

Glen Edwards Middle School

COURSE CATALOG 2022-2023



204 L Street
Lincoln, CA 95648
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The mission of Glen Edwards Middle School (GEMS) is to prepare all students for success in high school and beyond.

REGISTRATION AND COURSE PLANNING PROCEDURES:

Course planning begins in the spring for the following school year. This includes informational meetings for students and their parents, and distribution of course request materials for the following year. Prior to the fall semester, a link will be sent out for elective selection. The link will include information needed before school begins. Instructions for online enrollment, which must be completed before receiving student schedules, will be included.

Students will be asked to complete a Google Form in the Spring semester to register for their courses for the following year. We will use those course requests when scheduling students into classes.

**If the course requires an interview, you will be contacted by the teacher of that course to schedule an interview time.

Changing a student out of a course:

We will not consider removing a student from a course during the first two weeks of school. If a student would like to request a change they may do so by requesting to meet with the counselor. There has to be a compelling reason for the change, and it will be up to the discretion of the school to decide if they will change a student out of a course.

English Learner Program:

English Learners take the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). Students who have been identified as English Learners receive English Language Development (ELD) at the appropriate level of English proficiency. ELD classes are available and are designed to teach English Learners to understand, speak, read and write English and acquire the linguistic competencies that native English speakers already possess. English Language Learners will also receive specially designed instruction and may also receive primary language support to provide access to the core curriculum.

Students who are in ELD will also have an opportunity to take an enrichment elective during PAW period.

ELA and Math STRIVE:

GEMS Intervention Philosophy: The English and math intervention classes are created with “bridge-building” in mind. Students who are two grade levels or more behind with gaps in their learning in reading, writing, or various math concepts as evidenced by the criteria listed below are considered for STRIVE. Together with the teacher, students work to bridge those gaps, are given opportunities for additional practice on skills being learned, and work toward success in current academic classes. The goal of STRIVE is to accelerate student’s learning and move them into an elective class. STRIVE is not a permanent placement for students, and students can exit if they reach grade level.

Students who are in STRIVE will also have an opportunity to take an enrichment elective during PAW period.

PAW Period:

PAW is an enrichment/support program for students. It is run four times a week for forty minutes each day. Any student who is in ELD, STRIVE, or Curriculum Support will automatically have an opportunity to take an enrichment elective during PAW period. Students at or above grade level in Reading and Math will have an opportunity to take an enrichment elective. Students who are below grade level and do not meet the criteria above will be placed in a support PAW class.

Enrichment: is an opportunity for small student-to-instructor ratios. They create an environment in which students are free to explore individual interests, take full advantage of personal qualities (such as learning styles and temperaments), socialize with like minded peers, and utilize their instructor as a mentor and coach.

Support: is an opportunity for small student-to-instructor ratios to help students improve academic performance.

Glen Edwards Middle School Honors Academy

The Glen Edwards Middle School Honors Academy program is designed for students who are performing at or above grade level in their core classes and wish to excel academically. This program provides a greater depth of understanding and extended critical thinking skills as well as extension activities that may not be offered in the general education setting. Students enrolled in the honors program are surrounded by peers with similar academic interests and are typically those who plan to enroll in the college preparatory courses when they reach high school. This is an accelerated learning program that requires a significant commitment by students and their families.

Entering Criteria

The Honors Academy is available for students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. To qualify for the Honors Academy, students must meet all of the following criteria:

Incoming 6th Grade:

- Meets/Exceeds grade level standards in Math and English
- SBAC score of 3 or 4 for the previous 2 years
- Most recent I-Ready reading diagnostic score at or above grade level
- 5th grade teacher recommendation

**Parent application required

***GATE identified students/students in the First Street Elementary Academy hold priority

Incoming 7th and 8th Grade:

- Application required for readmission or new admission
- From Honors: Grade of C or better; from General Education: Grade of B or better
- Complete a writing evaluation and Math evaluation
- SBAC score of 3 or 4
- Most recent I-Ready reading diagnostic score at or above grade level
- Teacher recommendation (Math and English)

Exit Criteria

Teachers will contact the parents of any student that is meeting any of the below criteria:

1. Has a D or an F for a course grade
2. Poor work ethic (eg: Is missing assignments)
3. Is missing any major project or essay
4. Has excessive absences impacting academic performance

Parent, Teacher, and Administration will meet to discuss issues that are keeping the student from achieving and develop a work contract for the student to follow for 3 weeks.

If at the end of the 3 weeks, the student is failing to meet the contract requirements, the teacher and administration will meet to discuss removing the student from the Honors Academy.

Within the first 6 weeks of course instruction:

Students will be removed if failing to meet the contract requirements.

After 6 weeks of course instruction:

Students may be removed at the end of quarter grading periods per admin and teacher discretion if failing to meet the contract requirements.

Disclaimer: If a student is removed from the Honors Academy, they will be removed from Honors ELA, Honors Math, AND their Honors elective (if applicable).

The Honors Academy requires students to be enrolled in all honors courses as listed below:

6th Grade

Honors ELA
Honors Math
Honors Band

7th Grade

Honors ELA
Honors Math

8th Grade

Honors ELA
Honors Math

SIXTH GRADE PROGRAM

Students are enrolled for seven periods including PAW. All courses are for a full year unless otherwise indicated. Final enrollment in courses is dependent upon staffing considerations and the number of students requesting each course. If your child is designated as an English Language student they will have to take an ELD elective. Students who are two grade levels or below and are NOT in Special Education may have to take STRIVE in the subject they are deficient. Special Education students may be placed in Curriculum Support depending on what their IEP states.

REQUIRED (5 classes)

ENGLISH:

Language Arts 6
Honors Language Arts 6
SDC Language Arts

MATH:

Math 6
Honors Math 6
SDC Math

SCIENCE

Science 6
SDC Science

SOCIAL STUDIES:

Ancient World History 6
SDC Social Studies

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

PE 6

POSSIBLE ELECTIVES

BAND:

Beginning Band
Honors Band (Required for Honors Academy)
Guitar (Wheel Course)
World Drumming & Music Appreciation

AVID:

AVID 6

ART:

Beginning Art
Introduction to Art (Wheel Class)

BROADCAST JOURNALISM:

Beginning Broadcast (Interview Required)

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY:

Computer Science (Wheel Course)

LEADERSHIP:

Leadership (Interview Required)

YEARBOOK:

Yearbook (Interview Required)

SEVENTH GRADE PROGRAM

Students are enrolled for seven periods including PAW. All courses are for a full year unless otherwise indicated. Final enrollment in courses is dependent upon staffing considerations and the number of students requesting each course. If your child is designated as an English Language student they will have to take an ELD elective. Students who are two grade levels or below and are NOT in Special Education may have to take STRIVE in the subject they are deficient. Special Education students may be placed in Curriculum Support depending on what their IEP states.

REQUIRED (5 classes)

ENGLISH:

Language Arts 7
Honors Language Arts 7
SDC Language Arts

MATH:

Math 7
Honors Math 7
SDC Math

SCIENCE

Science 7
SDC Science

SOCIAL STUDIES:

World History 7
SDC Social Studies

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

PE 7

POSSIBLE ELECTIVES

BAND:

Beginning Band
Intermediate Band (Prereq: Beginning Band)
Advanced Band (Prereq: Intermediate Band)
Guitar (Wheel Course)
World Drumming & Music Appreciation

AVID:

AVID 7

ART:

Introduction to Art (Wheel Course)
Beginning Art
Intermediate Art (Requires Beginning Art)
Advanced Art (Requires Beginning Art & Interview)

BROADCAST JOURNALISM:

Beginning Broadcast (Interview Required)
Advanced Broadcast (Interview Required)

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY:

Computer Science (Wheel Course)

LEADERSHIP:

Leadership (Interview Required)

YEARBOOK:

Yearbook (Interview Required)

FINANCIAL LITERACY:

Financial Literacy

SPORTS LITERATURE & MOVIES:

Sports Literature and Movie

EIGHTH GRADE PROGRAM

Students are enrolled for seven periods including PAW. All courses are for a full year unless otherwise indicated. Final enrollment in courses is dependent upon staffing considerations and the number of students requesting each course. If your child is designated as an English Language student they will have to take an ELD elective. Students who are two grade level or below and are NOT in Special Education may have to take STRIVE in the subject they are deficient. Special Education students may be placed in curriculum support depending on what their IEP says.

REQUIRED (5 classes)

ENGLISH:

Language Arts 8
Honors Language Arts 8
SDC Language Arts

MATH:

Math 8
Math I (Honors Program)
SDC Math

SCIENCE

Science 8
SDC Science

SOCIAL STUDIES:

US History 8
SDC Social Studies

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

PE 8

POSSIBLE ELECTIVES

BAND:

Beginning Band
Intermediate Band (Prerequisite: Beginning Band)
Advanced Band (Prerequisite: Intermediate Band)

AVID:

AVID 8

ART:

Intermediate Art (Beginning Art Required)
Advanced Art (Beginning Art & Interview Required)
Ceramics

BROADCAST JOURNALISM:

Beginning Broadcast (Interview Required)
Advanced Broadcast (Interview Required)

LEADERSHIP:

Leadership (Interview Required)

YEARBOOK:

Yearbook (Interview Required)

FINANCIAL LITERACY:

Financial Literacy

SPORTS LITERATURE & MOVIES:

Sports Literature and Movies

TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

Transition to High School

ART

Introduction to Art (Grades 6th, 7th)

Semester/Wheel
Prerequisite: None

This is a class designed to start a student's basic art skills including drawing, painting and mixed media. Students will learn how to design artwork using a variety of techniques, how to develop their creativity and self-expression, and how to recognize and use the art elements (line, shape, color, value, form, texture and space), and design principles (rhythm, balance, proportion, variety, emphasis, harmony and unity).

Beginning Art (Grades 6th, 7th)

Yearlong
Prerequisite: None

This is a class designed to start a student's basic art skills including drawing, painting and mixed media. Students will learn how to design artwork using a variety of techniques, how to develop their creativity and self-expression, and how to recognize and use the art elements (line, shape, color, value, form, texture and space), and design principles (rhythm, balance, proportion, variety, emphasis, harmony and unity).

Intermediate Art (Grades 7th and 8th)

Yearlong
Prerequisite: Beginning Art

This is a class where students will explore new opportunities to develop their creativity by experimenting with a variety of art materials that may include drawing, painting, mixed media. While learning about the elements and principles of design, students will develop their drawing, painting, 3D forms, and printmaking skills. Students will study a variety of famous artists and their styles throughout history. This course is open to all students who would like to participate in a fun and creative atmosphere. Both beginning and experienced artists will be challenged in this course through a personalized learning approach that honors the connection between personal context and our world.

Advanced Art (Grades 7th and 8th)

Yearlong
Prerequisite: Beginning Art & Interview

This course is open to 7th and 8th grade students through an interview process. Students will need to have taken one semester of Beginning Art. This class is designed for students to explore and experience creative expression, critical evaluation, and a greater appreciation for the Visual Arts using drawing, painting, mixed media,

printmaking, sculpture, photography, digital media, and more. Students will be encouraged to push past their artistic boundaries while working with others to explore new art processes and discover creative ways to express their interest in art.

Ceramics (Grade 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: None

This is a class where students will discover and develop their creativity by experimenting with a variety of art materials that may include mixed media, ceramics, photographs, and digital media. Students will be given the opportunity to challenge themselves artistically while working with others to explore new art processes, and discover creative ways to express their interest in art. Both beginning and experienced artists will be challenged in this course through a personalized learning approach that honors the connection between personal context and our world.

AVID

AVID (Grade 6th, 7th, 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: Application required for 6th grade or new 7th and 8th grade students only

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic elective course and college readiness program that prepares students for college and career success. AVID is scheduled during the regular school day as a year-long elective course. Students receive instruction that utilizes a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum provided by the national AVID Center. Curriculum includes: study groups, self-awareness, leadership, public speaking, and academic success skills and strategies. In AVID, students participate in activities and work that focus on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading. Students learn to use their own individual determination to succeed in school. AVID students must want to attend a four-year college, commit to maintaining a 2.5 GPA, and maintain positive, productive, and professional standards for behavior both in class and in the general school community.

BAND / MUSIC

Beginning Band (Grade 6th, 7th, 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: None

This is an Beginning level music course designed to teach students not only how to perform music literature at a class level of 1 (of 6), but also to provide each student with a broad based musical knowledge which includes music theory, music appreciation, music history and performance skills. This is an introductory course in learning to play a wind band instrument, but welcome to all students of various levels. Students will be able to leave this course with a higher level of performance skills and musical knowledge. In this class we learn about: Personal Responsibility, Self Discipline, Perseverance, Integrity, Cooperation, Team Building, Being Respectful, Keeping a positive attitude, Self Restraint, and Having fun through hard work!

Intermediate Band (Grade 7th and 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: Beginning Band

This is an intermediate music course designed to teach students not only how to perform music literature at a class level of 2 (of 6), but also to provide each student with a broad based musical knowledge which includes music theory, music appreciation, music history and performance skills. Students will also learn to demonstrate appropriate audition skills for larger honor ensembles within the state of California. Students will be able to leave this course with a higher level of performance skills and musical knowledge. In this class we learn about: Personal Responsibility, Self Discipline, Perseverance, Integrity, Cooperation, Team Building, Being Respectful, Keeping a positive attitude, Self Restraint, and Having fun through hard work!

Advanced Band (Grade 7th and 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: Intermediate Band

This is an intermediate music course designed to teach students not only how to perform music literature at a class level of 2 to 3 (of 6), but also to provide each student with a broad based musical knowledge which includes music theory, music appreciation, music history and performance skills. Students will also learn to demonstrate appropriate audition skills for larger honor ensembles within the state of California. This is also considered the "Show Ensemble" and students will perform at rallies, events, music festivals and competitions both at and away from Glen Edwards. Students will be able to leave this course with a higher level of performance skills and musical knowledge. In this class we learn about: Personal Responsibility, Self Discipline, Perseverance, Integrity, Cooperation, Team Building, Being Respectful, Keeping a positive attitude, Self Restraint, and Having fun through hard work!

Honors Band (Grade 6th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: Honors Academy Acceptance

This is a beginning level music course designed to teach students not only how to perform music literature at a class level of 1 (of 6), but also to provide each student with a broad based musical knowledge which includes music theory, music appreciation, music history and performance skills. This is an introductory course in learning to play a wind band instrument, but welcome to all students of various levels. Students will be able to leave this course with a higher level of performance skills and musical knowledge. In this class we learn about: Personal Responsibility, Self Discipline, Perseverance, Integrity, Cooperation, Team Building, Being Respectful, Keeping a positive attitude, Self Restraint, and Having fun through hard work!

Guitar (Grade 6th and 7th)

Semester

Prerequisite: None

This is a beginning music course designed to teach students not only how to perform music literature at a class level of 1 to 2 (of 6), but also to provide each student with a broad based musical knowledge which includes music theory, music appreciation, and solo and ensemble performance. Students will learn to play guitar utilizing all 6th strings in first position, as well as learning 4-8 different chords and various strumming patterns. Within this course as well, students will research various guitarists throughout Music history. Students will be able to leave this course with a higher level of performance skills and musical knowledge.

World Drumming (Grade 6th and 7th)

Semester

Prerequisite: None

Beginning Level Music course designed to teach students not only how to perform music literature at an intro level on World Drumming instruments, but also to provide each student with a broad based musical knowledge which includes music theory, music appreciation, music history, and performance skills. Students will sing and play hand drums, bells, shakers and other percussive instruments from various world cultures as well as compose and perform pieces

Music Appreciation (Grade 6th & 7th)

Semester

Prerequisite: None

This is a beginning-level music course designed to increase students' musical awareness and give students the tools to actively listen to, discuss, and critique various styles of music. Students will gain musicianship through interactions with sound recordings, video performances, and the written history of music. Students will learn about a variety of world cultures throughout the course.

BROADCAST/JOURNALISM

Beginning Broadcast (Grades 6th, 7th and 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: None

Introduction to Broadcasting is a course designed to foster positive learning experiences while teaching the basic production techniques both behind and in front of the camera. The course is designed to involve students in the technological environment of both live and recorded video productions.

Advanced Broadcasting (Grades 7th and 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: Interview Required

This class is a media and broadcasting class designed to help students excel in various forms of media, including writing, videography, broadcasting, or public speaking. This course will have two focuses. The first is to refine the skills necessary to run a news broadcast and will cover topics such as interviewing, videography, photography, and familiarity with overall reporting. The second is to use editing software to create creative videos with a variety of topics, including a documentary, music video and other related projects. Students will organize stories and visualizations associated with those stories for presentation to the student body via TV broadcast. It is recommended that students take Beginning Broadcasting but it is not required.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science (Grades 6th, 7th and 8th)

Semester

Prerequisite: None

Explore, problem solve, and create. In the Middle School Computer Science program, students develop habits of need finding and problem-solving. Projects are supplemented by discussions, simulations, logic puzzles, games, and other activities designed to help students hone the skills and strategies of Computer Science

CURRICULUM SUPPORT

Curriculum Support (Grades 6th, 7th and 8th)

Year

Prerequisite: Special Education Student

This class is designed to help students make progress towards their academic goals in their core classes through individualized support and differentiated instruction. In addition progress on their academic goals will be monitored throughout the semester while they also receive homework support in all core classes.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Newcomer (Grades 6th, 7th and 8th)

Year

Prerequisite: Student who has recently arrived in the United States

Newcomer Class is a class that meets for one period every day. It is a course designed for English learners with little or no English proficiency and who have been in the United States for less than two years. The goal of this class is to help students acquire beginning English skills in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing; and to orient students to American schools and culture. This course is aligned with the California English Language Development Standards: Grades 6-8.

ELD 6 (Grade 6th)

Year

Prerequisite: English Language Learner

ELD Grade 6 is a class that meets for one period every day. It is a course designed to help students develop their English language proficiency in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing; and to foster the development of both academic language skills and social communication. The content of science is used as a lens for engagement in this class. The goal of ELD designated instruction is to move students toward English fluency in order for students to understand and express content in their core classes in English. This course is aligned with both the California English

Language Development Standards: Grade 6 and the California Next Generation Science Standards: Science and Engineering Practices; supports students as they progress through the three levels of English proficiency: emerging, expanding, and bridging.

ELD 7 (Grade 7th)

Year

Prerequisite: English Language Learner

ELD Grade 7 is a class that meets for one period every day. It is a course designed to help students develop their English language proficiency in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing; and to foster the development of both academic language skills and social communication. The content of science is used as a lens for engagement in this class. The goal of ELD designated instruction is to move students toward English fluency in order for students to understand and express content in their core classes in English. This course is aligned with both the California English Language Development Standards: Grade 7 and the California Next Generation Science Standards: Science and Engineering Practices; supports students as they progress through the three levels of English proficiency: emerging, expanding, and bridging.

ELD 8 (Grade 8th)

Year

Prerequisite: English Language Learner

ELD Grade 8 is a class that meets for one period every day. It is a course designed to help students develop their English language proficiency in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing; and to foster the development of both academic language skills and social communication. The content of science is used as a lens for engagement in this class. The goal of ELD designated instruction is to move students toward English fluency in order for students to understand and express content in their core classes in English. This course is aligned with both the California English Language Development Standards: Grade 8 and the California Next Generation Science Standards: Science and Engineering Practices; supports students as they progress through the three levels of English proficiency: emerging, expanding, and bridging.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

ELA Grades (6th, 7th, and 8th)

Year

Prerequisite: None

English Language Arts encompasses the Common Core Standards of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will continue to develop a level of literacy that prepares them for high school, college, and future careers. Language Arts skills will be acquired through a variety of experiences including the use of research and technology. Over the course of the year, students will engage in a variety of rigorous reading and writing activities that will prepare them to be critical thinkers and effective writers in the 21st century. Students will critically read both fiction and nonfiction texts with an emphasis on understanding and analyzing textual evidence. Students will engage in the writing process and will write argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative essays. Amplify, a rigorous online curriculum, includes selected novels and comprehensive reading and writing units, is used in 6th-8th grade. In addition, Scholastic Scope and supplemental novels and readings are utilized.

ELA Honors (Grades 6th, 7th, and 8th)

Year

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the Honors Program

The goal in language arts is to prepare students to be literate individuals who demonstrate both academic independence and interdependence, develop strong content knowledge, an understanding of multiple perspectives and cultures through literature, and use technology and media strategically. Core curriculum includes the College Board Springboard textbook, novels, and various short stories.

STRIVE ELA 6 (6th grade)

Year

Prerequisite: Two grade levels or below

STRIVE ELA Grade 6 is a class that meets for one period every day. It is a course designed to support students who are two or more grade levels below in reading. The goal of this class is to move students to grade level by developing essential skills, concepts, and vocabulary needed to meet grade level standards. This course is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy.

STRIVE ELA 7 (7th grade)

Year

Prerequisite: Two grade levels or below

STRIVE ELA Grade 7 is a class that meets for one period every day. It is a course designed to support students who are two or more grade levels below in reading. The goal of this class is to move students to grade level by developing essential skills, concepts, and vocabulary needed to meet grade level standards. This course is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Financial Literacy (Grades 7th and 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: None

This elective will provide students with introductory skills and concepts in personal and financial responsibility related to financial planning, savings, investments, and charitable giving by exploring the relationship between income and careers, money management, credit and debt management, risk management and investing, and becoming a critical consumer.

LEADERSHIP

Leadership (Grades 7th and 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: Application Required

This elective helps build student leaders. Students will learn and apply skills that include Communication, Personal Growth and Development, Government, Service Learning, and Business. Students enrolled in the course will apply these skills in dealing with peers, school administration and the community. They will plan and oversee student based activities, clubs, and events.

MATHEMATICS

Math 6 (Grade 6th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: None

Welcome to 6th grade math! Our focus this school year will be studying ratios and proportions, data analysis, fractions, equations, inequalities, and number sense that meet the common core standards. These standards will help guide your child to read, write, and communicate mathematics effectively.

Honors Math 6 (Grade 6th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the program

Grade 6 Math Honors is a course that uses Springboard Course 2 Mathematics as a resource to help guide lessons and practice. The course and instruction is defined by Common core State Standards for Mathematics and closely resembles Grade 7 Math standards. The main areas of focus include: developing understanding and application of proportional relationships, expressions, equations/inequalities, operations with rational numbers and problem solving with scale drawings and Geometrical shapes involving area, surface area and volume in addition to analyzing statistical data and sample based populations.

Math 7 (Grade 7th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: None

Grade 7 Mathematics builds upon the skills learned during the 6th-grade year. Our major focus is rational numbers, which includes integers, decimals, and fractions, and uses them in a variety of concepts and scenarios. 7th grade also has a major focus on ratios and proportional relationships and applying them to real-life situations. We gain the knowledge to solve simple and two-step equations. We also cover geometric concepts like area and volume, with an emphasis on circles. Finally, 7th grade looks at simple probability and statistical data.

Honors Math 7 (Grade 7th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the program

7th grade Honors math is a course that focuses on 8th grade standards. In the number sense, students learn about rational and irrational numbers and their approximate value. In Expressions and Equations, students will solve multi-step equations that involve different types of numbers. They will also learn about linear equations and work with them in real-life scenarios as well as understand systems of equations and how to solve them. In Functions, students will compare and model different functions and relationships and understand the difference between

them. For the geometry, students will focus on congruence and similarity between angles, shapes, and physical models. They will also learn and apply the Pythagorean Theorem. Finally, they will solve problems involving the volume of different figures like cylinders, cones, and spheres. In Statistics and Probability, students will investigate patterns and association in bivariate data.

Math 8 (Grade 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: None

Grade 8 Mathematics adheres to the Common Core State Standards. Within the school year we will focus on: The Number System- Know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers. Expressions and Equations- Work with radicals and integer exponents. Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations. Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations. Functions- Define, evaluate, and compare functions. Use functions to model relationships between quantities. Geometry- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software. Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem. Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres. Statistics and Probability- Investigate patterns and association in bivariate data.

Math 1 (Grade 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: Acceptance into the program

Integrated Math 1 is the first course in a course series. Content is integrated so that each year, students deepen their understanding of algebra and functions, statistics and probability, geometry and trigonometry, discrete mathematics, and calculus concepts. Students will experience mathematics as a means of making sense of data and problems that arise in diverse contexts.

STRIVE Math 6 (Grade 6th)

Year

Prerequisite: Two grade levels or below

STRIVE is intended for students who are 2 or more grade levels behind in their mathematics journey. The course is designed for students' annual growth to be approximately 125% from where they started at the beginning of the school year. Some students may grow more and only need to take the course one year, where others may need to take the course multiple years. Students learn through one on one, group and partner instruction in the areas of number and operations, algebra and algebraic thinking, measurement and data and geometry. This is a pass or fail class.

STRIVE Math 7 (Grade 7th)

Year

Prerequisite: Two grade levels or below

STRIVE is intended for students who are 2 or more grade levels behind in their mathematics journey. The course is designed for students' annual growth to be approximately 125% from where they started at the beginning of the school year. Some students may grow more and only need to take the course one year, where others may need to take the course multiple years. Students learn through one on one, group and partner instruction in the areas of number and operations, algebra and algebraic thinking, measurement and data and geometry. This is a pass or fail class.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education (Grades 6th, 7th, and 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: None

GEMS Physical Education provides students with the opportunity to learn a variety of sports and sport related movements as well as health and fitness concepts. Health topics relate to nutrition, fitness, health and wellness. Our program is a comprehensive CA state standards based program that encompasses individual/dual sports, team sports, fitness, team building, traditional and non-traditional activities, and lifelong fitness. Our school is very fortunate to have a Ropes Course on campus where we focus on confidence building and trust activities. Emphasis is placed on active participation and positive social interaction during fitness and sport activities. Teachers stress positivity and good sportsmanship between students. Fitness is a large component of our classes as we work on some form of cardiovascular endurance weekly. Although the classes are all unique from teacher to teacher, we all strive to meet the core values of the school.

SCIENCE

Science 6 (Grade 6th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: None

6th Grade Science engages students in scientific inquiry as they explore topics in Earth, Physical and Life Sciences. They will study the basics of the Modern Cell Theory, recognizing that all living organisms are made of cells that carry on functions to sustain life. They will explore introductory concepts of motion and energy, specifically learning about potential and kinetic energy and ways to describe and graph the motion of objects. They will explore the weather and climate. Finishing off the year with genetics. The course is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards.

Science 7 (Grade 7th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: None

7th Grade Science engages students in scientific inquiry as they explore topics in Earth, Physical and Life Sciences. They will study relationships between natural processes and human activities that cause energy to flow and matter to cycle through earth's systems. Throughout this course, students will explore the Earth's continually changing surface. They will describe Earth's interior, the patterns of change to Earth's surface and the theory of plate tectonics, focusing on the evidence that exists to support all three. The course is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards.

Science 8 (Grade 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: None

8th Grade Science engages students in scientific inquiry with a focus on Earth, Physical and Life Science content. Students will use physical science concepts to support their understanding of Earth as they investigate forces, motion, and energy, building on the foundational knowledge gained in 6th and 7th grade science courses. Students will also investigate how changes to Earth's surface impact the organisms that live on Earth. They will explore the diversity of species that exists on Earth and gather evidence of changes to life forms as they examine the fossil record. The course is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and helps prepare students to take the CAASPP science test, which is given in the spring of their 8th grade year.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Ancient World History (Grade 6th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: None

We will be studying: Geography, Current Events, Early Humans from Hunters-Gatherers to the First Farmers; Early Civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt; Ancient Hebrews, Ancient Greece; Ancient India; Ancient China and Ancient Rome. Our focus will be developing and embracing the Six Themes of each culture. They are Economics, Geography, Politics, Religion, Culture, and Technology.

World History (Grade 7th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: None

This course explores societies and cultures from 300 CE to 1750 CE allowing a worldwide perspective of global development. In the first semester, we investigate: Rome and Christendom, Persia and the Islamic World, South Asia and East Asia. The second semester, we explore: West Africa, the Americas, and Medieval Europe. Finally, we conclude the year with the ideas of a global convergence and impacts of ideas across societies and cultures. At various times during the year, a variety of relevant, educational videos will be shown and discussed. If you wish to have your child not view these, please notify your child's teacher in writing.

US History (Grade 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: None

The focus of 8th grade U.S. History is the study of the origins of our nation to Reconstruction after the Civil War. We start the year with the 13 Colonies and the American Revolution. A main focus is the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. We also look at the formation of the Early Republic and Westward movement. We conclude with events leading up to the Civil War, the Civil war itself and Reconstruction.

SPORTS LITERATURE & MOVIES

Sports in Literature and Movies (Grades 7th and 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: None

This elective is designed to appeal to students who have an affinity for sports. Students will actively engage in reading both fiction and nonfiction texts as well as watch movies that are appropriate and significant to the world of sports.

TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

Transition to High School (Grade 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: None

Transition to High School is an 8th grade elective that will equip students with skills necessary for success in high school. Throughout the course, students will receive academic and personal support. Students will also participate in self-empowerment, YDI, and real life skill activities that will help them build authentic and meaningful connections with their classmates, teachers, and school, and prepare them for the expectations of high school.

YEARBOOK

Yearbook (Grades 7th and 8th)

Yearlong

Prerequisite: Interview Required

This course is designed to develop students' skills in yearbook production by providing experiences in selected aspects of yearbook production. Students learn basic principles of yearbook production and develop skills that include writing copy, captions and headlines; digital photography; desktop publishing and using appropriate technology tools for media production.