



# INDEPENDENCE ACADEMY

## Middle School Coursework – Independence Academy

Below is the course sequence including core academic classes for Middle School students. Additional electives are chosen to meet the needs of individual students in satisfying the requirements of their selected course of study. Honors courses are available to students as shown in the progression charts below.

Since foreign language course completion is mandatory for entrance to colleges and universities, students have the opportunity to complete these high school requirements early in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade by taking Spanish I and Spanish II.

If a student does not maintain a 3.0 grade point average, perform at the satisfactory level on the state assessments and the End of Course (EOC) assessments, or is retained at the end of a school year, he/she will lose his/ her seat in the advanced/honors program.

Students are given more freedom to make decisions and govern their personal conduct as members of the school. In addition, students are expected to adhere to high standards of personal conduct and academic performance. Consideration for others and knowledge of and adherence to the rules of the school should guide personal conduct. The difficulty level of the courses, the pace of material, and the overall high expectations on the part of the teachers make a rigorous program. Teachers expect that students will complete all assignments correctly and on time. Teachers expect that if a student is having a difficult time with any course, he or she will seek the help of the teacher. Finally, teachers also expect that all students will be successful if they give their best effort every day.

### **Honors courses**

Honors classes often offer the same curriculum as regular classes but are tailored for high-achieving students — covering additional topics or some topics in greater depth.

### **Galileo Program**

Students in grade six may apply to the Math and Science Galileo Program. Students participating in the program will take Math and Science classes as a cadre for three years – 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Students will participate in specialized math and science events throughout their middle school years. As a culmination to the program in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students will embark on a specialized field study.

### **Cambridge Lower Secondary Program**

The primary purpose of the Cambridge Lower Secondary Program is to encourage students to use critical thinking and problem-solving skills to connect knowledge from across all standards. The academic content of the Cambridge program is cross-curricular and places a large emphasis on analyzing and considering issues through a global perspective. This program will help students transition to the full Cambridge AICE diploma program at the high school level.

THE STUDENT	THE TEACHER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focuses on academic learning</li><li>• Uses excellent time management strategies</li><li>• Dedicated to hard work with a daily reading and study plan</li><li>• Takes responsibility for a rich classroom experience</li><li>• Collaborates and produces work of an outstanding nature</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Holds high standards and guides students to meet them</li><li>• Creates opportunities for learning and exploring ideas through text and evidence</li><li>• Models critical thinking for student analysis of complex ideas</li><li>• Designs challenging activities</li></ul>

**Course availability is based on student participation.**

**Grade Six**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Conventional</b>	<b>Comprehensive</b>
<b>Language Arts</b>	M/J Language Arts I Advanced or M/J English 1 <b>(Cambridge Program)</b>	M/J Language Arts I	M/J Language Arts I
<b>Reading</b>	M/J Reading I Advanced	M/J Reading I	M/J Reading I
<b>Math</b>	M/J Grade 6 Accelerated <b>(Galileo Program)</b> or M/J Grade 7 Accelerated <b>(Cambridge Program)</b>	M/J Grade 6 Math	M/J Grade 6 Math
<b>Science</b>	M/J Comprehensive Science I Advanced	M/J Comprehensive Science I	M/J Comprehensive Science I
<b>Social Studies</b>	M/J U.S. History Advanced	M/J U.S. History	M/J U.S. History
<b>Required Electives: Foreign Language</b>	M/J Beginning Spanish	M/J Beginning Spanish	M/J Beginning Spanish
<b>Required Electives: Physical Education</b>	Fitness Grade 6 <b>AND</b> Career Research and Decision-Making	Fitness Grade 6 <b>AND</b> Career Research and Decision-Making	Fitness Grade 6 <b>AND</b> Career Research and Decision-Making
<b>Electives (Choose one)</b>			
M/J 2-D Studio Art	M/J Band I	Computer Science Discoveries	

## Grade Seven

Course	Advanced	Conventional	Comprehensive
<b>Language Arts</b>	M/J Language Arts II Advanced Or M/J English II <b>(Cambridge Program)</b>	M/J Language Arts II	M/J Language Arts II
<b>Reading</b>	M/J Reading II Advanced	M/J Reading II	M/J Reading II
<b>Math</b>	M/J Grade 7 Math Accelerated <b>(Galileo Program)</b> or Algebra I Honors (HS) <b>(Cambridge Program)</b>	M/J Grade 7 Math	M/J Grade 7 Math
<b>Science</b>	Physical Science Honors (HS) <b>(Galileo and Cambridge Program)</b>	M/J Comprehensive Science II (\$)	M/J Comp Science II (\$)
<b>Social Studies</b>	M/J Civics Advanced	M/J Civics	M/J Civics
<b>Physical Education</b>	M/J Comprehensive Physical Education 6/7 <b>AND</b> M/J Engaged Citizenship Through Service Learning	M/J Comprehensive Physical Education 6/7 <b>AND</b> M/J Engaged Citizenship Through Service Learning	M/J Comprehensive Physical Education 6/7 <b>AND</b> M/J Engaged Citizenship Through Service Learning
<b>Foreign Language (Required two consecutive years)</b>	Spanish I (HS)	Spanish I (HS)	Spanish I (HS)
<b>Electives (Choose one)</b>			
M/J 2-D Studio Art I (\$)	M/J 2-D Studio Art II (\$)	M/J Band I (\$)	M/J Band II (\$)
Computer Science Discoveries			

## Grade Eight

Course	Advanced	Conventional	Comprehensive
<b>Language Arts</b>	M/J Language Arts III Advanced <b>Or</b> M/J English III <b>(Cambridge Only)</b>	M/J Language Arts III	M/J Language Arts III
<b>Reading</b>	M/J Literacy Through Film & Literature <b>(Galileo and Cambridge Program)</b>	M/J Reading III	M/J Reading III
<b>Math</b>	Algebra I Honors (HS) <b>(Galileo Program)</b> Or Geometry Honors (HS) <b>(Cambridge Program)</b>	M/J Grade 8 Pre-Algebra	M/J Grade 8 Pre-Algebra
<b>Science</b>	Biology Honors (HS), <b>(Galileo and Cambridge Program)</b>	M/J Comprehensive Science III	M/J Comprehensive Science III
<b>Social Studies</b>	M/J World History Advanced	M/J World History	M/J World History
<b>Physical Education</b>	M/J Comprehensive Physical Education 7/8  <b>And</b> M/J Engaged Citizenship Through Service Learning II	M/J Comprehensive Physical Education 7/8  <b>And</b> M/J Engaged Citizenship Through Service Learning II	M/J Comprehensive Physical Education 7/8  <b>And</b> M/J Engaged Citizenship Through Service Learning II
<b>Foreign Language (Required two consecutive years)</b>	Spanish II (HS)	Spanish II (HS)	Spanish II (HS)
<b>Electives (Choose one)</b>			
M/J 2-D Studio Art II (\$)	M/J 2-D Art III (\$)	M/J Band II (\$)	M/J Band III (\$)
Computer Science Discoveries			

## Honor Societies and Special Interest Organizations

**National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)** - NJHS is a service club affiliated with and sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Service projects are required.

Qualifications: As Per national guidelines, at a minimum, students must have a cumulative GPA of 85, B, 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or equivalent standard of excellence. (Each school chapter is allowed to require a higher cumulative GPA.)

- Applications will be evaluated by the Faculty Council based on the applicant's qualifications in the areas of service, leadership, and character. This includes a review of extracurricular activities, discipline records and teacher recommendations. Dues are \$30.00.
- Enrollment Deadline: Invitations are issued during the 3rd quarter followed by an induction.

**Student Government Association/Student Council** - The Student Government Association is comprised of seven officers elected by the entire student body. SGA organizes and runs the meetings of the Student Council. Student Council is an organization of elected officers from each class who provide leadership in student affairs. SGA and the Council act as the liaison with school administration on matters of policy, school spirit and community service. Homecoming activities, the Miss EPA Pageant, and the charities gift drive are just some of the projects coordinated by these organizations. The Student Council strives to promote harmonious relations throughout the school and provides a forum for student expression through the assistance of student representatives.

- Meetings: SGA meets at least twice monthly. The Council meets at least once per month; more often when planning events.
- Qualifications: Minimum GPA of 2.5, satisfactory recommendations, good standing with the Dean's Office, an interview, and election by the student body.
- Leadership Opportunities: Each grade elects a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Senators. The SGA is made up of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, two Senior Senators and two Junior Senators. Formal leadership training is provided.

**Science Club** - The purpose of this club is to generate excitement for a variety of science disciplines including chemistry, biology, and ecology. There is an emphasis on hands-on experiences. The club provides guest speakers and field trip opportunities. Lab fees may be required.

Qualifications: Open to students in grades 6-8 with a minimum GPA of 2.5. Enrollment Deadline: Open

Leadership Opportunities: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer

**Yearbook** - The yearbook is produced by the students under faculty direction.

Meetings: During class, before and after school and on weekends as scheduled.

- Qualifications: Enrolled in Journalism – Interested students with a grade of 2.5 or higher in English 2; Consent of the instructor
- Enrollment Deadline: At the time of course selection in the spring
- Leadership Opportunities: In their positions as staff members, all yearbook students have a certain leadership role due to the great responsibility entailed in producing such a large publication. Students are given editorial positions with the opportunity to be editor-in-chief or managing editor.

*Other clubs vary based upon student participation and interest.*