Students will acquire basic software skills in the use of music production tools, i.e. audio editor, loop-based editor, sequencer, and a notation program. Digital interface theory is studied so that the student understands how components interact. The course results in the production of practical arrangements that are both audible and professional looking in appearance. *Duration: One trimester*

Studio Art 6, 7, 8

Art is a course to delve deeper into the world of art. Students will be expected to complete art projects in a fast-paced environment and critique each other's work. One major component of the course will be the Independent Exploration Project. The focus shifts in each grade: 6th and 7th grade classes focus on elements of Art, and 8th grade focuses on Art through the Ages. *Duration: One Trimester*

STEM 6, 7, 8

This course introduces students to the connections between the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to their own lives and the real world application these fields have in our current 21st century. Students will explore STEM careers, experience project based learning, and practice inquiry in building, construction, and design. Students will learn about basic principles of engineering and design in a hands-on, team-oriented course. *Duration: One trimester*

Coding 7, 8

This course is a self-guided exploration through computer science by covering various topics offered through Fuze coding which is a text based programming language that is fun and accessible to middle years students. This course teaches computer programming skills with a menu of interactive and exciting projects selected by the students based on their interests. *Duration: One trimester*

Yoga and Mindfulness 7

This course introduces students to the mind body connection by introducing them to two pathways towards a healthy lifestyle by applying simple and useful yoga techniques as well as mindfulness. Students engage in the physical activity of various yoga poses and have designated times to practice mindfulness. Mindfulness is the practice of noticing when something happens and how one may react in order to give space for a thoughtful response versus impulsivity.

Duration: One trimester

African American Cultural Studies 8

This elective course takes students through a historical, social, political and economic journey of American history through the lens of African Americans. This course of study begins with the study of African American Culture is to help students deepen their understanding of the factors that cause the culture to emerge, grow and change. The course of study will lead to an appreciation for African Americans culture, varied histories and cultural contributions, by exploring contributions that African Americans have presented to the world. *Duration: One trimester*

Student Forum and Media 7,8

This elective course of study allows students to dive into the social, emotional aspects of what it means to be self-aware, well-groomed, and emotionally apt in an ever-changing world of social influences. Students discover the connection between home and school as well as the impact these areas have on the development of a young man's identity, esteem and social standing. By the end of the course, the young men present their confidence to the community through a showcase of fashion, style and media. *Duration: One trimester*

English Department

English 6

This course is designed to provide students with the fundamental skills to excel in reading fluency, comprehension, and fundamentals of writing. Students will learn a variety of reading strategies ranging from previewing, predicting, visualizing, making inferences, and making connections between the literature and the world around them. Students will develop comprehension through character analysis, thematic and comparing and contrasting texts from various genres. Students learn more about the craft and structure of writing by analyzing various how various components and ideas contribute to the work as a whole. Vocabulary acquisition, spelling, sentence diagramming, and reinforcement of grade-level mechanics are a component of language study in this course. Students read independently chosen novels to continue to develop their fluency, comprehension, and love of reading.

English 6 Honors

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English 7

This course is designed to provide students with the fundamental skills to excel in reading fluency, analysis, and fundamentals of writing. Students will learn about various elements of plot, narration, techniques of setting and character development and begin to analyze how those various elements interact in a text. Students will develop comprehension through character analysis, thematic and comparing and contrasting texts from various genres. Students learn more about the craft and structure of writing by analyzing various how various components and ideas contribute to the work as a whole. Students practice developing arguments supported by research as they learn argumentative writing. Vocabulary acquisition, particularly analysis of connotative or multiple meanings is developed as students begin to refine their writing. Spelling, sentence diagramming, and reinforcement of grade-level mechanics are a component of language study in this course. Students read independently chosen novels to continue to develop their fluency, comprehension, and love of reading.

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English 8

This course is designed to strengthen students' comprehension and analysis skills as they read longer and more complex texts. Students will develop comprehension through character analysis, thematic and comparing and contrasting texts from various genres. They will also consider authorial intent and the historic and social commentary that literature offers. As writers, students will continue to strengthen fundamental skills of assessing and incorporating evidence in argumentative writing, maintaining voice and audience in narrative writing, and learning to begin research writing. Vocabulary acquisition continues to be a core component of this course. Spelling, sentence diagramming, and reinforcement of grade-level mechanics are a component of language study in this course. Students read independently chosen novels to continue to develop their fluency, comprehension, and love of reading.

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English I

This course is designed an intervention class that proceeds at a pace to allow students multiple opportunities to practice and master new skills. Students participate in JustWords, which is part of the Wilson Reading System, a highly explicit, multi-sensory decoding and spelling program used as an intervention to bridge gaps in decoding and spelling proficiency.

Reading Concepts 6

This course is used to support students in basic reading fluency and comprehension skills. This course meets as a small group so that instruction is tailored to each student's individual needs and growth goals. Phonics instruction, vocabulary study, levelled texts, and adaptive technology are used to reinforce and strengthen the skills students need to be successful readers.

Reading Concepts 7

This course is used to support students in developing reading comprehension skills. This course meets as a small group so that instruction is tailored to each student's individual needs and growth goals. Phonics instruction, vocabulary study, specific reading strategies, levelled texts, and adaptive technology are used to reinforce and strengthen the skills students need to be successful readers.

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Wilson Reading System

WRS is an intensive Tier 3 program for students in need of word-level support and intensive structured literacy instruction. This is a structured literacy program based on phonological coding research and Orton-Gillingham principles. WRS directly and systemically teaches the structure of the English language. Students learn fluent decoding and encoding skills to the level of mastery.

Latin Department

Prima Lingua 6

This is a language readiness class intending to prepare students for the study of the Latin language. Students will focus intensely on English grammar, learning fundamentals including parts of speech, subjects and direct objects, and prepositional phrases. Students will also gain an understanding of linguistic terms as well as a foundation in English derivatives that come from Latin. Students will be introduced to key phrases in Latin and parts of Roman culture to prepare them for the next few years of language studies and to help gain a cultural understanding of Latin.

Prima Lingua 6 Honors

This is a language readiness class intending to prepare students for the study of the Latin language. Students will focus intensely on English grammar, learning fundamentals including parts of speech, subjects and direct objects, and prepositional phrases. Students will develop their writing skills as they complete essays and projects. Students will also gain an understanding of linguistic terms as well as a foundation in English derivatives that come from Latin. Students will be introduced to key phrases in Latin and parts of Roman culture to prepare them for the next few years of language studies and to help gain a cultural understanding of Latin.

Latin 7

This is an introduction to Latin class that focuses on the essentials of Latin grammar and culture and prepares students for Latin 8 and further Latin study. Through various texts and oral and written exercises, students will translate from Latin to English and English to Latin as a means of building greater vocabulary and grammar comprehension. Students will begin to understand some of the ways in which Latin and English intersect. Students will read words, phrases, simple sentences and dialogues occasionally associated with pictures. Students will focus on first and second declensions, with occasional third declension words as they appear in stories. Students will also look at first and second conjugation verbs, focusing on the present active indicative and imperative. Students also explore the culture of ancient Rome, including the city of Rome and its founding, major Olympian gods and goddesses, Roman dress, and the Roman household. Finally, students will study Latin abbreviations, mottoes, and phrases that the English language has borrowed. This class is designed to help expand a student's understanding of the relationship of the ancient world to his own and to appreciate other languages and culture.

Latin 7 Honors

This is an accelerated introduction to Latin class that focuses on the essentials of Latin grammar and culture and prepares students for Latin 8 and further Latin study. Through various texts and oral and written exercises, students will translate from Latin to English and English to Latin as a means to build up our knowledge of vocabulary and grammar. Students will read words, phrases, simple sentences and dialogues occasionally associated with pictures. Students will focus on first,

second, and third declensions, all cases. Students will also look at first and second conjugation verbs, focusing on the present active indicative and imperative. Students will be introduced to the imperfect tense. We will also explore the culture of ancient Rome, including the city of Rome and its founding, major Olympian gods and goddesses, Roman dress, and the Roman household. Finally, we will study Latin abbreviations, mottoes, and phrases that the English language has borrowed. This class is designed to help expand a student's understanding of the relationship of the ancient world to his own and to appreciate other languages and culture.

Latin 8

This is the second year of an introduction to Latin class that focuses on the essentials of Latin grammar and culture and prepares students for further Latin studies. Through various texts and oral and written exercises, students will continue to build their vocabulary and grammar.

Students will begin to understand some of the ways in which Latin and English intersect. Students will read words, phrases, simple sentences and dialogues occasionally associated with pictures. Students will focus on all five declensions and all five cases. Students will also look at verbs from all four conjugations and learn how to translate the imperfect, future, and perfect tenses.

Latin 8 Honors

This is the second year of an introduction to Latin class, however it takes on an accelerated pace while continuing with a focus on the essentials of Latin grammar and culture and prepares students for High School Latin Honors. Through various texts and oral and written exercises, students will continue to build their vocabulary and grammar. Students will begin to understand some of the ways in which Latin and English intersect. Students will read words, phrases, simple sentences and dialogues occasionally associated with pictures. Students will focus on all five declensions and all five cases. Students will also look at verbs from all four conjugations and learn how to translate the imperfect, future, and perfect tenses.

Mathematics Department

Math 6

In sixth grade, Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. (*Description taken from the Common Core Standards Website*)

Math 6 Interventions Based: In sixth grade, Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. (*Description taken from the Common Core Standards Website*) This class is co-taught with an instructional support teacher and a general education teacher to provide consistent remedial practice and academic scaffolding necessary for learners who need more time and support.

Math 7

In this course, time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. (*Description taken from the Common Core Standards Website*)

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Math 8

Math 8 bridges the gap between elementary math, focused on numbers and operations, and high school math, which emphasizes algebra and functions. Students will master a broad array of skills and content, including integers, algebraic concepts, exponent rules, similarity, data analysis, functions, coordinate graphing, inequalities, and probability. Students must concurrently enroll in Math Concepts. *(Description taken from the Common Core Standards Website)*

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Math Concepts 6 and 8

A transition math course for students. The objective is to build strong foundation skills that provide students access to mastery in Algebra 1 and Geometry. This course will fill the conceptual and skill gaps by addressing misconceptions in fundamental topics. Concepts include number families, fractions, ratios rate and proportions, measurement, 2- and 3-dimensional geometry and measurement, geometric principles. All sixth grade students take this course and it is also offered to eighth grade students who are not enrolled in Algebra I.

PreAlgebra

This class will review the basic operations of arithmetic on whole numbers, fractions and decimals. These operations will be used in dealing with ratio, proportions, percent, simple geometry and algebra. As students master these basic concepts, they will move into basic algebra. Students will be expected to understand basic operations with integers, rational numbers, irrational, and real numbers; the use of variables; properties of numbers and of

equality; solving equations and inequalities; problem solving; relations and functions; and polynomials. *This is the Prerequisite course to Algebra I.*

Algebra I

Algebra is the study of relationships. In this course, students will learn how to model and describe real-world phenomena, using tools as basic as ratios and as intricate as quadratic and nonlinear equations. By the end of the course, students will be comfortable with the following relationships and their practical applications: linear equations; inequalities; and systems of equations and inequalities. *Prerequisites: Pre-Algebra or placement test*

Science

Science 6

Students in sixth grade develop understanding of key concepts to help them make sense of the life sciences. These ideas build upon students' science understanding from earlier grades and from the disciplinary core ideas. There are five life science topics in middle school: 1) structure, Function, and Information Processing, 2) Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms, 3) Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems, 4) Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, and 5) Natural Selection and Adaptations. *(Description taken from the Next Generation Standards Website)*

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Science 7

Students in 7th grade develop understanding of a wide range of topics in Earth and space science that build upon science concepts from elementary school through more advanced content, practice, and cross cutting themes. There are six ESS standard topics in middle school: Space Systems, History of Earth, Earth's Interior Systems, Earth's Surface Systems, Weather and Climate, and Human Impacts. Students will work to reflect the many societally relevant aspects of ESS (resources, hazards, environmental impacts) as well as related connections to engineering and technology. *(Description taken from the Next Generation Standards Website)*

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homework, more in depth assignments, and more independently guided projects that focus on teamwork and critical thinking.

Science 8

Students in eighth grade science develop understanding of four core ideas in the physical sciences. The middle school performance expectations in the Physical Sciences build on the K – 5 ideas and capabilities to allow learners to explain phenomena central to the physical sciences but also to the life sciences and earth and space science. In the physical sciences, performance expectations at the middle school level focus on students developing understanding of several scientific practices. These include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanations; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. *(Description taken from the Next Generation Standards Website)*

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Health and Wellness 6

This course is an introduction of health and wellness: analyzing a variety of health and current events topics, exercise, and physical fitness. Students will also examine mental and sexual health, as well as substance abuse issues. The class will analyze health and wellness, answering the essential question: What does it mean to live a healthy life? Students will participate in academic instruction along with team oriented athletic activities throughout the course's trimester.
Duration: One Trimester

Health and Wellness 7

This course is a continuation of health and wellness: analyzing a variety of health and current events topics specifically drug and alcohol awareness, exercise, and physical fitness. Students will also examine mental and sexual health, as well as substance abuse issues. The class will analyze health and wellness, answering the essential question: What does it mean to live a healthy life? Students will participate in academic instruction along with team oriented athletic activities throughout the course's trimester. *Duration: One Trimester*

Health and Wellness 8

This course is an extension of health and wellness: analyzing a variety of health and current events topics including sex education and social emotional intelligence, exercise, and physical fitness. Students will also examine mental and sexual health, as well as substance abuse issues. The class will analyze health and wellness, answering the essential question: What does it mean to live a healthy life? Students will participate in academic instruction along with team oriented athletic activities throughout the course's trimester. *Duration: One Trimester*

History

History 6

This course unpacks ancient world histories of both western and non-western worlds. Units of study include: the great early civilizations of Egypt and the Near East, India, China, Greece, and Rome. The development and influence of various religions, philosophies, and political, social and economic systems are also examined in context. Additional focus on developing our students' knowledge of geography, and its impact on ancient world histories, is integrated into all trimesters. History 6 curriculum is aligned with the appropriate Common Core standards, meeting our school's expectation of developing college-prepared students.

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History 7

This course picks up chronologically where students ended in 6th grade History courses, exploring the legacy of civilizations from Europe, Africa, and the Middle East to Asia and the Americas. Units of study include: medieval Europe, medieval Islam, the culture and kingdoms of West Africa, imperial China, medieval Japan, civilizations of the Americas, European Renaissance and Reformation, and Europe's entry into the Modern Age. The development and influence of various religions, philosophies, and political, social and economic systems are also examined in context. Additional focus on developing our students' knowledge of geography, and its impact on various units of study, is integrated into all trimesters. History 7 curriculum is aligned with the appropriate Common Core standards, meeting our school's expectation of developing college-prepared students.

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History 8

This final middle school History course immerses students in a thought-provoking journey through the history of the United States from its earliest foundations to the age of industrialism. Units of study include: Colonial Heritage, Colonial Revolution, the formation of the United States as a new nation, early political developments in our new nation, early expansions of the U.S., mid-1800 legal and social reformations, and the Civil War. The development and influence of philosophical, political, social and economic systems are also examined in context. Additional focus on developing our students' knowledge of geography, and its impact on various units of study, is integrated into all trimesters. History 8 curriculum is aligned with the appropriate Common Core standards, meeting our school's expectation of developing college-prepared students.

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BOYS' LATIN MIDDLE SCHOOL
Program of Studies