

ALDERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIRED CLASSES – 8th GRADE

ENGLISH

English 8

English Language Arts focuses learning on all areas of communication: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will be inspired to think critically about text to develop analytical thinking, utilize the writing process to write in a variety of forms, practice reading strategies to enhance comprehension, and interact with literature to expand knowledge and improve skills.

Honors Humanities 8

This program consists of an Honors English class and an Honors Social Studies class. The emphasis of the program will be on fostering creativity while promoting the use of critical and higher level thinking skills to deepen students' understanding of both English and social studies concepts. The courses will be heavily based on research and writing, and will provide strategies for oral presentations and debate, and will be run with high expectations to prepare students for accelerated high school programs (i.e. Honors, IB, and AP). Students should have strong reading and writing skills, an enthusiasm for learning, a willingness to tackle more difficult subject matter, and the ability to perform as a productive group member. Admission to the class is by application only. Applications are available in the main office and are typically due in mid-March.

ELA/Reading Support

The Edmonds Reading Intervention Course is designed to identify reading difficulties and provide systematic, targeted Reading instruction in the areas of phonics & decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Students will participate in daily and weekly activities to obtain the necessary skills to achieve grade level reading proficiency. Students are identified and placed in this course using the State (Smarter Balanced Assessment) outcomes from prior academic years, the district (i-Ready) results, and Acadience Reading Program data. This course is taken in addition to English 8 and may replace the student's Elective or Health and Physical Education class.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 8

The eighth grade American Studies course presents a study of our history from Revolution through Reform (American Revolution, Constitution, The New Nation, Expansion, Civil War/Reconstruction, Industrialization/Urbanization, Immigration, and Reforms). Students will also examine our multicultural heritage through an antiracist lens, our economic development, as well as citizenship rights and responsibilities. All students will be required to complete a Classroom Based Assessment in civics. Reading, writing, discussion, and research skills will be continuously reinforced.

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MATHEMATICS

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra is available for 8th grade students as well as highly-motivated 7th grade students. The course covers understanding the real number system, solving two-step and multi-step equations, including exponents, patterns of linear equations, and geometric congruence. Seventh grade students taking this course need to be self-motivated and able to adjust to the pace of the course. Students will be required to communicate their mathematical knowledge through problem-solving, reasoning, writing and class discussions. This course will prepare students to take Algebra in the following year.

Algebra

Algebra is available for students who have a qualifying score on their spring i-Ready diagnostic as well as an invitation based on their past assessments. Algebra is a high school level course, and if requested, the grade and credit will be posted on a student's high school transcript. Topics include: generalizing the algorithms of arithmetic to learn how to develop equations that will model

different situations and other functions, inequalities and systems of equations. Students will be required to communicate their mathematical knowledge through problem-solving, reasoning, writing and class discussions.

Geometry

Geometry is only available for students who have successfully completed Algebra 1. Geometry is a high school level course, and if requested, the grade and credit will be posted on a student's high school transcript. Topics include experiences that deepen the understanding of 2- and 3- dimensional objects and their properties through logic and modeling; deductive and inductive reasoning; working with probability; learning investigative strategies to enhance the development of problem-solving skills, and includes work with probability. Students will be required to communicate their mathematical knowledge through problem-solving, reasoning, writing and class discussions.

Fundamentals of Math

Math support is offered to students who do not meet math standards taught in the previous year. Students are not able to self-select this course. This course is taken in addition to the student's grade level math class and may replace the student's elective class for one quarter.

SCIENCE 8

The 8th-grade science class is a continuation of the skills and concepts developed in the 7th grade in the areas of physical, earth, and life science. As with the 7th-grade program, students will spend the majority of their time engaged in science investigations that promote increasing skill development in identifying problems, designing experiments, collecting evidence, interpreting data, and communicating findings.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills to enable them to lead a healthy, happy and active lifestyle. The students will participate in a wide variety of activities, which include, but are not limited to cardiovascular exercise (running, rope jumping, and aerobics), individual and team sports, weight training, cooperative games, team-building activities, and the study and application of various health topics. Due to the active nature of this class, students are expected to be prepared for PE and AMS follows the Edmonds School District policy for dressing down. The policy states that students need to be dressed in clothing they can move freely in, this eliminates things like jeans, dresses/skirts, and any shoe that is not a laceable tennis shoe.

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Students who have goals on their IEPs that require minutes in Interpersonal Relationships or Learning Strategies may have that as their elective. Please inquire with your student's case manager.

*****Counselors are available to assist students with concerns around possible course fees*****

ART

2 Dimensional (2D) Visual Arts (1 Semester)

This class is designed for students in 8th grade who want to develop their drawing and painting skills. Learn how to create more realistic images as well as learning to simplify and create abstract images. Watercolor, acrylic, ink, charcoal, pastel, and pencil will be used to create works of art. Projects are the same each semester so this class should not be repeated.

Materials fee: \$20.00

3 Dimensional (3D) Visual Arts (1 Semester)

This class is designed for students in 8th grade to develop their sculptural skills. We will work with wood carving tools, explore making a 2D image or idea into a 3D sculpture, make plates and wind chimes out of melted (fused) glass. Projects do not vary each semester so that class should not be repeated.

Materials fee: \$20.00

DRAMA (Full Year)

Drama is a yearlong class which focuses on improvisation, theater games, comedy skits, commercials, monologues, pantomime, conflict scenes, special effect makeup, movie producing, musical theater choreography, Shakespeare, one-act plays and more! The class will focus on developing characters, stage movement, rehearsing and performing a play before a live audience. Students will also learn tech skills like: lighting, sound, graphic design, rigging, and terms. The class produces 2 shows each year. Come with your creative ideas, energy, and talent! Required class materials: Ben Nye Personal Creme Kit, Ben Nye Bruise Wheel, and Ben Nye Monster Wheel. Fee: \$20 for entire year

MUSIC

Bands - Alderwood has 3 bands. Placement will be determined by the director.

[See Band Video](#)

Wind Ensemble/Jazz Band (Full Year)

Open to highly qualified seventh and eighth graders. Admission is by audition only and openings are limited. Students in Jazz Band must also be members of the symphonic/concert band, choir or orchestra. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students continue to work on the fundamentals of musicianship including practice and rehearsal skills, performance-related music theory, instrumental techniques and accurate music reading. Also, they study symphonic band literature, jazz band literature with an emphasis on rhythmic analysis, interpretation, phrasing and improvisation. Members are required to participate in all concerts at which the band performs. Performances are quite frequent so all members must remain in good standing with their teachers and with the school's administration.

Fee \$20 for entire year

Symphonic Band (Full Year)

Open to students with one to three years of experience or the equivalent. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students continue to work on the fundamentals of musicianship including practice and rehearsal skills, performance-related music theory, instrumental techniques and accurate music reading. Also, they study symphonic band literature with an emphasis on rhythmic analysis, interpretation, and phrasing. There is an increased emphasis on public performance. Members are required to participate in all concerts at which the band performs. Members are expected to remain in good standing with their teachers and with the school's administration. Fee \$20 for the entire year.

Concert Band (Full Year)

Open to students with zero to two years of experience or the equivalent. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students continue to work on the fundamentals of musicianship including practice and rehearsal skills, performance-related music theory, instrumental techniques and accurate music reading. Also, they study symphonic band literature with an emphasis on rhythmic analysis, interpretation, and phrasing. Members are required to participate in all concerts at which the band performs. Members are expected to remain in good standing with their teachers and with the school's administration. Fee \$20 for the entire year.

Orchestra - Alderwood has two orchestras. Placement will be determined by the director.

Symphonic Orchestra (Full Year)

Open to students with three years of experience or the equivalent. Admission is by director approval. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students continue to work on the fundamentals of musicianship including practice and rehearsal skills, performance-related music theory, instrumental techniques and accurate music reading. Also, they study symphonic orchestra literature with an emphasis on rhythmic analysis, interpretation, and phrasing. There is an increased emphasis on public performance. Members are required to participate in all concerts at which the orchestra performs. Members are expected to remain in good standing with their teachers and with the school's administration. Fee \$20 for the entire year.

Concert Orchestra (Full Year)

Open to students with zero to two years of experience or the equivalent. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students continue to work on the fundamentals of musicianship. Instruction will focus on proper instrument positioning and posture, basic sound production, and reading notes. A broad range of musical styles will be explored throughout the year. Members are required to participate in all concerts at which the orchestra performs. Members are expected to remain in good standing with their teachers and with the school's administration. Fee \$20 for the entire year.

Choir - Alderwood has 1 Choir. Please sign up for Choir on the registration form.

Concert Choir (Full Year)

Concert Choir is open to all who like to sing and would like to learn more about singing. Students will sing a variety of songs in many different styles. This class will participate in 7 concerts, 5 field trips, 5 assemblies and will get to have master clinicians work with them. You don't have to be a great singer to join, but joining will make you a great singer! Required class materials: black tailored shirt, black pants, music department shirt, folder, pencil.

Fee: \$20 for entire year

TECH. ED. / STEM

Introduction to Computer Science (1 Semester) - [See Computer Science Video](#)

This introductory course focuses on coding using the Python language, covering basic Coding and Game Design concepts. Students engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, problem solving, and fun. The course inspires students as they control their own character and master each level as well as designing gaming levels. The Ozaria and curriculum will be used for this course.

STEM 8 (1 Semester) - [See STEM 8 Video](#)

This is a one semester class for 8th graders wishing to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) through project-based learning. STEM 8 will follow the STEM Foundations first Semester course. Projects from the past have included engineering balsa towers or bridges, designing and racing CO2 Dragsters, making catapults or trebuchets, or laser and 3D design projects. The possibilities are endless, as time allows. Students in this class are invited to participate in our competitive after school club, *Washington Technology Student Association (WTSA)*.

STEM Foundations (Full Year) - [See STEM Foundations Video](#)

STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

This year-long class is designed for 8th-grade students who have successfully completed the technology or computer science class as a 7th grader and are interested in more advanced opportunities. Students in this class are encouraged to join our after school club, *Washington Technology Student Association (WTSA)*. Students apply STEM concepts at a higher level as they design and build projects such as engineering the strongest structure, racing the fastest built CO2 dragster, and as a class, reverse engineering and building a complex mechanism as a capstone project. This course has an emphasis on Math 8 and Algebra 1 applications and career planning. How to use various computer programs, laser cutters, 3D printers, wood shop equipment and other tools safety is an essential part of this class.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Spanish 1a & 1b (Full year, Eighth grade only) - [See Spanish Video](#)

Spanish is a first-year course with the opportunity to earn high school credit and enter the high school program at the second level. The course will contain vocabulary, grammar, culture, and geography while focusing on speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Student Assistants

Library Assistant (1 Semester or Full Year)

Library Assistants are responsible for helping with daily duties in the library, as well as larger projects. AMS students who take on this leadership role are reliable, dependable, and highly motivated. Some daily duties include checking library materials in and out,

assisting other students in locating library materials, updating/refreshing displays, and straightening shelves and books. Students also partake in larger projects throughout the semester, including adding/removing books from the computer system, covering books, taking inventory, and creating displays.

Office Assistant (1 Semester or Full Year)

As an Office Assistant, students will learn various office procedures including but not limited to filing, sorting, alphabetizing, and disbursement of materials to classrooms. Students will also assist with running passes to students in classrooms. This leadership role requires the student to reliably use strict confidentiality and to display a professional attitude while working in the office. There will be times when students will have a chance to work on homework or silently read. Students will be graded on attendance, quality of work, and professionalism. Preference is given to students in the Eighth Grade.

Teacher Assistant (1 Semester or Full Year)

As a Teacher Assistant, students will work directly with one teacher helping with organization and classroom preparation. AMS Teacher Assistants who take on this leadership role are reliable, dependable, and highly-motivated. Students need to coordinate with the teacher before the start of the semester to be registered as a Teacher Assistant.

Course Fees

Some classes require the student to pay a fee for consumable materials. If a student does not pay the course fee, a fine in the dollar amount of the course fee will be assessed to them, or a payment arrangement can be made. If it is not possible to work out satisfactory arrangements for payment of these fees, the following waiver procedure shall apply:

1. The student and the student's parents are responsible for initiating a request for the waiver.
2. The present income guidelines established by State and Federal agencies for qualifications for free lunches will serve as a qualification for waivers. These income guidelines are subject to change by the Federal Government.
3. Students or guardians must provide the district-generated "Eligibility Notification Letter, School Foods Services Office" to the Main Office or counselor to obtain the waiver. The Food Services phone number is 425-431-7077.
4. Counselors are available to assist students with concerns around course fees.