



Prepare | Explore | Empower

2023 - 2024

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 6th grade is given toward successfully transitioning students from an elementary to a secondary environment while providing exposure to a number of different areas (Fine and Performing Arts, STEM, Leadership and more). The 7th and 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 6, 7, or 8 - *Each student is placed in his/her math class based upon current math class and assessment data (STAR / MAPS)
- Social Studies 6, 7, or 8
- Science 6, 7, or 8
- English 6, 7, or 8
- MS Pride Time 6, 7, or 8

Elective Courses – Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students may take up to a total of 4 semesters worth of elective courses. Below is a list of possible choices.

Year-long Electives	Semester Electives
MS Choir	MS Advanced P.E.
MS Concert Band	MS Art Foundation
MS Concert Orchestra	MS Foundations of Theater Arts
MS Intro to Spanish 1, part 1	MS Games and Programming I
MS Intro to Spanish 1, part 2	MS Games and Programming II
MS Jazz	MS P.E.
MS Resource	MS STEM and Creative Engineering
MS Sinfonia Orchestra	MS Theater Arts Productions
MS Student Leadership	
MS Symphonic Band	
MS Yearbook	

THE ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH

MS ENGLISH 6

MSENG 600A/B

Open to Grade: 6

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

MS English 6 builds upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and includes the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking and listening. 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 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 6, 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 6

MSMAT 600A/B

Open to Grade 6

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Math 6 follows the Pearson EnVision Math 2.0 6th -8th grade curriculum. This course focuses on the central concepts of the Math 6 curriculum and 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 7 the following year.

MS MATH 6 ACCELERATED

MSMAT 602A/B

Open to Grade 6* (Please see Prerequisite below)

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: Top combined score from end of year 5th grade math assessment and STAR Math score

Math 6 Accelerated follows the Pearson EnVision Math 2.0 6th -8th grade curriculum. This course is faster paced than the Math 6 course and covers all units of the Math 6 curriculum. Students will also be introduced to some of the concepts from Math 7 as an introduction to basic algebra concepts and a review of foundational arithmetic algorithms. The course emphasizes the concepts necessary to be successful in Math 7 Accelerated the following year. For students to advance to Math 7 Accelerated, they must demonstrate grade level proficiency on the winter math MAPS assessment (RIT=222) and maintain above an 80% in the Math 6 Accelerated course.

MS MATH 7

MSMAT 700A/B

Open to Grade 7

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Math 7 follows the Pearson EnVision Math 2.0 6th -8th grade curriculum. The course focuses on the fundamental concepts of the Math 7 curriculum and 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. Students that complete this course typically move to Math 8 the following year.

MS MATH 7 ACCELERATED

MSMAT 702A/B

Open to Grade 7* (Please see Prerequisite below)

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: Grade Level Proficiency on Winter MAPS Math Assessment (222) and and 80% or Higher in previous math course

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. For students to advance to MS Algebra I the following year, students must demonstrate grade level proficiency on the Winter MAPS Math assessment (RIT = 226) and maintain above an 80% in the Math 7 Accelerated course.

MS MATH 8

MSMAT 800A/B

Open to Grade 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: MS Math 7

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 the following year.

MS ALGEBRA I**MSMAT 900A/B****Open to Grade 8* (Please see Prerequisite below)****Yearlong Course****Prerequisite: Grade Level Proficiency on Winter MAPS Math Assessment (226) and an 80% or Higher in previous math course**

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. Taking this course does not result in earning High School credits, but does allow students to enroll in Geometry as a 9th grade student. For students to advance to Geometry the following year, students must demonstrate grade level proficiency on the Winter MAPS Math assessment (RIT = 230 or higher) and maintain an 80% in the MS Algebra I course.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

MS SCIENCE 6**MSSCI 600A/B****Open to Grade 6****Yearlong Course****Prerequisite: None****Teacher Recommendation: No**

Science 6 follows the standards-based HMH curriculum where students will engage in learning about physical science, life science and earth systems science.

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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

MS SOCIAL STUDIES 6

MSSOC 600A/B

Open to Grade 6

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

History 6 covers Western World Geography through the HMH Curriculum in the context of the state standards. We focus on the topics of history, geography, economics and civics within the Western Hemisphere. Students will analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources to ask and research historical questions about the Western Hemisphere. We will research historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas, and themes within regions of the Western Hemisphere and their relationships with one another. They will use geographic tools and resources to research and make geographic inferences and predictions about the Western Hemisphere.

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 STEM

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.

MS GAMES & PROGRAMMING 1**MSELE 902****Open to Grades 6, 7, 8****Semester Course****Prerequisite: None****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 6, 7, 8****Semester Course****Prerequisite: 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 6, 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 6, 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 6, 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 CHOIR

MSELE 913A/B

Open to Grades 6, 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 CONCERT ORCHESTRA

MSELE 918A/B

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: 1+ years on a string instrument or director approval

Teacher Recommendation: No

Concert Orchestra is our first middle-school level orchestra offered to all students at The Academy and is available to students in 6th-8th grade. Most students in Concert Orchestra have one year of experience on a string instrument, but beginners are also welcome! Students in Concert Orchestra will work to develop basic skills in performing music on string instruments, learn to evaluate and talk about musical performances, and expand their knowledge of musical concepts. Rehearsals and performances do happen outside regular school hours (usually in the evenings) and are a required part of this class. It is expected that students will have access to a quality instrument and supplies. Anyone needing assistance obtaining an instrument should speak to the orchestra director.

MS JAZZ (zero period)

MSELE 921A/B

Open to Grades 6, 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 6, 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 6, 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 6**MSELE 601A/B****Open to Grade 6****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 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 6, 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, NEWSELA 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.

MS STUDENT LEADERSHIP

MSELE 923A/B

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

Leadership courses are designed to strengthen students' personal and group leadership skills. This course may cover such topics as public speaking, effective communication, human relations and group dynamics. This group of students will serve as our student voice within the middle school community.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

MS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

MSELE 905

Open to Grades 6, 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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WORLD LANGUAGE

MS Spanish must be taken for a total of 2 years in order to complete Spanish 1.

MS INTRO TO SPANISH 1, PART 1

MSWLA 900A/B

Open to Grades 6, 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. Priority will be given to 7th grade students.

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.