

Middle School Curriculum Guide



This curriculum guide has been prepared to assist each student in selecting the essential classes that will lead to a successful completion of middle school and career path for their future. Although many courses have been included in this guide, some may not be offered at this time as courses will be added as required by student need.

The classes being offered meet all of the requirements as prescribed by the State of Florida and the County School Board. We urge every student to take the time to review this curriculum guide carefully, and involve your teachers and parents in making the best possible selection of classes.

Our staff is dedicated to the success of all our students, and we are happy to welcome you to school. Best wishes for a wonderful, productive, year!

Course availability is based on the number of students eligible for the course. Information included in this Course Guide may change without prior notice and is based on the most current information available at the time of publication.

Philosophy

1. Meeting high standards of student achievement while providing parents flexibility to choose among diverse educational opportunities within the state's public school system.
2. Promoting enhanced academic success and financial efficiency by aligning responsibility with accountability.
3. Providing parents with sufficient information on whether their child is reading at grade level and whether the child gains at least one year's worth of learning for every year spent at the charter school.

Purpose

1. Improve student learning and academic achievement.
2. Increase learning opportunities for all students.
3. Create professional opportunities for each teacher, including ownership of learning program at the school site.
4. Encourage the use of innovative learning methods.
5. Require the measurement of outcomes.
6. Expand the capacity of the school system.

Courses are offered based on need. Courses may be altered and/or cancelled without prior notification. The administrative team will make final determinations regarding student placement.

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Middle School Grades 6 – 8

Coursework, curriculum and all textbooks are aligned with the NGSSS, Florida State Standards and state requirements. In addition, the student-centered curriculum is enhanced with data-driven instruction that is both diagnostic and differentiated. Lessons involve hands-on classroom activities that incorporate relevant life experiences and educationally beneficial homework assignments. The integration of technology into the curriculum enhances the educational experience and allows for real world connections and application of concepts learned.

Classroom teachers provide help sessions, tutorials and test preparation after school. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this additional help to ensure their success in core subject areas.

Teachers will NOT “teach the test”. Assessments and student work samples will measure benchmark mastery and will determine individual instructional needs. We feel that students who are exposed to the NGSSS/Florida State Standards as a part of their everyday curriculum will ultimately perform more effectively on the test, because the test becomes second nature to them. Students will participate in a multitude of activities designed for creativity, interest and positive performance in the classroom and on the SSA/FSA.

Grade scale:

In arriving at the academic grades of all students, teachers are expected to carefully distinguish between the academic grade and the student's conduct. All progress reports shall provide some form of evaluation concerning the student's conduct or department. In no case shall the student receive an academic grade which is contingent upon his/her conduct.

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Progress Description
Grade “A”	90% through 100%	Outstanding Progress
Grade “B”	80% through 89%	Above Average Progress.
Grade “C”	70% through 79%	Average Progress
Grade “D”	60% through 69%	Lowest Acceptable Progress
Grade “F”	0% through 59%	Failure
Grade “I”	0%	Incomplete

The State Grade Point Average, Cumulative is used to determine if the student has met the state high school graduation requirements of a minimum of 24 credits and a 2.0 GPA based on a 4.0 scale.

This grade point average is calculated as specified in Section 1003.437, F.S., by assigning quality points of “A” = 4, “B” = 3, “C” = 2, “D” = 1, “F” = 0, and “Incomplete” = 0 to the letter grades displayed on the automated permanent record (“+” and “-” signs are ignored).

Grades of NG (No Grade Assigned), W P (W withdrew Passing), and WF (Withdrew Failing) are not applicable for inclusion in the Grade Point Average State, Cumulative

Interim Progress Reports/Report Cards

The report card provides a grade for the student's academic performance in each class or course, the student's conduct and the student's attendance. Student evaluations are reported to parents as a formal student report card at quarter intervals. Each report card contains information regarding a student's performance at grade level or below, behavior and attendance. The final report card contains information regarding a student's promotion or non-promotion.

Interim Progress Reports

Interim progress reports are to be issued near the midpoint of the quarter grading period.

Interim conferences or written progress reports or both are recommended for those students having such need of them.

Statewide End of Course Assessments

Middle grade students enrolled in high school Algebra I must take and pass the statewide standardized EOC assessment to earn high school credit. Also the Algebra 1 EOC assessment will constitute a percentage of the student's final course grade (based on individual district requirements).

Middle grade students enrolled in high school Algebra I must pass the statewide standardized EOC assessment to qualify for a standard high school diploma. However, if the middle grades student does not pass the EOC assessment in middle school, the student will have multiple opportunities in high school to retake the course and/or the assessment.

Middle grade students enrolled in high school Geometry or Biology I must take the statewide, standardized EOC assessment, and the results of the EOC assessment must constitute a percentage of the student's final course grade (based on individual district requirements). Students must pass the course but are not required to pass the EOC assessment to earn high school credit.

Neither middle grade students nor high school students enrolled in high school **geometry** are required to pass the statewide, standardized EOC assessment to qualify for a standard high school diploma scholar designation.



Language Arts

Reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing competencies are integrated throughout students' learning experiences.

Benchmarks for the Florida State Standards are repeated as needed in course sequences. As students progress from one course to the next, increases should occur in the complexity of materials and tasks and in the students' independence in the application of skills and strategies.

Learning tasks and materials accommodate the individual needs of students.

Technology is integrated into lessons in an effort to help students develop competencies in language arts.

Courses shall integrate the Goal 3 Student Performance Standards of the Florida System of School Improvement and Accountability as appropriate to the content and processes of the subject matter.

Course student performance standards must be adopted by the school/district, and they must reflect appropriate Florida Standards benchmarks.

Course Title: M/J Language Arts 1

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to provide integrated educational experiences in the language arts strands of reading, writing, listening, viewing, speaking, language, and literature.

Course Title: M/J Language Arts 2

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to provide integrated educational experiences in the language arts strands of reading, writing, listening, viewing, speaking, language, and literature.

Course Title: M/J Language Arts 3

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to provide integrated educational experiences in the language arts strands of reading, writing, listening, viewing, speaking, language, and literature.

Course Title: M/J Language Arts 1, 2 and 3 Advanced

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to provide integrated educational experiences in the language arts strands of reading, writing, listening, viewing, speaking, language, and literature.

Special Note: The course requirements for this advanced course are consistent with M/J Language Arts 1. The school/district shall develop a description of additional requirements to provide for in-depth or enriched study of the course requirements.

Course Requirements: Placement of students is determined by performance on state assessments, previous report card grades and teacher recommendation.



Math

Students will participate in grade appropriate Mathematics classes catered to the student's needs. Students are also given the opportunity to take high school level Mathematics courses in order to earn high school credit.

All students will have access to technology when appropriate for curriculum content.

Classroom activities are student-centered, emphasizing concrete experiences and active/experiential learning that transitions towards a more abstract comprehension of the math concept.

All courses have increased emphasis on problem solving, estimation, and real-world applications. Evaluation also includes alternative methods of assessment.

All strands addressed in the Florida State Standards are developed across the Grade 6-8 curriculum. Coursework shall integrate Goal 3 Student Performance Standards of the Florida System of School Improvement and Accountability as appropriate for the content and processes of the subject matter.

Course Title: M/J Mathematics 1 and Advanced

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to continue the development of mathematical concepts and processes that can be used to solve real-world and mathematical problems.

Course Title: M/J Mathematics 2 and Advanced

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to continue the development of mathematical concepts and processes that can be used to solve real-world and mathematical problems.

Course Title: M/J Mathematics 3 and Advanced

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to continue the development of mathematical concepts and processes that can be used to solve real-world and mathematical problems.

Course Title: M/J Math Pre-Algebra

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to develop the mathematical concepts and processes that can be used to solve a variety of real-world and mathematical problems. Students have an opportunity to learn as mathematicians rather than memorizing facts and algorithms. Some students are already good technicians who can follow rules and apply those rules to routine exercises. Students go one step further, analyzing non-routine problems. There is emphasis on strengthening and developing skills and concepts needed for success in Algebra I.

Special Note: This course is for 6th or 7th grade qualified advanced and/or mathematically talented students.

Course Requirements: Teacher recommendation

Course Title: Algebra I Honors

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to develop the algebraic concepts and processes that can be used to solve a variety of real-world and mathematical problems. Students have an opportunity to learn as mathematicians rather than memorizing facts and algorithms. Some students are already good technicians who can follow rules and apply those rules to routine exercises. Students go one step further, analyzing non-routine problems.

Special Note: This course has been designed for 7th or 8th grade qualified advanced and/or mathematically talented students who have successfully passed the Pre-Algebra course.

Course Requirements: Placement is determined by successful completion of Pre-Algebra, teacher recommendation

Course Title: Geometry Honors

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to develop the geometric relationships and deductive strategies processes that can be used to solve a variety of real-world and mathematical problems.

Special Note. This course is designed for 8th grade advanced and/or mathematically talented students.

Course Requirements: Placement is determined by the completion of Algebra 1, teacher recommendation

****Students taking Algebra 1 Honors and Geometry Honors may earn high school credit after the successful completion of an End of Course Exam provided by the state of Florida**



Reading

Students are provided with a separate Reading Course that engages students with literature in an effort to enhance and further develop higher levels of reading comprehension.

Reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing competencies are integrated throughout students' learning experiences.

Benchmarks for the Florida State Standards are repeated as needed in course sequences. As students progress from one course to the next, increases should occur in the complexity of materials and tasks and in the students' independence in the application of skills and strategies.

Learning tasks and materials accommodate the individual needs of students. Technology is available for students to develop competencies in reading and language arts.

Coursework shall integrate the Goal 3 Student Performance Standards of the Florida System of School Improvement and Accountability as appropriate to the content and processes of the subject matter.

Course student performance standards must be adopted by the school/ district, and they must reflect appropriate FSA benchmarks.

Course Title: M/J Reading I, II, III

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop and strengthen reading skills through integrated experiences in the language arts strands. Emphasis will be on inference, application, and analysis of content from varied texts.

Course Requirements: Placement of students is determined by performance on FSA

Course Title: M/J Reading I, II, III Advanced

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop and strengthen advanced reading skills through integrated experiences in the language arts strands. Emphasis will be on inference, application, and analysis of content from varied texts.

Course Requirements: Placement of students is determined by performance on FSA

Course Title: M/J Literacy through Film and Literature Advanced

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to create opportunities for students to read, write, and speak beyond the Reading and Language Arts classroom settings.

Course Requirements: Placement of students is determined by performance on FSA



Social Studies

Social Studies classes are designed to introduce students to studies within the United States and outside our country's boundaries. Students are introduced to ancient and contemporary cultures around the world.

Students live in a multi-culturally diverse environment. Knowledge of the customs and traditions of those cultures is imperative, to develop students who are to become tolerant members of society.

Course Name: *M/J United States History*

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand the development of the United States within the context of history by examining connections to the past to prepare for the future as participating members of a democratic society. Students will use knowledge pertaining to history, geography, economics, political processes, religion, ethics, diverse cultures, and humanities to solve problems in academic, civic, social, and employment settings.

Course Title: *M/J United States History, Advanced*

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand the development of the United States within the context of history by examining connections to the past to prepare for the future as participating members of a democratic society. Students will use knowledge pertaining to history, geography, economics, political processes, religion, ethics, diverse cultures, and humanities to solve problems in academic, civic, social, and employment settings. The format will expose students to Advanced Placement Standards and work products will reflect mastery by means of portfolio in required course work.

Special Note: Placement is determined by performance, report card grades and teacher recommendation.

Course Title: *M/J Civics*

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to prepare students to perform effectively as informed citizens of their community, state and nation by providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary to function in a complex, pluralistic and democratic society. Specific content to be covered will include an understanding of the American Constitutional government, the free enterprise system, and the structure and function of local, state and national governments within that constitutional and economic framework.

Course Title: *M/J Civics Advanced*

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to prepare students to perform effectively as informed citizens of their community, state and nation by providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary to function in a complex, pluralistic and democratic society. Specific content to be covered will include an understanding of the American Constitutional government, the free enterprise system, and the structure and function of local, state and national governments within that constitutional and economic framework. The format will expose students to Advanced Placement Standards and work products will reflect mastery by means of portfolio in required course work.

Special Note: Placement is determined by performance, report card grades and teacher recommendation.

Course Title: *M/J World Cultures (offered at select CSA schools)*

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand that the world is comprised of many diverse cultural groups who have made significant contributions to our past and present. Students will understand the shared characteristics among various cultural groups.

Course Title: *M/J World Cultures Advanced (offered at select CSA schools)*

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand that the world is comprised of many diverse cultural groups who have made significant contributions to our past and present. Students will use problem solving, research and critical thinking skills as they examine the shared characteristics among various cultural groups. The format will expose students to Advanced Placement Standards and work products will reflect mastery by means of portfolio in required course work.

Course Requirements: Placement is determined by student performance, report card grades and teacher recommendation.

Course Title: *M/J World Geography and Digital Technologies (offered at select CSA schools)*

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is for students to understand the usage of geographic concepts, tools, and skills to draw conclusions about physical and human patterns. Content includes the understanding of world political regions in terms of location, physical characteristics, population and culture, historical change, economic activity, and land use. Students will be exposed to the multiple dynamics of geography including economics and world history. Students will study methods of historical inquiry and primary and secondary historical documents.



Science

The goal of the Science course series is to give exposure to a variety of science disciplines through participation in exploratory experiences and activities throughout 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Students should have the opportunity to achieve all Science benchmarks for grades 6-8 by the end of the third year.

Course Name: *M/J Comprehensive Science I and Advanced*

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to provide in-depth opportunities to study concepts of Life Science and its applications to everyday life.

Course Name: *M/J Comprehensive Science II and Advanced*

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to provide opportunities for the study of general concepts, theories, and processes relating to the Earth/Space Sciences, and their applications through exploratory investigations and activities.

Course Title: *M/J Comprehensive Science III and Advanced*

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to provide in-depth opportunities to study concepts of Physical Science and its applications to everyday life.

Special Note: Placement determined by performance, report card grades and teacher recommendation.

Course Name: *Physical Science Honors*

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: This course is designed as an interactive, 21st century course focusing on basic physics and chemistry. Topics include forces and motion, energy through waves, electricity and magnetism, the matter around us, chemical bonding and reactions.

Special Note: Placement determined by performance, report card grades, teacher recommendation. High school credit class.

Course Name: *Biology I Honors*

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to provide an exploratory, laboratory and real-life experience in the applications of biological sciences. Laboratory investigations which include the use of scientific research, measurement, laboratory technologies and safety procedures are an integral part of this course.

Special Note: Placement determined by performance, report card grades, teacher recommendation. High school credit upon passing EOC.



Foreign Language

Course content requirements for the three-course sequence that includes M/J Spanish, Beginning, Spanish I and Spanish II are required for each middle school student. Two years of Foreign Language I and above may be transferred as a high school credit.

Course Title: M/J Spanish, Beginning

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course.

Course Title: Spanish I, II

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to enable students to continue to acquire proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course.

Course Title: French

Course Title: French I (offered at select CSA schools)

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the target language and its culture. The student will develop communicative skills in all 3 modes of communication and cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication in the language. An introduction to reading and writing is also included as well as culture, connections, comparisons, and communities.

Course Title: Spanish for Spanish Speakers (Offered at select CSA schools)

Course content requirements for the two-course sequence M/J Spanish for Spanish Speakers, Beginning & Intermediate are equivalent to Spanish for Spanish Speakers I. Course content requirements for the three-course sequence that includes M/J Spanish for Spanish Speakers, Beginning Intermediate, and Advanced, may be equivalent to the two-course sequence Spanish for Spanish Speakers I and Spanish for Spanish Speakers II. It is each district school board's responsibility to determine high school foreign language placement policies for those students who complete the M/J Spanish for Spanish Speakers sequences in middle school. Spanish for Spanish Speakers I and II may be transferred as high school credit.

Course Title: M/J Spanish for Spanish Speakers, Beginning

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to enable students whose heritage language is Spanish to develop, maintain, and enhance proficiency in their home language by reinforcing and acquiring skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, including the fundamentals of Spanish grammar. The values and practices of Spanish culture(s) will be reflected throughout the course.

Course Title: M/J Spanish for Spanish Speakers, I, II

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to enable students whose heritage language is Spanish to continue to enhance proficiency in their home language by reinforcing and acquiring skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, including the fundamentals of Spanish grammar. The values and practices of Spanish culture(s) will be reflected throughout the course.

Course Title: M/J Spanish for Spanish Speakers, Advanced

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to enable students whose heritage language is Spanish to enhance proficiency in their home language by reinforcing skills in listening and speaking, and emphasizing reading and writing, including the elements of Spanish grammar. The values and practices of Spanish culture(s) will be reflected throughout the course.

Electives

Electives are an integral part of the curriculum and allow students to enhance the core subject studies with enrichment activities. Electives for the students have been chosen to provide a well-rounded selection designed to introduce students to the arts and technology.



Course Title: *M/J 2-D Studio Art I, II, III*

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to enable students to communicate ideas and concepts through two-dimensional media using basic knowledge of drawing, painting, and printmaking techniques. Composition and artistic expression should be emphasized.

Course Title: *M/J Chorus I, II, III (offered at select CSA schools)*

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to provide students with the opportunities to develop skills in vocal production, to participate in music ensemble, and to develop musicianship skills including reading.



Course Title: *M/J Band I, II, III*

Course Length: 1 year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to provide students with the opportunities to develop performance skills on a band instrument, to participate in a musical ensemble, and to develop musicianship skills including reading. The content should include, but not be limited to, instrumental performance techniques, interpretation of musical notation, and understanding of music fundamentals. Instruments must be rented or purchased, by the student, for this course.



Course Title: *M/J Physical Fitness Grades 6, 7, 8*

Course Length: Semester

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is to enable students to improve physical fitness through participation in games, sports, gymnastics, dance, and individual and developmental activities; and to evaluate physical activities in terms of fitness values.

Special Note: Required all three years.

Dance

Course Title: *M/J Dance I, II, III (offered at select CSA schools)*

Course Length: Year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is for students to develop dance technique and movement vocabulary in two or more dance forms. In the process, dancers demonstrate use of class and performance etiquette, analytical and problem-solving skills, and studio practices in a safe dance environment.

Theatre

Course Title: *M/J Theatre I, II, III (offered at select CSA schools)*

Course Length: Year

Major Concepts/Content: The purpose of this course is for students to learn the basics of building a character through such activities as pantomime, improvisation, and effective speaking using articulation, projection, and breathing. Students also learn the importance of technical theatre and explore the use of such elements as costumes, props, and scenery. Students practice writing for the theatre and explore various theatre roles and functions.



Technology and Business

Career Education programs provide students with opportunities to develop occupational interests and acquire skills throughout their secondary and postsecondary educational careers that will lead to gainful employment. Middle School Career Education programs focus on transferable skills that apply academic course content in relevant, meaningful ways. Students completing these programs at the middle school level are more motivated to learn and have a clearer understanding of high school career options and

educational pathways to attain lifelong career goals.

Course Title: *Computer Discoveries (offered at select CSA schools)*

Course Length: 1 year

Major concepts/content. The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with career opportunities in the field of computers. As well as hands-on practical experience using software applications. Students will refine their ability in integrating application software.

Course Title: *Career Research and Decision Making (Grade 6)*

Course Length: 1 semester

Major Concepts: The purpose of this course is to enable students explore different careers and interests that may evolve into careers. Students will create electronic career portfolios (ePEP) and track required coursework needed to meet their career and educational goals along with the focus required to meet these goals. (Required)

Course Title: *M/J Engaged Citizenship through Service Learning I, II (Grade 7,8)*

Course Length: 1 semester

Major concepts/content.

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to service-learning and civic responsibility.