
MACLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2022 - 2023

LANGUAGE ARTS

We are committed to having our middle school students become flexible, resilient readers who read for pleasure as well as for academic purposes. Our Language Arts curriculum includes literature selections that complement the social studies and/or science curriculum. We recognize the importance of students learning ever-growing skills, strategies, and habits to become powerful readers as they engage in reading more than just a few books throughout their middle school years.

SIXTH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

Sixth Grade Language Arts combines the study of literature, vocabulary, grammar, and composition. Over the course of the year, students will read many books and are encouraged to do as good reader's do in exploring different genres, authors, and texts. The course emphasizes the interaction between readers and text. Students will learn to ask questions, make connections with prior knowledge and previously read texts, and ask questions to clarify comprehension. We will study short stories and novels together in class and engage in projects to develop and demonstrate a deeper understanding of learned reading and writing skills.

SEVENTH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

Seventh Grade Language Arts combines the study of vocabulary, literature, grammar, usage, mechanical skills, and composition. Over the course of the year, students will read and discuss novels as well as a variety of short stories and poetry of both the contemporary and classic variety. These classes will focus on the development of critical thinking through literature discussions, reading responses and analysis, creative expression, and oral presentations, as well as a research project. The use of 21st century technology skills and reading and writing for authentic audiences and purposes will also be emphasized.

EIGHTH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

The Eighth Grade Language Arts course balances creative work with rigorous writing practice and literary analysis that not only prepares students for Upper School English but allows for the engaging exploration of literature and self. Students will express themselves critically, creatively, and collaboratively, as we interact daily with complex texts. In addition to a variety of short stories and poems, students will read and discuss various novels.

MATHEMATICS

SIXTH GRADE MATH

This course is designed to help students become better problem solvers, think mathematically, and see the relevance of mathematics in their daily lives, in their educational futures, and in their possible careers. It is an integrated, hands-on course that includes algebra, geometry, statistics, rational numbers, ratio/proportion, graphing, measurement, and technology. Computational skills are taught, reviewed, and re-enforced without the use of calculators. Students will have the opportunity to solve problems in small groups and sometimes at home with family members. Estimation skills are taught and encouraged. Mathematical concepts and skills are connected to their uses in science, business, and everyday life. This course uses the 6th Grade Eureka Curriculum.

INTRODUCTION TO PRE-ALGEBRA

Introduction to Pre-Algebra is an accelerated mathematics course for sixth grade students who thrive in a fast-paced environment dedicated to the pursuit of mathematical study. Students in this course should expect to not only cover the 6th grade mathematical concepts listed above, but also 7th grade topics in preparation for further Pre-Algebra or Algebra study. An emphasis is placed on problem solving and on deepening the level of understanding of math concepts and mathematical thinking.

PRE-ALGEBRA

Pre-Algebra is designed to give the student a strong background and foundation for the study of Algebra. Emphasis is placed on improving skills by performing the basic operations of all real numbers. Students solve equations and inequalities, graph points and lines on the coordinate axis, solve word problems, and use area, volume, and perimeter formulas, ratios, proportions, percentages, probability, and statistics. Students also learn to simplify algebraic expressions and numerical expressions. This course uses the Eureka 7th Grade Curriculum.

TOPICS IN ALGEBRA

Topics in Algebra is a course designed to cover the same topics of Algebra 1 but at a more moderate pace. This course will primarily focus on the first half of an Algebra I course, so students can develop a more concrete foundation of the prerequisite skills. The goals of the course will be to learn Algebraic connections, properties of real numbers, solving and graphing linear equations and functions, and solving and graphing linear inequalities. Students enrolled in this course will be prepared to continue their Algebra study in ninth grade.

ALGEBRA I

This course is a first-year algebra course with emphasis on variables, functions, rational numbers, equation solving, inequalities, linear equation and their graphs, systems of equations, exponents, polynomials and factoring, quadratic equations and functions, and an introduction to rational expressions and simplifying radicals.

GEOMETRY

This course is designed to develop the students' powers of deductive reasoning. Subject matter will include the study of parallelism and perpendicularity in two and three dimensions; angle measurements; congruencies and similarities of plane and solid figures; algebraic and geometric proof; logic; right triangle trigonometry and area; surface area and volume of solid figures. Strong Algebra I skills are necessary for success in this course. A scientific calculator with trigonometric functions (sin, cos, tan) is required. (This is an Upper School course. Students who complete this course in 8th grade receive an Upper School credit which will be averaged into their Upper School GPA and appear on their transcript.)

SCIENCE

SIXTH GRADE EARTH/SPACE SCIENCE

Sixth grade Earth/Space Science explores the earth in the universe, as a dynamic planet in the solar system, and as a habitat for life.

Content areas include space exploration, technology, engineering, Physics, and earth/space monitoring. We will also study astronomy, air and water, land composition and use, constructive/ destructive surface-shaping forces, geology, and ecology. Stewardship, as well as a knowledge of the earth and its resources, are stressed. This is a hands-on, inquiry-based course where collaboration and engineering skills are sharpened.

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Physical science provides students with the opportunity to construct scientific knowledge through the use of hands-on, minds-on activities. The topics covered during this year-long course provide students with a firm basis for further scientific inquiry in all areas of science. Laboratory and problem-solving activities, as well as critical thinking tasks, are presented in an attempt to prepare students for the Upper School experience. Students are encouraged to learn laboratory safety skills, use calculators, keep organized lab notebooks, and complete experiments.

SOCIAL STUDIES

SIXTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES –WORLD GEOGRAPHY

In Sixth Grade World Geography, students explore the concept of globalization and will examine the increasingly interdependent world we live in and share. They will be taught how physical geography, history and culture, as well as different forms of governments and economies affect global relationships among all countries. Through our various reading and projects, our aim is to teach students to focus on becoming critical readers, thinkers, and effective writers. Students will come to understand the land and heritage of people living in different societies that will facilitate their appreciation of the diverse cultures that exist in our world. Our unit projects will focus on the importance of the relationships between the United States and other countries. Reading current events and engaging in discussions will enable the students to be aware of our ever-changing world. In preparation for the seventh grade, a Civics unit examining differences in government will be emphasized in correlation with the U. S. Constitution.

SEVENTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES – CIVICS

The seventh-grade social studies curriculum involves a study of American government—its history, structure, evolution, and role in our daily lives. The duties, rights, and responsibilities of all citizens in the United States are examined through the use of the class text and other activities. The fourth academic quarter focuses on Florida History.

EIGHTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES – AMERICAN HISTORY

This course offers a straightforward chronological history of North America. It will cover the colonization of America, the American Revolution, the beginning of a new Republic and the growth and changes that occurred. The course will also include a survey of current affairs and primary sources as they relate to historical events and other major events in U.S. History.

WORLD LANGUAGES

SPANISH (EXPLORE)

The Explore Spanish is a nine-week course designed to introduce the students to Hispanic culture and language. This course focuses on daily life situations and cultural activities. Students will spend class time conversing and participating in role-play and other hands-on activities which are designed to stimulate cultural understanding and enjoyment for learning Spanish. At the conclusion of this class, students will have a basic appreciation for the Spanish language, its basic structures and vocabulary, and culture. Students may also be required to do a project on a Spanish-speaking country.

SPANISH (LEVEL 1A)

The Spanish Level 1A course is designed to be the equivalent to the first half of the high school Spanish I course. The goal of the course is to help each student attain an acceptable degree of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and to help him/her learn about other cultures of the world. Various approaches are taken in order to meet these goals. There are listening, written, and speaking exercises. Students are encouraged to speak frequently using open-ended activities that allow students to apply the key vocabulary and grammar in role-playing.

SPANISH (LEVEL 1B)

The Spanish Level 1B is sequential to the Spanish Level 1A course and covers the same material that is taught in the second semester of Spanish I in the high school. Students who successfully complete Spanish I will be placed into Spanish II as high school freshmen. While oral communication in the language is a priority, appropriate development of the four critical areas--reading, writing, speaking, and listening--is stressed. In particular, the composition is emphasized much more at the Spanish level 1B than previously. At this level, culture is approached in a manner that capitalizes upon the students' maturing ability to perceive the world in a social and economic context.

FRENCH (EXPLORE)

The Explore French is a nine-week introduction to the language. Students will learn basic vocabulary with an emphasis on pronunciation. They will also learn about the culture, the music, discover historical aspects of France, and do a virtual guided visit of Paris.

FRENCH (LEVEL 1A)

The French Level 1A course builds on what students have learned in Introduction to French. They will learn how to conjugate basic verbs at the present tense and continue working on their pronunciation, while still expanding their vocabulary on a variety of different topics. Through projects and activities, students will start to learn how to communicate in different situations and contexts (at a restaurant, paying for something, etc..) while still discovering more of France's pop culture, music, and history.

FRENCH (LEVEL 1B)

This course is a continuation of the material that was seen during French Level 1A. Students will learn more advanced grammar and conjugation. Students will learn their first past and future tenses, all while expanding their vocabulary bank on a variety of different topics. A focus on conversational French is also introduced this quarter through more speaking and role play activities, combining all they've learned in 7th grade. We will, of course, still learn and see various French cultural things as well as, at the end of the year, a very useful lesson on French slang.

LATIN (EXPLORE)

This nine-week course is designed to introduce students to the basics of Latin vocabulary and grammar, and ancient Roman culture (including mythology) through lessons, games, and interactive activities.

Studying Latin gives students a better understanding of how languages develop and has been shown to improve English vocabulary and grammar skills. Western culture as a whole is heavily influenced by ancient Rome and studying this past culture can give students a better appreciation of their own.

LATIN (LATIN IA)

This Latin course is the equivalent to the first semester of a high school Latin 1 course. The goal of this course is to help students develop a proficiency in reading and translating Latin. To this end, the course focuses on learning Latin vocabulary and mastering the basics of Latin grammar. Students will also learn about Roman culture, mythology, and English word derivations. All Latin students will compete in the Latin Regional Forum, and some will go on to compete at the state level. Maclay's Latin team has a record of consistently scoring in either first or second place at Regionals and in the top 10 at State. Latin, like all the languages at Maclay, is offered through high school, up to the AP level.

LATIN (LATIN IB)

This course is a continuation of the material begun in Latin 1A and covers the material taught in the second semester of Latin I in high school. Students who successfully complete Latin IB will be placed in Latin II in 9th grade. Latin, with its unique patterns of inflection and syntax and the acquisition of an extensive vocabulary, is the major focus of the course whose goal is the ability to read and translate. The extended nature of a two-year Latin I course such as this will allow us to explore Roman customs and culture, mythology, and English word derivations at a greater depth than in a standard Latin I course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

6th and 7th Grade P.E.

The Middle School Physical Education program is designed to encourage movement, physical fitness, and an appreciation of a variety of lifetime sports. Individual and team activities are used to help teach teamwork, sport specific skills and social skills used in all aspects of daily life. Grading is based upon dressing out each day, the student's effort, participation, and sportsmanship. Each student must wear the Physical Education uniform and wear it properly. Students must wear sneakers that have either laces or Velcro. Footwear must have good support and non-marking soles. Footwear such as hiking boots, wrestling shoes, heeled boots, flip flops, or sandals of any type are unacceptable. Safety and dress code are our primary concerns.

H.O.P.E. (Health Opportunities through Physical Education) – Upper School Credit Course for 8th Graders

The purpose of this course is to develop and enhance healthy behaviors that influence lifestyle choices and student health and fitness. Students will combine the learning of principles and background information in a classroom setting with physical application of the knowledge. A majority of class time will be spent in physical activity. Other course topics include: Mental/Social Health, Nutrition & Wellness Planning, Diseases & Disorders, and Health Advocacy.

LAUNCH WHEEL

Our Launch courses are designed for our sixth-grade students in order for them to learn and strengthen the skills that are necessary for success in Middle School. Students will rotate among all Launch courses throughout the school year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

Math Connections is an enrichment math course designed to supplement the instruction of our math curriculum. The course will be taught by teachers in the math department in a differentiated workshop format. This course will provide our students and teachers with the opportunity to work in small groups and one-on-one hands-on enrichment to increase math skills and assist with building math confidence.

READING WORKSHOP

Reading Workshop is a sixth-grade course that aligns with our Language Arts course in that it focuses on building reading comprehension and fluency skills. Over the course of the year, students will read from a variety of texts and genres to expand and deepen their abilities to process texts effectively. This course is designed to prepare students for increasing reading tasks and build comprehension strategies in the hopes of developing life-long readers.

SIXTH GRADE SEMINAR

This course is designed to introduce the necessary skills for student success at Maclay Middle School as they learn about our student handbook. Students will learn the importance of organization, study and note-taking skills, and character qualities. Study skill topics include organization, note taking, prioritizing, how to study, time management, and test taking skills. Character development topics include cyber safety, honesty, integrity, courtesy, cooperation, compassion, and trustworthiness.

SIXTH GRADE COMPUTER SCIENCE

The emphasis in sixth grade Computer Science is placed on essential user proficiencies, including file management, Microsoft Office & keyboarding, as well as an introduction/continuation of Coding and Computational Thinking through Code.org and Scratch. Digital Citizenship, Online Safety and Cyberbullying are key topics, as well as an open discussion 'Tech Talk' where students share their experiences and opinions/advice about various technologies.

SIXTH GRADE WELLNESS

Our Wellness course is taught by our Middle School Guidance Counselor. Students will learn about the importance of understanding their body and mind, and how to navigate through new middle school experiences. From stress management and sleep to overall wellbeing, we will explore personal health, health related attitudes and beliefs, and individual health behaviors.

LAUNCHING INTO VISUAL ARTS

This class is a basic foundations of art class. The visual arts curriculum at the Middle School is designed to bring each student the confidence and desire to create. The art curriculum offers activities in the areas of art production, art criticism, art history and aesthetics. Building on the K to 5 scope and sequence for art, students study the units of drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, clay, paper- mache and glass fusing. This class encourages independent personal artistic exploration and exposes students to significant artistic works from a wide variety of global cultures. While learning about the elements and principles of design, students will develop their drawing, painting, sculpting, and printmaking skills. A variety of famous artists and their styles throughout history will be studied.

EXPRESSIONS

Sixth Grade Expressions is a writing enrichment course that is part of the sixth grade World Language Wheel. Students will tackle a variety of different forms of writing, ultimately creating a writing portfolio. For example, students will write a narrative that will have them composing a brand-new version of a classic fairy tale, making sure to provide a major twist. As the course name indicates, artistic expression is at the heart of the matter, but we will also be reinforcing important grammar and writing concepts from language arts class. We will emphasize proofreading and editing, and students will often engage with peer groups for feedback.

INTRODUCTION TO PERFORMING ARTS

Our Introduction to Performing Arts is designed for our sixth-grade students to explore the various Performing Arts. Students will rotate among all Performing Arts courses throughout the school year.

EXPLORATORY BAND

Exploratory Band is for our students who have limited or no experience playing a band instrument. Students will be given the opportunity to learn how to play one of the following band instruments: flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone, or percussion.

EXPLORATORY ORCHESTRA

Exploratory Orchestra is for our students who have limited or no experience playing a strings instrument. Students will be given the opportunity to learn how to play one of the following instruments: violin, viola, cello, or bass.

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE ARTS

This course is designed for 6th-grade students who have an interest in exploring theater arts. Students will be introduced to the basics of theatre. This class focuses on improving self-esteem, communication skills, ensemble building, and concentration using improvisation, pantomime, movement, vocalization, and theater games. Students learn basic techniques of acting through a series of acting exercises and simple presentations. No previous experience is necessary; however, involvement in and commitment to class activities is a required element.

MODERN MUSIC PRODUCTION

Students will learn basic music theory and chord functions. Then we will explore current popular music genres while learning about the technology used to create them. Students will learn basic introductory levels on instruments such as piano and guitar, and how to use those instruments to create melodies or Harmonic structures. Students will dive into software used by professional audio engineers and producers and learn to record, edit, and export projects in a Digital Audio Workstation. With knowledge acquired in class, students will be encouraged to collaborate with others to write, edit, and produce musical projects.

B.L.U.E. (BALANCE OF LEARNING, UNDERSTANDING, AND EXPLORING) CLASSES/ ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Fine Arts

EXPLORING THROUGH STUDIO ARTS

This class is an intermediate foundations of art class. Students participate in art-making experiences that emphasize careful observation, critical thinking, and creative exploration. They are introduced to a variety of media and approaches to making art. Units covered include drawing, two- and three- dimensional design, color relationships, and printmaking. Students also look at historical and contemporary artists to broaden their appreciation and understanding of the visual arts. This art class will provide opportunities for the encouragement of creative thinking, initiative, imagination, and personal resourcefulness. Students develop their ability to make choices and express opinions through the selection and use of media, techniques, processes, and tools in individual problem-solving situations.

URBAN AND CONTEMPORARY ART

The course is a deep dive into the history of Urban and Contemporary Art. Given its “art of today” definition, you may be surprised to hear that contemporary art has a relatively long history. We will trace its evolution, by taking a look at the major movements and important artists that compose its history. Themed units in this class will explore Pop Art, Photorealism, Conceptualism, Minimalism, Performance Art, Installation Art, Earth Art and Street Art. This class will broaden their appreciation and understanding of the visual arts. **Some units may require a digital camera, cell phone, or iPad*

STUDIO ART IMMERSION INTO 3-D ART AND CERAMICS

Students participate in 3D art-making experiences that emphasize careful observation, critical thinking, and creative exploration. They are introduced to a variety of media and approaches to making art. Students will learn about the Science of clay and solve technical and creative issues using clay. Students will learn about the History of sculpture as well as basic hand building, glazing techniques and art criticism. Students will gain an understanding of the tools they are using as well as an introduction to multiple mediums and how they can work in tandem with one another. We will be working on establishing their individual creative confidence through multiple projects.

FOLK, OUTSIDER, AND FOUND OBJECT ART

The course examines the perspective and work of the following outsider artists or non-mainstream artists who are self-taught and therefore not formally trained. For example: Thornton Dial, Sam McMillan, Street Artists, Thornton Dial and many more as time permits in the semester. Creating work with non-traditional materials, paint and objects found in the environment are assembled in this type of art to express the artist's message. This class will broaden their appreciation and understanding of the visual arts.

THEATRE ARTS

This course is a continuation and progression of the Intro to Theatre Arts course and provides an avenue for artistic expression through the elements of drama and conventions of theatre.

Students will work effectively in a group, improving their self-esteem and enhancing communication skills as they continue to build an ensemble. This course provides a learning experience for which student actors will explore imagination through pantomime, movement, improvisation, storytelling, character development, monologues, and scene performances.

In addition to theater-specific skills and knowledge, students will explore and enforce public speaking, interpersonal communication, creative problem-solving, and collaboration skills, as well as social-emotional skills such as empathy, focus, and resilience.

THEATRE ARTS - ACT II

This course for students who can demonstrate a readiness for a more advanced level, as determined by the Theatre Arts teacher. Students will be given more challenging, higher-level activities involving acting, oral interpretation, technical aspects of staging performances, and audience etiquette. We will cover the core components of the theatre machine: acting, directing, playwriting, and technical theatre. By understanding the inner workings of these concepts and practices, we will also expand our knowledge of theatre history. Through performance opportunities and artistic practices, students learn to accept constructive criticism, revise personal views to promote creative and critical thinking and develop the ability to appreciate, construct and evaluate live theatre. This class may collaborate at times with our Upper School Theatre performers.

MUSICAL THEATRE

Students will study the work of the actor/singer/dancer and use their gained knowledge to develop as performers. This course is designed to give the Musical Theatre performer the essential training in various dance techniques, an understanding of the structure behind stage choreography, and an insight into the necessary showmanship and performance of that choreography.

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Music Appreciation is a course where students will explore music's various functionalities in order to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for all types of music. The course begins by examining basic music literacy and core musical elements such as melody, rhythm, harmony, form, and texture. Throughout the course, students apply their understanding through music composition and focus on music's various purposes and functions, tracking these categories through historical transformations.

EXPLORATORY BAND

Exploratory Band is open to middle school students who have limited or no experience playing a band instrument. Students will be given the opportunity to learn how to play one of the following band instruments: flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone, or percussion. There will be a \$75.00 fee to cover the cost of instrument rental. Beginners and students who previously participated in fifth grade band are welcome. Exploratory band is a one semester course.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (LEVEL 1)

Middle School Band (Level 1) is a full year course for students who have had some experience playing a band instrument and who wish to be full-time members of the Maclay Middle School Band. Students will participate in all band performances, including concerts at school, and district festivals. This class is recommended for students who have taken Fifth Grade Band or Exploratory Band. Motivated beginners are also welcome.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (LEVEL 2)

The Middle School Band (Level 2) is a full year course for students who have completed Middle School Band (Level 1) or for those who can demonstrate a readiness for a more advanced band, as determined by the band director. This class will be combined with our Upper School Band. Students will participate in all band performances, including concerts at school, and district festivals. Students may also audition for All-District and All-State Bands. A variety of music will be performed.

EXPLORATORY ORCHESTRA

Exploratory Orchestra is for our students who have limited or no experience playing a strings instrument. Students will be given the opportunity to learn how to play one of the following instruments: violin, viola, cello, or bass.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA (LEVEL 1)

Middle School Orchestra (Level 1) is a full-year course for students who have had some experience playing a strings instrument and who wish to be full-time members of the Maclay Middle School Orchestra. Students will participate in some performances, including concerts at school, and district festivals. This class is recommended for students who have taken Fifth Grade Strings or Exploratory Orchestra. Motivated beginners are also welcome.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA (LEVEL 2)

The Middle School Orchestra (Level 2) is a full-year course for students who have completed Middle School Orchestra (Level 1) or for those who can demonstrate a readiness for a more advanced level, as determined by the Orchestra director. This class will be combined with our Upper School Orchestra. Students will participate in all performances, including concerts at school, and district festivals. A variety of music will be performed.

MODERN MUSIC PRODUCTION

In this course, we will examine the many facets of creating music in a modern setting. Students will learn basic music theory and chord functions. Then we will explore current popular music genres while learning about the technology used to create them. Students will learn basic introductory levels on instruments such as piano and guitar, and how to use those instruments to create melodies or Harmonic structures. Students will dive into software used by professional audio engineers and producers and learn to record, edit, and export projects in a Digital Audio Workstation. With knowledge acquired in class, students will be encouraged to collaborate with others to write, edit, and produce musical projects.

STEM

ROBOTICS

The course will cover principles of robot design, engineering, troubleshooting, robotic sensors and computer programming using the Lego Mindstorms Education software. Both a mathematical and an experimental approach are used in solving designed (and sometimes unexpected) problems and challenges. This class will be an open lab environment with total hands-on learning, experimentation, and collaboration of ideas. Students will design, build, program, and troubleshoot their robots, culminating in a couple of project-based competitions – One utilizes the FIRST LEGO LEAGUE Challenges, complete with Tournament Mission Board and Modules. The other is a Robo Sumo battle competition where the creative design component really comes into play.

COMPUTER SCIENCE DISCOVERIES

This is an introductory computer science course that emphasizes problem-solving, creation, and collaboration. The curriculum includes Programming, Physical Computing, Building Websites, Apps, Animations, and Games. The course consists of 6 Units - Problem-Solving, Web Development, Interactive Animations and Games, Design Process, Data and Society, and Physical Computing.

VEX ROBOTICS

Students build, code, and manipulate their own Robot designs designed to complete various challenges and objectives. VEX Educational robotics allows students to practice the engineering design process. They learn to work within constraints, identify multiple solutions to problems, and find the best possible solution through exploration and iteration. This course is conceptually similar to the Robotics course, but with completely different Hardware, software and more advanced challenges, potentially leading to a competitive team.

INTRODUCTION TO AVIATION, AERONAUTICS, AND SPACE FLIGHT

Part of our mission for this elective is to make learning about science, engineering, math, and technology FUN. This is an elective for students who may want to compete in the Kennedy Space Center Student Astronaut Challenge in early 2023, or for any students simply wanting to learn more about aviation, aeronautics, and space flight. It will include a variety of lessons introducing topics including Aircraft Systems, Aerodynamics, Flight Instruments, Virtual Flight, Airports, Radio Communication, Aviation Weather, Performance and Navigation. The elective is also focused on learning about the Space Flight Simulator which was designed to replicate the retired NASA Space Shuttle. The students will learn to perform pre-flight operation, launch, orbit, in-mission emergencies, and landing of the Space Shuttle via the flight simulator.

Humanities

MYTHOLOGY

In this class, students will learn about different categories of myths and about the cultures those myths belong to. We will discuss what factors influence a culture's mythology and read and talk about the myths. This is a hands-on, interactive class designed for students who are learning about mythology for the first time as well as for those who are interested in learning more about the subject.

LOGIC & DEBATE

Have you ever seen a commercial that claims “4 out of 5 doctors recommend our product!”? Did you think to ask what kind of doctors were asked? Did they ask medical doctors? PhD’s in English? Veterinarians? Without that information, you can’t make an informed decision about the claim. Students will learn how to create effective arguments, how to test arguments for validity, and recognize and use persuasion techniques. This a great course for anyone who loves to debate!

DISCOVERY PROGRAM

Our Discovery Program is designed for our seventh and eighth grade students who wish to pursue their passions. The courses in the Discovery program contain a rigorous collection of content designed to allow highly motivated learners to select a path to either discover STEM or discover Humanities further. Throughout the first semester, students will take a deep dive into each course along their chosen path. During the second semester, students will engage in a culminating project of their own design focused on an interest discovered during their coursework. These projects, completed in partnership with community members and Discovery teachers, will give students real world practice in research, written, and spoken expression all while learning more about topics that inspire them. Students will be expected to present in a Spring Consortium toward the end of the school year. This is a year long program.

The Path to Discover STEM:

ENGINEERING DESIGN

The course will cover principles of Computer Science including skills to prepare for what will be expected at the next level such as file management, office proficiency, e-mail and Internet safety, plus, the concepts of Computer Science and Coding through both unplugged and on-line activities. Development of critical/creative thinking skills and troubleshooting will also be heavily reinforced. Students will be given the opportunity to look for ways in which learners can explore science, engineering, art, and technology by designing and building projects, solving problems, and creating personally meaningful solutions to their own goals.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DESIGN

This is an exciting class that allows students to explore a science or engineering topic of their choice. Students will design and complete their investigation under the direct supervision of a teacher. The class will cover the basics of research design, the scientific method, and scientific inquiry.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

The Environmental Design course will provide students with the skills to understand, analyze, and solve problems with a view toward community planning, physical development, and the design of sustainable environments. Students will learn to confront and celebrate nature as they engage in annotating and analyzing to become critical thinkers.

The Path to Discover Humanities:

COMMUNITY OUTREACH THROUGH ARTS

COTA challenges students to examine their community and its needs, then address those needs through arts initiatives. Students will learn how art promotes communication between cultures, preserves history, changes people's opinions, and how it preserves the feelings of a culture. Students will collaborate to understand how art impacts communities.

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

This course focuses on learning the elements of journalism, public speaking, and interpersonal communication. Students who are interested in developing a podcast or YouTube channel can explore researching, writing, editing, and recording their own informative content. Every student will be responsible for working with a team to brainstorm ideas for stories, research, conduct interviews, write copy, and edit copy.

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

This writing enrichment course is designed to provide students with additional instruction and writing experience. Each student is encouraged to try new techniques and experiment with developing a personal voice in writing as they learn to think and read like writers and, in so doing, are exposed to writing as a culture. The course intends to spark students' creative passions.