



Prepare | Explore | Empower

2022 - 2023

**The Academy
Middle School
Course Catalog**

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Academy serves our students to develop college ready, exemplary citizens by promoting excellence in academics, character and relationships.



Prepare | Explore | Empower

The Academy Middle School serves students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Particular focus in the 7th grade is given toward successfully transitioning students from an elementary to a secondary environment while providing exposure to a number of different areas (Transition Skills, Computer Coding, Theater, and Graphic Design). The 8th grade courses provide further opportunities for students to explore their passions and interests while also preparing them for success in High School and beyond.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Courses

- Math - *Each student is placed in his/her math class based upon the end of year assessment and teacher recommendation.
- Social Studies 7 OR 8
- Science 7 OR 8
- English 7 OR 8
- Physical Education *One semester may be waived if a student is in two sports with a minimum of 5 hours/week, plus games for the entire semester.
- Summit

Elective Courses – Seventh grade students choose a total of 1.5 (or 2.0 if waiving PE) credits worth of elective courses. Below is a list of possible choices. Typically, each course is only taken once except for courses like music, language courses, and support classes.

Year-long Electives	Semester Electives
MS Chamber Orchestra	MS Advanced P.E.
MS Choir	MS Advanced Science (Forensics)
MS Intro to Spanish 1, part 1	MS Art Foundation
MS Intro to Spanish 1, part 2	MS Foundations of Theater Arts
MS Jazz	MS Games and Programming I and II
MS Math Enrichment	MS Guitar (8th grade only)
MS Sinfonia Orchestra	MS Health
MS Symphonic Band	MS P.E.
MS Yearbook	MS Theater Arts Productions

THE ACADEMY

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH

MS ENGLISH 7

MSENG 700A/B

Open to Grade: 7

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

This course focuses intensively on writing, speaking, listening, and reading while using our pillars of Character Education. Students will focus on the structure of various types of essays including persuasive, research, narrative, and literary analysis using The Academy's 6-12 Common Writing Rubrics Program. Grammar instruction is woven throughout the course in each unit. Students will also be required to complete projects, speeches, and performances as we move through units on novels, short stories, and poetry. These activities will expand student knowledge of literary elements, vocabulary, authors, and literature while preparing them for the demands of higher education. Focusing on rigor and student accountability, we will continuously strive to become more critical readers, thinkers, and decision makers through our choice reading selections.

MS ENGLISH 8

MSENG 800A/B

Open to Grade 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

8th Grade English, the on-grade level reading/writing course, is based on The Colorado Academic Standards. Texts used include a range of genres: plays, short stories, and novels. Students will focus on the structure of various types of essays including persuasive, research, narrative, and literary analysis using The Academy's 6-12 Common Writing Rubrics. Grammar instruction is woven throughout the course in each unit. 8th Grade English is designed to thoroughly prepare students for high school literature and writing courses.

MS YEARBOOK

MSELE 901A/B

Open to Grades 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: Yes

In this elective course, students create and publish the junior high school yearbook. Students must be self-motivated, willing to follow directions, and committed to creating a first-class publication. All staff members are responsible for all aspects of publication: journalism ethics, interviewing, writing, editing, photography, computer publishing, graphic design, advertising, sales, printing, and distribution. Meeting deadlines is a must. Although strong writing and computer skills are ideal, we need a wide range of abilities on staff. The best skills are a sense of fun, good work ethic, creativity, and commitment to making them great!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

MS MATH 7

MSMAT 700A/B

Open to Grade 7

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

Math 7 follows the Pearson EnVision Math 2.0 6th -8th grade curriculum. The course extends students' understanding of numbers and computation to include integers and proportional reasoning. It covers basic algebraic reasoning and it will prepare students for future

algebra based understandings. All concepts and skills are presented in the context of problem solving and applied to the real world. Students that complete this course typically move to Math 8 the following year.

MS MATH 7 ACCELERATED

MSMAT 702A/B

Open to Grade 7

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: Yes *Note: Teacher recommends previous course grade of C or better, if a D was earned, it is highly recommended that the student retake the course or be concurrently enrolled in Math Enrichment.*

Math 7 Accelerated follows the Pearson EnVision Math 2.0 6th-8th grade curriculum. This course is an introduction to basic algebra concepts and a review of foundational arithmetic algorithms. The course emphasizes the concepts necessary to be successful in Algebra I and II. The course helps students develop good mathematical study skills and learning strategies. Students that complete this course typically move to Algebra 1 the following year.

MS MATH ENRICHMENT 7

MSMAT 701A/B

Open to Grades 7

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: Students are assigned to this class based on Principal/Teacher recommendation.

Math Enrichment is a year-long class to get extra practice, answer questions, and get help with math homework. This class will take the place of one or two electives, however students will still get their #1 elective or a language or music class, if that was requested.

The structure of the class is three-pronged:

1. Students will receive individualized lessons through an online program that will help to identify and build upon gaps in math.
2. The MS math teachers work collaboratively to align lessons so that Math Enrichment students get extra time and instruction on upcoming and previous topics being covered in their math class. The class utilizes EnVision 2.0 curriculum resources and methods, among other creative approaches.
3. Math Enrichment provides more individualized help on math homework.

We will be reviewing students' progress on a regular basis. Students who are achieving consistently at a mastery level may be moved out of the class, allowing for other students to enter who may need an increased level of math support.

MS ALGEBRA I

MSMAT 900A/B

Open to Grades 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: MS Math 8

Teacher Recommendation: No *Note: Teacher recommends previous course grade C or better, if a D was earned it is highly recommended that the student retake the course or be concurrently enrolled in Math Enrichment.*

The Algebra I class follows the Pearson EnVision Math 2.0 Algebra I curriculum. This course is an in depth study of algebraic concepts which include solving and graphing different types of equations and inequalities; manipulating and transforming equations and expressions; and utilizing the concepts learned to apply them to real world problems. Students will also begin the study of quadratic, exponential, and polynomial functions. This course is required for graduation.

MS GEOMETRY

MSMAT 901A/B

Open to Grade 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 (TI 83 or TI 84 calculator required)

Teacher Recommendation: No *Note: Teacher recommends previous course grade C or better, if a D was earned it is highly recommended that the student retake the course or be concurrently enrolled in Math Enrichment.*

The Geometry class is a comprehensive study of plane Geometry. Students must have a solid foundation in Algebra I, as this class has Algebra skills interwoven throughout the course. Topics covered include: tools of Geometry, reasoning and proof, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent triangles, right triangles and trigonometry, quadrilaterals, area surface, volume, similarity, transformations and circles.

MS MATH 8

MSMAT 800A/B

Open to Grades, 7, 8 (TI 83 or TI 84 calculator required)

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: MS Math 7

Teacher Recommendation: No

Math 8 follows the Pearson Envision Math 2.0 6th-8th grade curriculum. This course is designed to provide a pathway to Algebra I by increasing students' understanding of real numbers, manipulation and solving of equations, utilizing functions to model real world relationships, congruence and similarity and application of the Pythagorean Theorem. All concepts and skills are presented in the context of problem solving and application to the real world. Students that complete this course typically move to Algebra I.

MS MATH ENRICHMENT 8

MSMAT 801A/B

Open to Grades 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: Students are assigned to this class based on Principal/Teacher recommendation.

Math Enrichment is a year-long class to get extra practice, answer questions, and get help with math homework. This class will take the place of one or two electives, however students will still get their #1 elective or a language or music class, if that was requested.

The structure of the class is three-pronged:

4. Students will receive individualized lessons through an online program that will help to identify and build upon gaps in math.
5. The MS math teachers work collaboratively to align lessons so that Math Enrichment students get extra time and instruction on upcoming and previous topics being covered in their math class. The class utilizes EnVision 2.0 curriculum resources and methods, among other creative approaches.
6. Math Enrichment provides more individualized help on math homework.

We will be reviewing students' progress on a regular basis. Students who are achieving consistently at a mastery level may be moved out of the class, allowing for other students to enter who may need an increased level of math support.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

MS ADVANCED SCIENCE/FORENSICS (elective)

MSSCI 900

Open to Grades 7, 8

Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: Yes *Note: Teacher recommends previous course grade C or better, if a D was earned it is highly recommended that the student retake the course or be concurrently enrolled in Math Enrichment.*

In the Advanced Science-Forensics class, junior high students will have the opportunity to use science skills they have learned to practice solving crimes like the real CSI. They will see how the science disciplines of physics, chemistry, anatomy, cell biology, environmental science and computer science are used together to solve crimes during this semester-long class. Topics covered will include crime scene and eyewitness basics, physical evidence including fingerprints, impressions, hair and fibers and chromatography, and blood basics examining blood types and blood spatters from a mock crime scene.

MS SCIENCE 7

MSSCI 700A/B

Open to Grade 7

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

Science 7 includes the standards based curriculum where students will engage in learning about cellular structure and functions, ecology and ecosystems, populations, human impacts on the biosphere, human body systems and functions, heredity, modern genetics, the theory of evolution, and chemistry within biology. The scientific method, laboratory techniques and safety are also covered.

MS SCIENCE 8**MSSCI 800A/B****Open to Grade 8****Yearlong Course****Prerequisite: None****Teacher Recommendation: No**

Science 8 follows both Colorado Academic Standards as well as the Next Generation Science Standards. Topics include measurement, chemistry, physics, Earth science, conservation biology and a review of concepts taught in 7th grade. The scientific curriculum uses project-based learning and inquiry to develop curiosity among our scholars. As the year concludes, students will have the knowledge of a variety of scientific disciplines to guide their interests throughout their academic careers. This course covers topics at a more challenging level than previous years as Science 8 focuses on developing students into critical thinkers by investigating the world around them.

MS STEM AND CREATIVE ENGINEERING**MSELE 917A/B****Open to Grades 6, 7, 8****Semester Course****Prerequisite: None****Teacher Recommendation: No**

This course will provide students an opportunity to explore, design, and create through a series of STEM-related projects. Each project will require students to plan, design, test, reflect, and refine before submitting their final product. Students in this course will also practice working in groups, collaborating on projects while meeting deadlines, and communicating as a team.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

MS SOCIAL STUDIES 7**MSSOC 700A/B****Open to Grade 7****Yearlong Course****Prerequisite: None****Teacher Recommendation: No**

History 7 covers a variety of ancient cultures in the context of state standards. We study ancient cultures such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, Rome, and transition to more recent societies like Medieval Europe. In each culture we discuss elements of government, culture, religion, geography, and economics. Students will discuss how historians learn and interpret primary sources/artifacts to better understand ancient cultures and to create a historical argument. Class is instructor based with some group work, projects, and a focus on independent study outside of the classroom. This course covers historical topics at a faster pace and a more challenging level.

MS SOCIAL STUDIES 8**MSSOC 800A/B****Open to Grade 8****Yearlong Course****Prerequisite: MS Social Studies 7****Teacher Recommendation: No**

Through the lens of history 8th graders will learn and apply skills in the areas of Geography, Economics, and Civics, among others. Students will continue to build on skills practiced in 7th grade Social Studies, such as creating a historical argument, researching, map reading, and primary source analysis. Class is instructor based with some group work, projects, and a focus on independent study outside of the classroom. This course covers topics at a faster pace and a more challenging level.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

MS GAMES & PROGRAMMING 1

MSELE 902

Open to Grades 7, 8

Semester Course

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Teacher Recommendation: No

Students will learn computational thinking and problem solving skills to create a series of video games. This course serves as an introduction to working with code, variables, and game design. Python software will be used to design and program games.

MS GAMES & PROGRAMMING 2

MSELE 903

Open to Grades 7, 8

Semester Course

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra and MS Games & Programming 1

Teacher Recommendation: No

Students will learn computational thinking and problem solving skills to create a series of video games. This course serves as an introduction to working with code, variables, and game design. Python software will be used to design and program games.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

MS ART FOUNDATIONS

MSELE 907

Open to Grades 7, 8

Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

This course covers a broad range of 2D and 3D media skills as well as an overview of art history from Classical to Contemporary Periods. Students build upon their drawing, painting, and sculpting skills while being introduced to new skills, methods, and media that connect to historical art movements and traditions. In addition to studio projects, students engage analytically with art, learning how to look critically and communicate clearly about the art of professionals, their peers, and their own.

MS FOUNDATIONS OF THEATER ARTS

MSELE 908

Open to Grades 7, 8

Semester Course (semester 1)

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

This course is intended for students to develop their understanding of the theater and theatrical works. Students will create their own short plays, develop and perform scripted scenes, explore all elements of technical theater, practice acting techniques for film, and play a variety of improvisation games. The course is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. It may be taken multiple times (basic content is the same, but students will never create the same scene or perform/design the same scripted scene).

MS THEATER ARTS PRODUCTION

MSELE 909

Open to Grades 7, 8

Semester Course (semester 2)

Prerequisite: Foundations of Theater Arts or participating in a play at The Academy

Teacher Recommendation: No

This course is an introduction to creating a theatrical production. Students will create a short performance based on adapting a traditional fairy or folk tale into a production or use a pre-written script. Students in this class may choose either the performance track or the technical theater track (tech theater spots are limited to 3 students). Performers will act in the play and technical theater students will design and run the production. Students must have taken Foundations of Theater Arts (or any MS Theater Arts Class at the Academy) or have participated in a play at the Academy. *This course may be taken multiple times, as we will never put on the same production twice.*

MS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

MSELE 912A/B

Open to Grades 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: Sinfonia Orchestra or Director Approval

Teacher Recommendation: None

Chamber Orchestra is the advanced large string ensemble offered for secondary students at The Academy. An audition is required to register for this class and should be scheduled with the director prior to course scheduling. Students in Chamber Orchestra will continue to develop advanced musicianship, technique, and skills begun in prior large ensemble classes. Students will also have additional performance opportunities including annual performance at the CHSAA music festival, trips and more. Rehearsals and performances occurring outside regular school hours are a required part of this course. Students are expected to have access to a high-quality instrument and supplies. This course can be repeated for credit.

MS CHOIR

MSELE 913A/B

Open to Grades 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

Junior High Choir is a performance-based class designed to foster musical appreciation and students' improvement as vocalists. Students will be guided through elements of pitch recognition, music literacy, and the voice changes that students of this age are experiencing. The choir will sing a wide repertoire of music for various concerts and occasions. Students in Junior High Choir are preparing for singing in high school ensembles. Rehearsals and performances regularly occurring outside regular school hours are a required part of this course. This course can be repeated for credit.

MS CONCERT BAND

MSELE 919 A/B

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: 1+ years on a band instrument

Teacher Recommendation: Yes

Concert Band is a non-auditioned large band ensemble offered for middle school students at The Academy. In this course, students continue to develop musicianship and skills begun in earlier band classes. Students will also be given additional performance opportunities including an annual off-campus music festival performance. An audition is not required to register for this class, but students should have at least one year experience on a wind or percussion instrument or have approval of the director. Rehearsals and performances occurring outside regular school hours are a required part of this course. It is expected that students will have access to a high-quality instrument and supplies. This course can be repeated for credit.

MS GUITAR

MSELE 803

Open to Grade 8

Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

This semester-long course is designed for beginning and experienced guitar students alike. Students will learn how to read standard musical notation, chord diagrams, and tablature. Students will gain experience in a variety of playing styles including finger-picking, pick technique, and strumming. Students will also compose and arrange music and play in formal concerts and jam sessions. Performances occurring outside regular school hours are a required part of this course. Students are required to own their own personal guitar (acoustic guitars only). This course may not be repeated for credit except on a case-by-case basis.

MS JAZZ (zero period)

MSELE 921A/B

Open to Grades 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: 1+ years on a band instrument

Teacher Recommendation: Yes

Fee: \$25.00 per semester

Jazz II is designed to develop advanced musical techniques and skills specific to the various jazz styles along with a cultural and historical understanding of jazz in American history. An audition is not required to register for this class, but students should have at

least one-year experience on a jazz-related instrument or receive approval from the director. Performances occurring outside regular school hours are also required as part of this course. It is expected that students will have access to a high-quality instrument and supplies. This course can be repeated for credit.

MS SINFONIA ORCHESTRA

MSELE 915A/B

Open to Grades 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: 2+ years on a string instrument

Teacher Recommendation: No

Sinfonia Orchestra is an intermediate string ensemble offered for secondary students at The Academy. An audition is not required in order to register for this class, but students should have at least years' experience on a string instrument or have approval of the director. In this course, students continue to develop musicianship, technique, and skills begun in prior large ensemble classes. Students will also be given additional performance opportunities including an annual off-campus music festival performance. Rehearsals and performances occurring outside regular school hours are a required part of this course. Students are expected to have access to a high-quality instrument and supplies. This course can be repeated for credit.

MS SYMPHONIC BAND

MSELE 916A/B

Open to Grades 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: 2+ years on a band instrument

Teacher Recommendation: No

Symphonic Band is a non-auditioned large band ensemble offered for secondary students at The Academy. In this course, students continue to develop musicianship and skills begun in prior large ensemble classes. Students will also be given additional performance opportunities including an annual off-campus music festival performance. An audition is not required to register for this class, but students should have at least two years' experience on a wind or percussion instrument or have approval of the director. Rehearsals and performances occurring outside regular school hours are a required part of this course. It is expected that students will have access to a high-quality instrument and supplies. This course can be repeated for credit.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NON-DEPARTMENTAL COURSES

MS RESOURCE 7

MSELE 701A/B

Open to Grade 7

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

This is an assigned classroom for students on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) to receive direct instruction from a learning specialist to meet their IEP goals as per their service minutes. The small group setting is for one-on-one help and time to organize materials to ensure success in secondary grades.

MS RESOURCE 8

MSELE 801A/B

Open to Grade 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

This is an assigned classroom for students on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) to receive direct instruction from a learning specialist to meet their IEP goals as per their service minutes. The small group setting is for one-on-one help and time to organize materials to ensure success in secondary grades.

MS PRIDE TIME

MSELE 900

Open to Grades 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

Pride time is a required class for all 7-12 grade students. This course impacts student GPA. Pride time is dedicated time for students to practice reading strategies, social and leadership skills, test-taking skill building (especially the ACT), personal financial literacy, and college and future preparation. Students also spend time focused on guided class support, grade conferences and completing community service activities. Some resources used include Family Connection, NEWSOLA online non-fiction news, DEAR reading, [Film Clips for Education](#), and [Princeton ACT Review](#). All aspects of Pride time directly relate to The Academy's Strategic Plan.

SUMMIT 7

MSELE 728A/B

Open to Grade 7

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

This course will provide students with the necessary skills in order to ensure success in all academic courses. This course emphasizes the Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens, College and Career planning, 3.0 or above GPA focus, and executive skills necessary to succeed in middle school and beyond. The Summit will be staffed with grade level teachers in core subject areas, counselors, and grade level principals. Students will create an individualized academic pathway based on interests, leadership skills, and mastery levels.

SUMMIT 8

MSELE 800A/B

Open to Grade 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

This course will provide students with the necessary skills in order to ensure success in all academic courses. This course emphasizes the Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens, College and Career planning, 3.0 or above GPA focus, and executive skills necessary to succeed in middle school and beyond. The Summit will be staffed with grade level teachers in core subject areas, counselors, and grade level principals. Students will create an individualized academic pathway based on interests, leadership skills, and mastery levels.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All 7th and 8th graders are required to take physical education in Junior High. Those students who desire additional credits as electives may choose to take additional classes in 7th grade, 8th grade or both.

MS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

MSELE 905

Required for Grades 7, 8

Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

We will continue to progress with the knowledge learned in Elementary PE with breakdown, review and further development of basic sport skills and rules. We will learn the basics of fitness and healthy practices through assessing our own abilities. You will also leave with the knowledge of teamwork, responsibility, cooperation and how to make your own goals and take steps to achieve them. Some activities that we may do each year, weather permitting, are Team Sports (Volleyball, Flag Football, Basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, Softball, Floor Hockey, Lacrosse, and Soccer) and Lifetime/Individual Sports (Badminton, Pickleball, Frisbee Golf, Track and Field). All 7th and 8th grade classes will include Pre, Mid and Post Fitness Testing.

MS ADVANCED PE COED

MSELE 906

Open to Grades 7, 8

Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

Introduction to Strength, Flexibility, Speed and Endurance Training. This class provides an opportunity for those students who would like an introduction to the weight room to prepare for future high school sports and/or personal fitness goals. Students will be taught weight room protocols, safety practices and proper techniques for utilizing equipment in The Academy Weight Room or any other fitness center, club or athletic performance facility. Students will be evaluated on their individual ability to properly and safely execute those techniques.

MS HEALTH

MSELE 904

Open to Grades 7, 8

Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

Middle School Health is an elective course that both 7th and 8th grade boys and girls can choose. The main focus of this class is to highlight challenges students may face in coming into their young adult years and offer tools to help them make informed decisions.

We will be covering the following topics:

- Introduction to Health- What is Health and what skills do I need to be healthy?
- Bullying and Cyberbullying, Conflict Resolution- How can I identify and stop bullying and conflict?
- Mental and Emotional Health: What is good mental health and what challenges might I face now and in the future?
- Physical Activity and Body Systems: How does my body work and respond to exercise?
- Personal Health Care- How do I care for my body in order to prevent illness and disease?

MIDDLE SCHOOL WORLD LANGUAGE

MS INTRO TO SPANISH 1, PART 1

MSWLA 900A/B

Open to Grades 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

This is the beginning level Spanish class. Students will learn high frequency words in present tense grammar. By the end of the year, students will be able to speak, read, write and listen at a Novice-Mid level.

MS INTRO TO SPANISH 1, PART 2

MSWLA 901A/B

Open to Grades 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: If a student wants to move from Intro to Span 1, pt 2, the requisite will be to have earned a 'C' or higher otherwise will have to repeat Spanish I in high school.

Teacher Recommendation: No

Intro to Spanish 1, Part 2 is the second half of Intro to Spanish I Part 1. Students will continue to develop higher levels of reading and writing skills as they build vocabulary and fluency. Upon completing Intro to Spanish 1 Part 2, students will be prepared for high school Spanish 2. If a student wants to move from Intro to Spanish I Part 2, the requisite will be to have earned a "C" or higher. Otherwise the student will have to repeat Spanish 1 in high school.