

# Middle School Course Catalog

2024-2025



# MIDDLE SCHOOL: ELECTIVES

## **2D STUDIO ART**

Do you like to draw, paint, or take pictures? Whatever medium you prefer, this course will teach you the design elements and principles needed to create a work of art and explore your artistic inspirations. You'll also travel back in time to look at art in different cultures and learn about the art of critiquing. Let's turn your creative dreams into reality!

## **CAREER EXPLORATIONS I, II & III**

This course prepares middle school students to make informed decisions about their future academic and occupational goals. Through direct instruction, interactive skill demonstrations, and practice assignments, students learn how to assess their own skills and interests, explore industry clusters and pathways, and develop plans for career and academic development. This course is designed to provide flexibility for students; any number of units can be selected to comprise a course that meets the specific needs of students.

## **CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP**

Civics and Citizenship is a one-semester elective appropriate for students in middle school and early high school. The course investigates events, concepts, and issues with a 360-degree view allowing multiple perspectives from various cultures and institutions to inform student learning. The course is divided into five units in which students will explore their civic roles, rights, and responsibilities; analyze the development of democracy in the United States; study the purposes and principles of the Constitution; investigate the role of power in decision-making; and discover ways to influence the government. The course provides opportunities to actively engage with the content through interactives, assignments, readings, short writings, projects, and discourse.

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Middle School Computer Science is a full-year course designed to introduce students in grades 6-8 to computer science as a vehicle for problem solving, communication, and personal expression. This course focuses on the visible aspects of computing and computer science centering on the immediately observable and personally applicable elements of computer science while also asking students to look outward and explore the impact of computer science on society. Students will explore the design process with creative, hands-on learning opportunities to create programs and collaborate with peers while learning specific aspects of computer science including problem solving, programming, physical computing, user-centered design, and data.

### **Required Materials:**

Access to the Microsoft Office suite or similar product line

Python and Scratch

Recommended for devices running Windows 10 or higher or MacOS

## **DIGITAL ART & DESIGN**

The world is filled with so many different forms of art – including digital art. In this course, you'll explore this special genre of art found in everything from advertising to animation to photography and beyond. Additionally, you'll tap into your creative side to create digital art and make it come alive!

## **EXPLORING MUSIC**

What comes to mind when you hear the word 'music'? Do you think about your favorite band or artist? In this course, you'll learn about how we hear music; how music affects our lives; essential elements of music like rhythm, pitch, and harmony; different musical genres; singing and your voice; various instruments; music composition; and the history and culture of music over the years.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL: ELECTIVES

## GAME DESIGN

We love to play video games, but have you ever wanted to build your own? If you are interested in a career in technology but also want a creative outlet, Game Design might be the field for you. Learn how to build a game from the ground up in this interactive and hands-on course that will teach you all the ins and outs of making your own game.

## INTRODUCTION TO ART

Covering art appreciation and the beginning of art history, this course encourages students to gain an understanding and appreciation of art in their everyday lives. Presented in an engaging format, Intro to Art provides an overview of many introductory themes: the definition of art, the cultural purpose of art, visual elements of art, terminology, and principles of design, and two- and three-dimensional media and techniques. Tracing the history of art, high school students enrolled in the course also explore the following time periods and places: prehistoric art, art in ancient civilizations, and world art before 1400.

## JOURNALISM

Are you someone who likes to write to get the story straight? Skilled journalists know how to find key facts and write them up in a way that makes it easy for others to read. In this course, you'll learn how to ask the right questions, how to gather information effectively, organize ideas, format stories, and edit your articles. Get ready to break that news!

## KEYBOARDING

Keyboarding and applications is a semester-long course that teaches students keyboarding skills, technical skills, effective communication skills, and productive work habits. Students learn proper keyboarding techniques. Once students have been introduced to keyboarding skills, lessons include daily practice of those skills. Students gain an understanding of computer hardware, operating systems, file management, and the Internet. In addition, students apply their keyboarding skills and create a variety of business documents, including word processing documents and electronic presentations.

### **Required materials:**

Word-processing software (e.g., MS Word)

Presentation software (e.g., MS PowerPoint)

## ONLINE LEARNING AND DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

This one-semester course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to online learning, including how to work independently, stay safe, and develop effective study habits in virtual learning environments. Featuring direct-instruction videos, interactive tasks, authentic projects, and rigorous assessments, the course prepares students for high school by providing in-depth instruction and practice in important study skills such as time management, effective notetaking, test preparation, and collaborating effectively online. By the end of the course, students will understand what it takes to be successful online learners and responsible digital citizens.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL: ENGLISH

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6**

This course eases students' transition to middle school with engaging, age-appropriate literary and informational reading selections. Students learn to read critically, analyze texts, and cite evidence to support ideas as they read essential parts of literary and informational texts and explore a full unit on Lewis Carroll's classic novel *Through the Looking Glass*. Vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills are sharpened through lessons that give students explicit modeling and ample practice. Students also engage in routine, responsive writing based on texts they have read. In extensive, process-based writing lessons, students write topical essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats. In this full-year course, students develop a mastery of reading, writing, and language arts skills.

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7**

Students grow as readers, writers, and thinkers in this middle school course. With engaging literary and informational texts, students learn to think critically, analyze an author's language, and cite evidence to support ideas. Students complete an in-depth study of Jack London's classic novel *White Fang* and read excerpts from other stories, poetry, and nonfiction. Explicit modeling and ample opportunities for practice help students sharpen their vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills. Students also respond routinely to texts they have read. In extensive, process-based writing lessons, students write topical essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats. In this full-year course, students develop a mastery of reading, writing, and language arts skills.

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8**

In this course, students build on their knowledge and blossom as thoughtful readers and clear, effective writers. A balance of literary and informational texts engages students throughout the course in reading critically, analyzing texts, and citing evidence to support claims. Students sharpen their vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills through lessons designed to provide explicit modeling and ample opportunities to practice. Students also routinely write responses to texts they have read, and use more extensive, process-based lessons to produce full-length essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats. In this full-year course, students develop a mastery of reading, writing, and language arts skills.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL: HISTORY

## **WORLD HISTORY 6**

This yearlong course covers ancient peoples, cultures, civilizations, and innovations through approximately 300 CE. Students are introduced to historical inquiry skills for application to studies of ancient civilizations. Students explore physical and human geography to explain how ancient people interacted with the environment and understand how civilizations developed. Students study early economies and how trade relations affected culture and language. In later lessons, students examine how early forms of government and technology have had a lasting influence on modern civilization. Throughout the course, students analyze maps and primary sources to identify patterns and make connections across time and space. Students are exposed to diverse cultures and learn to explore the past with historical empathy.

## **WORLD HISTORY 7**

The MS Modern World History course presents a cohesive and comprehensive overview of world history from the Middle Ages to the modern era. This yearlong course examines the role of conflict and cooperation in shaping the modern world. Students will draw upon and further develop historical inquiry skills as they examine the expansion of global economic, political, and social interactions and question the impact they had, and continue to have, on cultures and nations. Students will explore the lasting effects that revolutions in government and technology have had on peoples, nations, and the environment. Students apply historical inquiry skills to studies of civilizations from the Middle Ages to the modern era. Students study economies and the growth of more complex trade systems, the cultures of and conflicts among peoples and places, the development of political institutions, and the rise and fall of governments. In later lessons, students examine how changes in the arts, technology, and political systems have had a lasting influence on modern civilization. Throughout the course, students analyze maps and primary sources to identify patterns and make connections across time and space. Students are exposed to diverse cultures and learn to explore the past with historical empathy. Students encounter rigorous reading and writing activities for a variety of purposes. These activities allow students to develop literacy and writing skills, as well as critical-thinking and communication skills.

## **U.S. HISTORY 8**

Offering an interactive and comprehensive overview of American history, this course engages and inspires students to learn about the rich and diverse history of America's native peoples, early European colonization and settlement in America, and the creation of a new nation through the American Revolution. Middle school students enrolled in this course will closely examine major changes brought about by the nation's reconstruction, industrialization, urbanization, and progressive reforms and consider the implications each of these events had on the expansion of the United States' global influence through modern times. Over the course of two semesters, interesting course content encourages students to think carefully about the challenges and opportunities facing the United States in the twenty-first century.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL: MATH

## **MATHEMATICS 6**

This course begins by connecting ratio and rate to multiplication and division, allowing students to use ratio reasoning to solve a wide variety of problems. Students further apply their understanding of multiplication and division to explain the standard procedure for dividing fractions. This course builds upon previous notions of the number system to now include the entire set of rational numbers. Students begin to understand the use of variables as they write, evaluate, and simplify expressions. They use the idea of equality and properties of operations to solve one-step equations and inequalities. In statistics, students explore different graphical ways to display data. They use data displays, measures of center, and measures of variability to summarize data sets. The course concludes with students reasoning about relationships among shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume.

## **MATHEMATICS 7**

This course begins with an in-depth study of proportional reasoning during which students utilize concrete models such as bar diagrams and tables to increase and develop conceptual understanding of rates, ratios, proportions, and percentages. Students' number fluency and understanding of the rational number system are extended as they perform operations with signed rational numbers embedded in real-world contexts. In statistics, students develop meanings for representative samples, measures of central tendency, variation, and the ideal representation for comparisons of given data sets. Students develop an understanding of both theoretical and experimental probability. Throughout the course, students build fluency in writing expressions and equations that model real-world scenarios. They apply their understanding of inverse operations to solve multi-step equations and inequalities. Students build on their proportional reasoning to solve problems about scale drawings by relating the corresponding lengths between objects. The course concludes with a geometric analysis of angle relationships, area, and volume of both two- and three- dimensional figures.

## **MATHEMATICS 8**

The course begins with a unit on input-output relationships that builds a foundation for learning about functions. Students make connections between verbal, numeric, algebraic, and graphical representations of relations and apply this knowledge to create linear functions that can be used to model and solve mathematical and real-world problems. Technology is used to build deeper connections among representations. Students focus on formulating expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and writing and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations. Students develop a deeper understanding of how translations, rotations, reflections, and dilations of distances and angles affect congruency and similarity. Students develop rules of exponents and use them to simplify exponential expressions. Students extend rules of exponents as they perform operations with numbers in scientific notation. Estimating and comparing square roots of non- perfect squares to perfect squares exposes students to irrational numbers and lays the foundation for applications such as the Pythagorean theorem, distance, and volume.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL: PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)**

### **PE 6, PE 7 and PE 8**

In this course, students will explore concepts involving personal fitness, individual and lifetime sports. Students will focus on health-related fitness as they set goals and develop a program to improve their fitness level through cardio, strength, and flexibility training. Throughout this course, students also participate in a weekly fitness program involving elements of cardio, strength, and flexibility. Students are required to complete a weekly Fitness Log as part of this course.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL: SCIENCE

## **INTEGRATED SCIENCE 6-8**

The middle school science courses integrate and overlap concepts in life, physical, and earth science. The middle school performance expectations in the Physical Sciences build on the K–5 ideas and capabilities to allow learners to explain phenomena central to the physical sciences but also to the life sciences and earth and space science. The performance expectations in physical science blend the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge to explain real world phenomena in the physical, biological, and earth and space sciences. In the physical sciences, performance expectations at the middle school level focus on students developing understanding of several scientific practices. These include developing and using models, planning, and conducting investigations, analyzing, and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanations; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. Students are also expected to demonstrate understanding of several of engineering practices including design and evaluation. Students in middle school develop understanding of key concepts to help them make sense of the life sciences. These ideas build upon students' science understanding from earlier grades and from the disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts of other experiences with physical and earth sciences. There are five life science topics in middle school: 1) Structure, Function, and Information Processing, 2) Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms, 3) Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems, 4) Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, and 5) Natural Selection and Adaptations. The performance expectations in middle school blend core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge across the science disciplines. While the performance expectations in middle school life science couple particular practices with specific disciplinary core ideas, instructional decisions should include use of many science and engineering practices integrated in the performance expectations.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL: WORLD LANGUAGE

## SPANISH I

Students begin their introduction to high school Spanish with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading, and listening comprehension activities, speaking, and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major Spanish-speaking areas in Europe and the Americas.

## SPANISH II

High school students continue their introduction to Spanish with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading, and listening comprehension activities, speaking, and writing activities, cultural presentations covering major Spanish-speaking areas in Europe and the Americas, and assessments.

## FRENCH I

Students in high school begin their introduction to French with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading, and listening comprehension activities, speaking, and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major French-speaking areas in Europe and across the globe.

## FRENCH II

Students continue their introduction to French in this second-year, high school language course with review of fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading, and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, cultural presentations covering major French-speaking areas across the globe, and assessments.

## GERMAN I

High school students begin their introduction to German with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading, and listening comprehension activities, speaking, and writing activities, and cultural presentations covering major German-speaking areas in Europe.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL: WORLD LANGUAGE

## GERMAN II

Students continue their introduction to high school German in this second-year course with review of fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading, and listening comprehension activities, speaking, and writing activities, and cultural presentations covering major German-speaking areas in Europe.