



PALM BEACH DAY ACADEMY  
UPPER SCHOOL  
GRADES 4-8  
Curriculum Guide



# PALM BEACH DAY ACADEMY

Established in 1921, Palm Beach Day Academy is a co-ed independent day school serving 575 students from two-year-olds in Pre-Primary through the eighth grade. Students at PBDA experience a school culture that expects and honors personal effort, achievement, and character. Our dedicated faculty cultivate academic confidence in our students that allows them to think critically, show compassion, and adapt to the challenges of an ever-changing world.

Our mission for students at every level is to provide a best-in-class education in an academically challenging and compassion-rich environment that guides each child toward personal excellence in mind, body, and character. We honor our students as individuals and meet them where they are in a learning environment that is both challenging and supportive. We model and teach traits such as integrity, honesty, and responsibility to encourage our students to pursue lives of meaning.

# Grades 4-5 Curriculum



## ENGLISH

### English & Reading

Fourth grade language arts focuses on developing reading fluency, deepening understanding of texts, and generating sufficient content and detail in writing. Students are expected to use text evidence to support their claims in writing and to practice and persevere in all steps of the writing process. In their writing, students will be asked to: organize, develop, and support ideas; edit and revise writing with peer review; use different writing forms for different purposes; use evidence to support their ideas. Grammar instruction includes Subject/ Predicate; Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives; Verbs, Adverbs, Prepositions, Conjunctions, Interjections; The Phrase and the Clause; Complements; Agreement; and Modifiers; Punctuation: End Marks, Commas, Semicolons, Colons.

Students will read several novels and numerous short stories throughout the year, as well as poetry. Focus concepts include fluency in both silent reading and reading aloud, developing vocabulary, interpreting word meaning, inference, annotation, generating ideas about meaning, evaluation, and finding evidence to support ideas.

# HISTORY

## Florida Studies

History in the fourth grade will focus on Florida, from the time of the first settlers through present day. Students will examine the people that helped settle the area, the various geographic regions of the state and how people have adapted to changing Florida. Emphasis will also be placed on native and non-native plant and animal species found in the state. Events that shaped the future of the state will be researched and discussed. Through place-based learning, historical novels, and hands-on activities, students will be provided with a challenging, interactive journey through Florida's history.

# MATH

## Math 4

Math 4 reviews and extends previously introduced concepts and skills including: number and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, data analysis and probability. Problem solving and reasoning are incorporated into every lesson, as well as dialogue regarding a variety of strategies and approaches employed by students among other members of our mathematical community. The importance and meaning of how numbers are used in the real world add meaning and significance. The acquisition of these skills is supported by modeling/representation, making connections, using technology, guided group practice in class (with white boards for simultaneous accountability), cooperative learning experiences, and use of manipulatives, which is all followed by independent practice in school and at home.

## Math 4 Accelerated

Math 4 Accelerated follows a fifth grade curriculum with elements from the fourth grade curriculum blended in to ensure a smooth transition. It reinforces basic mathematical concepts and introduces skills that are essential for all students. Concepts, procedures, and vocabulary that students will need in order to be successful in upper-level algebra and geometry courses are introduced and continually practiced. Students begin with a general review of the four basic operations. Concepts of place value, base ten relationships, algebraic concepts, plane geometry and geometric formulas. Fourth grade accelerated math students work extensively with fractions, mixed numbers, decimals, and estimating. This course will also emphasize problem solving strategies, the communication of mathematics in multiple forms of expression, and how it is connected to daily life and other disciplines.

## SCIENCE

This is a general science course that covers a variety of topics including the practice of science as well as life science, earth science, physical science, engineering and environmental education. Fourth grade focuses heavily on Florida's environment, integrating the different subject areas into science. Place-based field experiences, partnerships with outside organizations and a local university, the use of our indoor lab, and outdoor learning space with the school garden are used to enhance student learning. With a hands-on, inquiry-based approach, the students are engaged and encouraged to be creative, curious, open-minded and collaborative while developing their scientific skills and knowledge. The fourth grade program is designed to spark the students' sense of wonder where they ask questions and think critically to solve real world problems.

## WORLD LANGUAGE

### Chinese

This class is designed to develop each student's reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills to an ACTFL novice-low level. It uses task-based learning, group-based activities, games, and guided practice to help the students build language proficiency. The primary goal for this class is to introduce the students to character writing, pinyin pronunciation, and high-frequency conversation patterns. The material for this course was designed by simplifying general topics identified in the Integrated Chinese textbook series, which will be used in sixth through ninth grade. The lessons focus on pre-teaching common themes that occur in real-life and are designed to develop authentic language scripts that occur in Mainland China.

### French

This course is for the student who wishes to begin learning French. It assumes that the students have minimal or no prior knowledge of the language and culture. It meets four times a week for 45 minutes. Students will be taught to express themselves in the target language and comprehend very simple statements and commands. Hands-on activities, games, dialogues and songs will be used to reinforce the material. Students will begin to acquire the four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. They will demonstrate beginning proficiency and build confidence to express basic ideas orally to be understood. The ultimate goal of studying French at this grade level will be enjoyment, awareness of the need for, and commitment to a language study.

### Spanish

This course is for the student who wishes to begin to explore Spanish. It assumes that the students have minimal or no prior knowledge of the language and culture. It meets four times a week for 45 minutes. Students will be taught to express themselves in the target language and comprehend very simple statements and commands. Hands-on activities, games and songs will be used to reinforce the material. Students will begin to acquire the four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

## FINE ARTS

### **Multi-Media Art**

This course is designed to teach students art skills using a variety of media and techniques. Students work on growing existing skills, as well as enhancing and encouraging new skills. Students will gain an understanding of the art elements and principles of design. Materials used in multi-media art include, but are not limited to, graphite pencils, markers, and oil pastels to learn and experiment with blending and shading. In addition, watercolor, acrylic and tempera paints are also used to create art and learn about color theory. Students also create paper mache 3-D sculptures and participate in clay hand building and glazing of their work.

### **Music**

This course focuses on a student's role and responsibility in an ensemble setting. Students will practice singing and playing harmony with partner songs and instrumental ostinatos to accompany singing. Interpreting the conductor's cues and understanding treble clef also aid in effective ensemble participation. Students' evaluation and analysis of music becomes more complex and focuses on form and specific instrument names and sounds. Historic and cultural studies will include music from classical period, folk music, pop music and patriotic songs and music which is integrated into the fourth grade play/musical tied to Florida History Curriculum. The instruments focused on in fourth grade are recorders, ukulele, African drums and voice.

### **Drama**

The fourth grade Drama class focuses on play and getting comfortable on the stage. The class begins with improv games that encourage students to listen and react to what their scene partners are offering. Each student will also perform a short comedic monologue in front of the entire grade with ample time to rehearse and receive feedback from classmates. This monologue prepares fourth grade students for their three public speaking opportunities in the fifth grade and serves as an opportunity to build confidence alone on the stage.

## ATHLETICS

Students in fourth grade participate in a coed, multifaceted and traditional Physical Education program. Both large and small group games and activities are offered each day. Additionally, students will receive an introduction to team sports as well as learn about sportsmanship on and off of the field. Sports offered in fourth grade are tennis and golf.



## ENGLISH

### English & Reading

Fifth grade language arts places a strong focus on understanding sentence structure through the study of grammar and mechanics. Reading fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary are areas of focus as well. Throughout the year, students have frequent opportunities to sharpen their speaking and presentation skills in fifth grade English.

Students in fifth grade English will read several novels as well as shorter works throughout the year. Areas of focus include: mythology and understanding the importance of allusions to classical myth in literature and art, poetry, and narrative concepts including point of view, imagery, sensory details, symbolism, foreshadowing, genre, and character development.

Students continue to develop their skills in writing in response to their reading and course of study, with a focus on organization, development, using evidence to support ideas, and revising for publication. Instruction in grammar, usage, and vocabulary facilitates students' growth as writers.



# HISTORY

## United States History

The fifth grade United States History course focuses on the story of the United States including the nation's geography, native groups, exploration and settlement, the 13 colonies, the Revolutionary War, the new government and presidents, westward expansion, and the Civil War.

# MATH

## Math 5

Math 5 reinforces basic mathematical concepts and introduces skills that are essential for all students. Concepts, procedures, and vocabulary that students will need in order to be successful in upper-level algebra and geometry courses are introduced and continually practiced. Students begin with a general review of the four basic operations. Content also includes concepts of place value, base-ten relationships, algebraic concepts, plane geometry and geometric formulas. Fifth grade math students work extensively with fractions, mixed numbers, decimals, and estimating. The acquisition of these skills is supported by modeling/representation, making connections, using technology, guided group practice in class (with white boards for simultaneous accountability), cooperative learning experiences, and use of manipulatives, which is all followed by independent practice in school and at home. This course will also emphasize problem-solving strategies, the communication of mathematics in multiple forms of expression, and how it is connected to daily life and other disciplines. Differentiated instruction and curriculum are based on student needs.

## Math 5 Accelerated

Math 5 Accelerated follows a sixth grade curriculum. The emphasis in this course is on algebraic thinking and extending the understanding of the real number system to include integers and rational numbers. Fifth grade accelerated math students begin by solidifying fraction and decimal operations and apply these skills as they investigate ratios, proportions, percents, equations, inequalities, algebraic expressions, measurement, and linear functions. Content covers an in-depth investigation of 2-D and 3-D geometric figures as well as representing data using various statistical measures and visual displays. Students will develop algebraic thinking by analyzing patterns to discover relationships, and by representing information through symbolic, graphical, and tabular methods. Throughout the course, there is an emphasis on the process standards of problem-solving, communication, reasoning, and representation. This course also emphasizes communication of mathematics in multiple forms of expression and how it is connected to daily life and other disciplines.

## Math 5 Honors

Math 5 Honors follows a sixth grade curriculum with five additional units from a seventh grade curriculum. This pathway allows students to complete all middle school content in two years in preparation to begin Algebra 1 in 7th grade. The emphasis in this course is on algebraic thinking and extending the understanding of

the real number system to include integers and rational numbers. Students begin by solidifying fraction and decimal operations and applying these skills as they investigate ratios, proportions, percents, equations, inequalities, algebraic expressions, measurement, and linear functions. Content covers an in-depth investigation of 2-D and 3-D geometric figures as well as representing data using a variety of statistical measures and visual displays. Students enhance their understanding of numbers as they investigate and perform operations with integers and rational numbers apply these skills to simplify expressions. Throughout the course, there is an emphasis on the process standards of problem-solving, communication, reasoning, and representation. This course also emphasizes communication of mathematics in multiple forms of expression and how it is connected to daily life and other disciplines.

## SCIENCE

This is a general science course that covers a variety of topics including the practice of science as well as physical science, matter, energy, earth science, and environmental education. Place-based field experiences, partnerships with outside organizations like The Reef Institute, Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center and other organizations, the use of our indoor lab and outdoor learning space to include the school garden are used to enhance student learning. With a hands-on, inquiry-based approach, the students are engaged and encouraged to be creative, curious, open-minded and collaborative while developing their scientific skills and knowledge. The PBDA Science Garden project encourages interest in agricultural science, sustainability, and project management. On Fridays, students are introduced to the innovation curriculum, typically through a STEM lesson that includes Aerospace Science. NSTA and NGSS are utilized in the preparation of our fifth grade curriculum. The fifth grade program is designed to spark the students' sense of wonder where they ask questions and think critically to solve real world problems.

## WORLD LANGUAGE

### Chinese

This class is designed to develop each student's reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills to an ACTFL novice-mid level. It uses task-based learning, group-based activities, games, and guided practice to help the students build language proficiency. This course aims to increase each student's ability to use simple grammar constructions with high frequency vocabulary terms that will be seen in the Integrated Chinese textbook series, which will be used in sixth through eighth grade. By the end of this course students will be able to describe family members, talk about likes and dislikes, use numbers to express time, discuss locations using directional words, use basic measure words, talk about prices of items in a store, discuss countries and nationalities, and talk about common jobs. In addition, students will gain cultural knowledge about major Chinese festivals, Chinese calligraphy painting, Chinese cuisine styles, and the basic layout of cities and transportation.

**French**

This course is for the student who continues to learn French from fourth grade or begins in fifth grade. It assumes that the students have minimal or no prior knowledge of the language and culture. The course meets five times a week for 45 minutes. All four areas of language development are provided: reading, listening, writing, and speaking. Students will focus on communicating about their immediate world and daily activities in the target language, read material on familiar topics, and write short compositions. Grammar will be addressed only in context but grammatical accuracy will be secondary to general communication. Hands-on activities, dialogues, games, educational French websites and songs will be used to reinforce the material. Instruction is given primarily in the target language and in a variety of contexts to meet the needs of students.

**Spanish**

This course is for the student who continues to learn Spanish from fourth grade or begins in fifth grade. It assumes that the students have minimal or no prior knowledge of the language and culture. The course meets five times a week for 45 minutes. All four areas of language development are provided: reading, listening, writing, and speaking. Students will focus on communicating about their immediate world and daily activities in the target language, read material on familiar topics, and write short compositions. Grammar will be addressed only in context and grammatical accuracy will be secondary to general communication. Hands-on activities, games and songs will be used to reinforce the material.

## FINE ARTS

**Color Theory**

This course is designed to teach students how to manipulate and handle paint, with a focus on mixing and using color, while following the art elements. Students will also learn how to use various types of brushes to create different brush strokes. In addition, students will engage in activities to gain an understanding of following studies in a completed painting: mixing tints and tones, monochromatic value, complementary color scheme, analogous color scheme, and polychromatic color scheme. Students will also learn how to use the four steps to judge a piece of artwork.

**Drawing**

This course is designed to offer the students the opportunity to explore many different genres of drawing, including perspective drawing, foreshortening, portraiture, still life, and cartooning. Students will continue to refine existing skills, as well as enhancing and encouraging new skills. This course will use different drawing materials, including pencil, pen, colored pencils, markers, charcoal and conté crayons. The skills learned in this course will prepare them for the next level of art.

**Music**

In fifth grade, students become more independent and literate musicians. They will be able to read and write music in both treble and bass clefs and sing and play in multiple parts. Musical analysis and evaluation will be based on musical quality, overall effectiveness and knowledge of the cultural and historical setting. The fifth grade repertoire will focus on songs from American history and current news and trends in music. The fifth grade students will be playing steel drums, handbells and academic drums alive as their instrument of study.

**Drama**

The fifth grade Drama class utilizes the skills learned in the fourth grade and challenges the students to use their imagination even more. Class begins with open scenes where students are all given the same script as a foundation and are asked to use their imaginations to create a unique plot. From there students will create their own longer form scenes and do some filmwork making commercials for PBDA's Bulldog TV! The Drama department also works very closely with the fifth English teachers to help prepare students for their three major performances: President's Assembly, The Banquet of the Gods, and The Richard Tummon Poetry Contest.

## ATHLETICS

Students in the fifth grade participate in a coed, multifaceted and traditional Physical Education program. Both large and small group games and activities are offered each day. Additionally, students will receive an introduction to team sports as well as learn about sportsmanship on and off of the field. Sports offered in fifth grade are tennis and golf.

# Grades 6-8 Curriculum



## ENGLISH

### English 6

In sixth grade English, students work on developing reading fluency and analyzing texts. A focus in sixth grade English is the writing process, from brainstorming to publication. Students read a variety of texts from different genres, including science fiction, mystery, poetry, and historical and contemporary realistic fiction. Students respond to what they have read through writing in various modes of discourse including persuasive, narrative, descriptive, and expository

### Honors English 6

Students entering a middle-school honors level English course are equipped to begin the year producing writing that shows strong clarity and fluency, and are prepared to work with less direct support than in grade level classes. Students in sixth grade honors English will focus on selecting and using text evidence to support their ideas, as well as generating detail and providing clear context.

Students read a variety of texts from different genres, including science fiction, mystery, poetry, and historical and contemporary realistic fiction. Students respond to what they have read through writing in various modes of discourse including persuasive, narrative, descriptive, and expository.

**English 7**

In seventh grade English, students read representative works from a variety of genres, acquiring the skills needed to read critically with an awareness of an author's style and purpose. Students write with a clear awareness of writer, reader, and purpose. Writing instruction focuses on varying sentence structure and avoiding structural errors in both literary analysis and genre writing. Students are asked to incorporate newly acquired vocabulary and grammar skills into their own writing.

**Honors English 7**

Students in seventh grade honors English sharpen their skills in critical writing by completing several papers which proceed through multiple drafts. Students practice selecting apt textual evidence and synthesizing that evidence by providing clear context for each quote. Students also focus on clarity and concision in their writing, in particular avoiding unclear pronoun references. Students enrolled in the honors level of English 7 engage with challenging texts and are asked to craft their own arguments in their writing.

**English 8**

Students in eighth grade English read works in various genres including allegory, drama, and historical fiction. They begin the year writing in the narrative mode of discourse to prepare for their secondary school application essays. Students practice critical writing, making claims and supporting them with text evidence, as well as providing clear context for all quotes. Students are encouraged to self reflect on their writing and show more independence in the writing process than in grade seven. Focus skills include argument, diction, narrative structure, and research skills.

Informational literacy is a focus as students begin to prepare for high school and beyond. Students engage in public speaking by writing and presenting speeches to the class.

**Honors English 8**

In eighth grade honors English, students will practice reading, writing, thinking, and speaking about literature and nonfiction writing. Students read short and longer works from various genres, as well as nonfiction works. A focus throughout the course is on increasing writing proficiency in all modes of discourse, as well as learning and applying literary terms and becoming familiar with literary genres. Throughout the course students review and practice grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary. Students will increase their proficiency in recognizing, categorizing, discussing, and evaluating key elements of literature, including, but not limited to: narrative structure, point of view, characterization, style, voice, tone and attitude, diction, syntax, irony, and figurative language. Students engage in public speaking by writing and presenting speeches to the class. Students in the honors level will be expected to show a high degree of proficiency and progress in their writing.

# HISTORY

## **History 6: Prehistory through Middle Ages**

This course focuses on developing students' understanding of world history from approximately 8000 BC to AD 1500. The course weaves in the Five Themes of Geography into each of the major units of study: Ancient Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Ancient India, Ancient China, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, and The Middle Ages- Europe. The overarching themes of the course are: civilizations are complex societies, all civilizations, both past and present, have had certain characteristics in common that have made them significant, and people and events of ancient civilizations have profoundly influenced subsequent civilizations, including ours. At the core of this course is the development of intercultural awareness and celebration of cultural diversity, respect for the values of others, a sense of responsibility towards the community and environment, and a sense of belonging to a "global village."

## **History 7: United States History: Beginning to 1877**

This course examines the discovery and founding of our nation. Students explore social, economic, and political issues that challenged and shaped the nation from colonial times up to the Civil War. Instruction ensures students will develop proficiency in important academic skills: writing, reading, presenting, and collaborating.

## **History 8: United States History: Modern Times**

This course examines the changing role of the nation from an isolationist country to a world power. Students explore social, economic, and political issues that challenged and shaped the nation in the late-19th century, 20th century, and the early years of the 21st century. Instruction ensures students will develop proficiency in important academic skills: writing, reading, presenting, and collaborating.

# WORLD LANGUAGE

## **Chinese 6**

This class is designed to develop each student's reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills to an ACTFL novice-high level. It uses task-based learning, group-based activities, games, and guided practice to help the students build language proficiency. The students use Integrated Chinese: Level 1, Part 1 as their primary textbook and carefully designed reinforcement worksheets will be used for grammar and vocabulary reinforcement. The lessons in this class focus on expanding high-frequency vocabulary and grammar knowledge that is essential for progressing to the novice-mid level. Topics covered in this class include: greetings, countries and nationalities, numbers and time, dates and schedules, hobbies, visiting friends, making appointments, studying Chinese, school life, shopping, and transportation. In addition, students will gain cultural knowledge about Chinese cuisine, national identity, geography, transportation, shopping, gift giving, calligraphy, and festivals in China.



**Chinese 7**

This class is designed to develop each student's reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills to an ACTFL intermediate-low level. It uses task-based learning, group-based activities, games, and guided practice to help the students build language proficiency. The students use Integrated Chinese: Level 1, Part 2 as their primary textbook source and carefully designed reinforcement worksheets will be used for grammar and vocabulary reinforcement and carefully designed reinforcement worksheets will be used for grammar and vocabulary reinforcement. The lessons in this class focus on expanding the high-frequency vocabulary and grammar knowledge that is required for obtaining an intermediate-low language proficiency. Topics covered in this class include: weather, dining, asking for directions, attending a birthday party, seeing a doctor, relationships, renting an apartment, sports, travel, and being in an airport. In addition, students will acquire cultural knowledge about food etiquette, eastern medicine, tea, birthday customs, developing friendships, housing conditions, and public transportation in China.

**Chinese 8**

This class is designed to develop each student's reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills to an ACTFL intermediate-mid level. It uses task-based learning, group-based activities, games, and guided practice to help the students build language proficiency. The students use Integrated Chinese: Level 2, Part 1 as their primary textbook source and carefully designed reinforcement worksheets will be used for grammar and vocabulary reinforcement. The Secret Garden Graded Reader will be used as the primary reader source. News articles, podcasts, and videos will be used as secondary sources for authentic language practice. The lessons in this class focus on expanding the high-frequency vocabulary and grammar knowledge that is required for obtaining an intermediate-mid language proficiency. Topics covered in this class include: starting school, living in a dormitory, describing food flavors, buying necessities at a store, choosing classes in college, describing behaviors of people, technology and internet, work and income, after-school education programs, and the geography of China. In addition, students will acquire cultural knowledge about life as a student in China, housing options for students, Chinese cuisine styles, bargaining at a market, the Chinese education system, technology in China, and the geography of China.

**French**

This course is for the student who continues to learn French from fourth and fifth grade or begins in sixth grade. It assumes that the students have minimal knowledge of the language and culture of French speaking countries. The course meets five times a week for 45 minutes. All four areas of language development are developed: reading, listening, writing, and speaking. Students will focus on communicating about their immediate world and daily activities in the target language, read material on familiar topics, and write short compositions. Grammar will be addressed only in context and grammatical accuracy will be secondary to general communication. Hands-on activities, games, dialogues, and songs will be used to reinforce the material. Instruction is given in the target language and in a variety of contexts to meet the needs of students.

**French I A**

French I offers the basic structure of the language and of the culture and geography of the French-speaking world. The course covers half of the material presented in level 1. Students focus on the four skills areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing. From early in the course students learn to discuss simple everyday topics such as identity, school objects, numbers, time, seasons and weather, family, sports, and simple food items. Learning is enhanced through the use of a colorful textbook, a workbook, videos, online activities, and learning games. Class activities incorporate authentic texts such as newspapers, advertisements, songs and children's stories, as well as teacher-prepared material to challenge students to think critically. Culture is fully integrated into the class with an emphasis on the diverse cultures of the Francophone world.

**French I B**

French in eighth grade is a continuation and completion of French I. The class focuses on expanding the vocabulary and acquiring new grammar competencies through the four skills areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Class activities incorporate authentic texts such as newspapers, advertisements, short novels, songs and children's stories, as well as teacher-prepared material to challenge students to think critically. Culture is fully integrated into the class with an emphasis on the diverse cultures of the Francophone world. This course is a preparation for French II coursework in 9th grade. It is a prerequisite to French II.

**Spanish 6**

Spanish in sixth grade offers the basic structure of the language and of the culture of the Spanish-speaking world. The course covers half of the material presented in level 1. Students focus on the four skills areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing. From early in the course students learn to discuss simple everyday topics such as activities with friends and family, classroom and school, food, and hobbies. Learning is enhanced through the use of a colorful textbook, a workbook, videos, online activities, and learning games. Class activities incorporate authentic texts such as newspapers, advertisements, songs and children's stories, as well as teacher-prepared material to challenge students to think critically. Culture is fully integrated into the class with an emphasis on the diverse cultures of the Spanish world.

**Spanish 7**

In seventh grade Spanish, instruction covers the second half of the material presented in level 1. The course aims to create a supportive and stimulating learning environment, where students not only develop language skills but also an appreciation for the rich diversity of the Spanish-speaking world. Students learn to discuss topics such as celebrations, house, shopping, vacations, media. A multimedia approach allows students with different learning styles to remain engaged throughout the course. Incorporating authentic texts as well as utilizing teacher-prepared materials challenges students to think critically. Speaking, listening, reading and writing continue to be areas of focus. By the end of the course, students should be well-prepared to continue their language learning journey.

**Spanish I**

Spanish I is offered in Grades 7 and 8 and allows for important review and reteaching. Students expand their vocabulary, grammar, and cultural understanding as they revisit a variety of themes in greater depth. The themes include school routine, special events, and community. Learning is enhanced through the use of a new textbook, a workbook, videos, online activities, and learning thematic units. Class activities incorporate authentic texts such as newspapers, advertisements, songs and children's stories, as well as teacher-prepared material to challenge students to think critically. Culture is fully integrated into the class with an emphasis on the diverse cultures of the Spanish world.

**Spanish II**

Spanish II is offered in Grade 8. This course reinforces and expands students' language skills and cultural understanding through a variety of engaging activities. As students progress through Spanish II, they will learn new vocabulary and more complex grammar structures. This expansion enables them to express themselves with greater accuracy. Themes in this course include events from the past, news, television and movies, culinary, travel, and the future. Similar to the previous course, Spanish II incorporates a variety of multimedia resources and provides students with a well-rounded language learning experience. Spanish I is a prerequisite course.

## FINE ARTS - GRADE 6

### **2-D Art**

Sixth grade 2-Dimensional art explores different cultures and how their art is made. In this course we look back in time to the Medieval ages of illuminated manuscripts, where scribes illustrated pages. We learn about stained glass windows, Aboriginal artists and their work, and Art of Central America. Materials used include India ink and calligraphy pens for practicing calligraphy, scissors, paper and glue used to duplicate the process of making Molas similar to those made in Panama, and pencils. Additionally, tempera paint and paper are used to produce an Aboriginal inspired work of art that tells a story.

### **Forming**

This course is designed to teach sixth grade students how to work in three-dimensional media using a variety of new and recycled materials. Students will use the art elements for problem solving, critical thinking, and skillfulness.

### **Music**

Students will successfully learn to play their instruments in different musical settings and have the opportunity to perform several times each year. They learn the general physics of all of the instruments within the percussion family. Students improve their appreciation, understanding, and performance of music through their instruments. Our program focuses on the musical elements of posture and playing position, breathing, mechanical knowledge of instruments (keys, drum heads, etc.), melody and harmony, articulation and style, tone quality and intonation, dynamics, phrasing and personal interpretation, history, and music of many cultures and genres. Students will use traditional and percussion non-traditional instruments.

### **Drama**

Each sixth grade drama class, approximately 10-15 students, puts on a play in front of the whole Upper Campus. Students will create an idea for a play by thinking like playwrights and asking the tough questions: what stories do we like? What story does our audience want to hear? How can we involve sound and lighting design? Is this copyright infringement? What will our costumes look like? Will our audience laugh? This is a fantastic collaborative experience that allows students to shine on the stage while being the part of an ensemble cast.

## FINE ARTS - GRADE 7-8

### **Ceramics**

This course is designed to teach the student how to manipulate clay, the ceramic process of construction, the process of drying stages of clay, and of surface design. Student project topics include basic techniques in both hand-building and wheel pottery to create a variety of functional and sculptural forms.

## **Drawing and Painting**

This course is designed to teach the student to explore many different genres of drawing and painting. The student explores drawing and painting techniques, composition, the elements and principles of design, and painting using acrylics, watercolor, and oil paint. The curriculum is designed to guide the student progressively toward competent skill and ability. The projects and assessments allow the student to demonstrate this understanding of concepts and in-class instruction.

## **Art Appreciation**

Art appreciation is an exploration of visual art forms and their cultural connections for the student. In the class we learn that art also teaches many important qualities such as listening, observing and responding to multiple perspectives. There are visual art projects based on art's historical periods and master artists. In addition, students engage in units of study including plaster hands, printmaking, and Winslow Homer.

## **Middle School Vocal Music**

The Vocal Curriculum at PBDA includes Florida State Standards of music including Vocabulary and Symbols, Posture and Support, Vocal Production, Repertoire and Techniques, Blend and Balance, Pitch Awareness and Stage Presence, Rhythm, and Aural Skills which are all used to prepare students for local and state performances, including Florida All State Vocal auditions for Elementary, Middle and High School, the MS Musical, Spotlight on Young Musicians and Bulldog Chorus.

## **Ukulele**

This music course will focus on learning to play the ukulele including basic chords, strumming patterns, singing and simple picking.

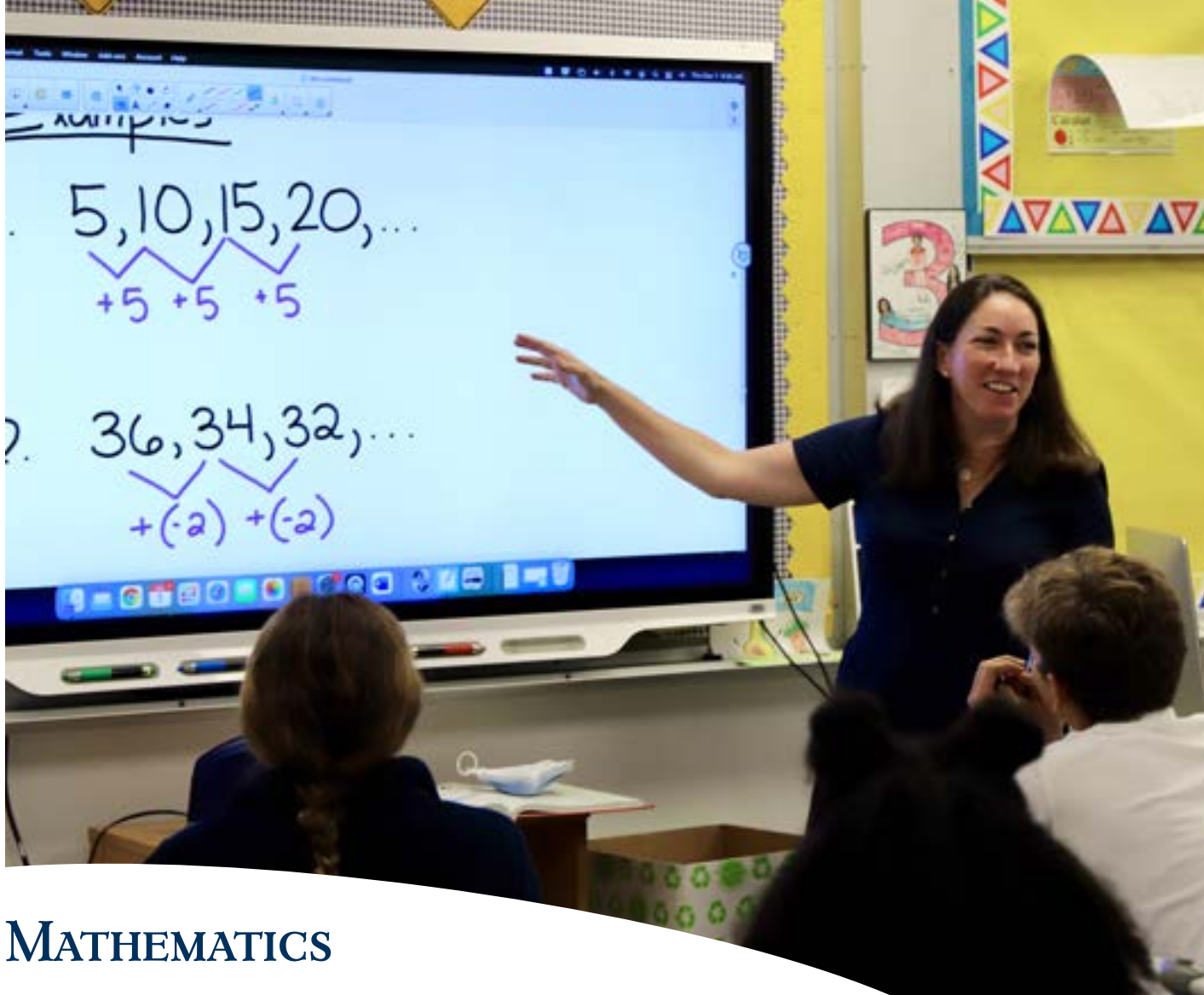
## **Steel Drums**

The Steel Drum curriculum focuses on a student's role and responsibility in an ensemble setting. Students will practice playing harmony with partner songs and instrumental ostinatos. Interpreting conductors' cues and understanding treble clef, and bass clefs. Students' evaluation and analysis of music becomes more complex and focuses on form and listening to how their part compares to and fits it with the other parts being played. Historic and cultural studies will include music from different countries, pop, reggae and holiday music.

## **Drama**

The culmination of the PBDA drama program is two-fold. The year begins with drama classes, playing improv games, writing scenes, creating short-films and performing After School Specials during our Monday assemblies. The classes will work closely with the Dean of Students and Upper Campus faculty to determine what life lessons our PBDA community needs to shed a light on. This gives older students an opportunity to act out realistic examples of inclusion, respect, honor, and responsibility in front of the whole community and leads to some great school wide discussions. In January, the drama program auditions and casts for The Upper

Campus Spring Musical. Students may choose to participate in this musical as an actor, singer, and dancer on stage or be a crucial part backstage by helping with the set, sound and lighting elements of our production.



## MATHEMATICS

### Math 6

Math 6 emphasizes algebraic thinking and extending the understanding of the real number system to include integers and rational numbers. Students begin by solidifying fraction and decimal operations and applying these skills as they investigate ratios, proportions, percents, equations, inequalities, algebraic expressions, measurement, and linear functions. Content covers an in-depth investigation of 2-D and 3-D geometric figures as well as representing data using a variety of statistical measures and visual displays. Students develop algebraic thinking by analyzing patterns to discover relationships, and by representing information through symbolic, graphical, and tabular methods. The acquisition of these skills is supported by modeling/representation, making connections, using technology, guided group practice in class, cooperative learning experiences, and use of manipulatives, followed by independent practice in school and at home. This course will also emphasize problem-solving strategies, the communication of mathematics in multiple forms of expression, and how it is connected to daily life and other disciplines. Differentiated instruction and curriculum are based on student needs.

## **Math 6 Accelerated**

Math 6 Accelerated follows a seventh grade curriculum. The emphasis in this course is on algebraic thinking and extending the understanding of the real number system to include integers and rational numbers. Students begin by investigating and performing operations with rational numbers and applying these skills to represent equivalent expressions and solve multi-step equations. Students deepen their understanding of ratios, proportions, percents, probability, and statistics with an emphasis on reasoning and problem-solving. They examine geometric shapes and angles and extend their grasp of surface area and volume. Throughout the course, instruction focuses on the process standards of problem-solving, communication, reasoning, and representation. This course also emphasizes communication of mathematics in multiple forms of expression and how it is connected to daily life and other disciplines.

## **Math 6 Honors - Pre-Algebra**

The Math 6 Honors Pre-Algebra course is designed to bridge the gap between the regular mathematics courses and Algebra and Geometry. Students will work toward the abstract algebra concepts by first working with concrete examples. Emphasis is placed on using equations, graphs, and data applications to model real-life situations during problem solving. Students will master concepts in pre-algebra including rational, irrational and real numbers, exponents, roots, writing and evaluating algebraic expressions, solving multi-step equations and inequalities, ratios, rates, proportions, percents, writing and graphing linear and nonlinear functions, data collection and analysis, probability, geometry including Pythagorean Theorem, 2D and 3D shapes, angles, area, surface area, volume, transformations, introduction to systems of equations, and basic trigonometric ratios. Thinking routines and cooperative learning will be essential to problem solving and developing critical thinking skills.

## **Math 7**

Math 7 emphasizes enhancing algebraic thinking and extending the understanding of the real number system to include integers and rational numbers. Students begin by investigating and performing operations with rational numbers and applying these skills to represent equivalent expressions and solve multi-step equations. Students deepen their understanding of ratios, proportions, percents, probability, and statistics with an emphasis on reasoning and application. They examine geometric shapes and angles and extend their grasp of surface area and volume. Throughout the course, there is an emphasis on the process standards of problem-solving, communication, reasoning, and representation. This course also emphasizes communication of mathematics in multiple forms of expression and how it is connected to daily life and other disciplines.

## **Math 7 Accelerated - Pre-Algebra**

Math 7 Accelerated Pre-Algebra is designed to bridge the gap between the regular mathematics courses and Algebra and Geometry. Students will work toward the abstract algebra concepts by first working with concrete examples. Emphasis is placed on using equations, graphs, and data applications to model real-life



situations during problem solving. Students will master concepts in pre-algebra including rational, irrational and real numbers, exponents, roots, writing and evaluating algebraic expressions, solving multi-step equations and inequalities, ratios, rates, proportions, percents, writing and graphing linear and nonlinear functions, data collection and analysis, probability, geometry including Pythagorean Theorem, 2D and 3D shapes, angles, area, surface area, volume, transformations, introduction to systems of equations, and basic trigonometric ratios. Thinking routines and cooperative learning will be essential to problem solving and developing critical thinking skills.

## **7 - Honors Algebra I**

Honors Algebra 1 is a high school level course and introduces students to the fundamental ideas of Algebra. These concepts will lay the foundation that will further enhance their mathematical learning and understanding. The main topics that students will be exposed to include: variables, algebraic equations and their multiple representations, systems of equations, functions, exponents, factoring, quadratic equations, simplifying polynomials, algebraic fractions, graphing, inequalities, radicals, and rational functions. Students will develop the ability to explore and solve real-world application problems, demonstrate the ability to use their mathematical knowledge to solve unfamiliar problems, and communicate mathematical ideas clearly. Upon successful completion of this course, the student receives a high school credit for Honors Algebra I.

## **Math 7 - Honors Algebra I (Part 1)**

This is the first year of a two-year version of the Honors Algebra I course that the student starts in the seventh grade and finishes in the eighth grade. Part 1 follows a rigorous Algebra I curriculum including extensive work manipulating algebraic expressions and equations and then moving on to solving, and graphing linear equations and functions. Once students become comfortable with variables and expressions and equations they will move on to linear and nonlinear functions, inequalities, systems of equations/inequalities.

## **Math 8 - Pre-Algebra**

Math 8 Pre-Algebra is designed to bridge the gap between the regular mathematics courses and Algebra and Geometry. Students will work toward the abstract algebra concepts by first working with concrete examples. Emphasis is placed on using equations, graphs, and data applications to model real-life situations during problem solving. Students will master concepts in pre-algebra including rational, irrational and real numbers, exponents, roots, writing and evaluating algebraic expressions, solving multi-step equations and inequalities, ratios, rates, proportions, percents, writing and graphing linear and nonlinear functions, data collection and analysis, probability, geometry including Pythagorean Theorem, 2D and 3D shapes, angles, area, surface area, volume, transformations, introduction to systems of equations, and basic trigonometric ratios. Thinking routines and cooperative learning will be essential to problem solving and developing critical thinking skills.

## **Math 8 - Algebra I**

Algebra I includes the following concepts: operations with real numbers, solving linear and quadratic equations, simplifying polynomials, factoring, algebraic fractions, functions, graphing, inequalities, radicals, rational functions, systems of equations, and word problems. Honors Algebra I classes are more in-depth and focus on more challenging problems. Upon successful completion of this course, the student receives a high school credit for Honors Algebra I or Algebra I.

## **Math 8 - Honors Algebra I (Part 2)**

This course will complete the Algebra I Honors program started in seventh grade. Part 2 will begin with a review of the first year material and then quickly continue with the completion of a rigorous Algebra I curriculum including extensive work in: exponents; quadratic, radical, and rational functions, polynomials if time allows and introduction to Probability. Upon successful completion of this course, the student receives a high school credit for Honors Algebra I.

## **Math 8 - Honors Geometry**

Geometry is the in-depth study of one, two, and three-dimensional figures. This is a traditional geometry course, with a formal exploration of proofs and applications. Students develop their ability to construct formal, logical arguments in geometric settings and multi-step problems. This geometry course includes reasoning, trigonometry, traditional geometries, coordinate geometry, and proofs. Studying geometry provides many foundational skills and helps to build the thinking skills of logic, deductive reasoning, analytical reasoning, and problem-solving, and trigonometry. This course emphasizes logical thinking and its application in the informal justification and formal proof of conjectures. The problem-solving in this course applies the Algebra previously learned, emphasizes connections, and involves routine and non-routine applications.

## **Math 8 - Honors Algebra II**

Algebra II continues to emphasize the objectives introduced and mastered in Algebra 1 and focuses on the study of functions: linear, quadratic, polynomials of degree greater than two, exponential and logarithmic. Modeling, practical applications and solving these types of functions is the focus. Additional problem solving strategies will be discovered and put into use. Students will also be introduced to imaginary and complex numbers and build on their understanding of trigonometry with the introduction of the unit circle and trigonometric functions. Graphical representations both with and without the graphing calculator are emphasized and the relationships between equations and their graphs is analyzed from beginning to end. It also introduces matrices and their properties, probability and statistics, and sequences and series.



# SCIENCE

## **Science 6: Earth and Space Science**

In this course, students will develop their understanding for the physical processes that define the structure and function of the systems on Earth and in space. Students will learn about the history of space exploration, Earth's rotation and revolution, our solar system, the phases of the Moon, tides, and severe weather. In addition to knowledge gained about disciplinary core ideas, students will utilize their critical thinking skills and knowledge to explore and explain real-world phenomena through hands-on, project-based learning labs and activities.

## **Science 7: Life Science**

This course is designed as an introduction to life science. The students will learn about the characteristics of life, cells, genetics, heredity, and evolution. Additionally, students will explore the connection between living things and their environment. Throughout the course, students will apply critical thinking skills and knowledge to investigate and explain real-world phenomena.

**Science 8: Physical Science**

In this course, students will be introduced to Physics and Chemistry concepts and skills that address relevant, real-world issues. Students will learn about energy, waves, electromagnetic radiation, forces and information technologies. Additionally, students will concentrate on matter, atoms, molecular structure, the periodic table and physical as well as chemical reactions.



## ATHLETICS

Team sports begin in Grade 6 and games and matches are played against other schools. Students are taught the skills needed to play a variety of team sports. In addition, sportsmanship is incorporated throughout the lessons and is expected on and off of the field. All boys participate in the following team sports: flag football, soccer, basketball, lacrosse, tennis, and golf. Girls participate in volleyball, basketball, soccer, lacrosse, tennis, and golf.

Students in Grades 7-8 participate in a try-out selection process for both Junior Varsity and Varsity sports. Varsity is a nine conference league play. All boys try out and qualify for either the Junior Varsity or Varsity team. Boys sports include flag football, soccer, basketball, lacrosse, tennis, and golf. Girls follow the same selection process for and participate in volleyball, basketball, field hockey, soccer, lacrosse, tennis, and golf.



# PALM BEACH DAY ACADEMY

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**Upper Campus:** Grades 4 - 8 • 241 Seaview Ave., Palm Beach, FL 33480

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