

Middle School Curriculum Guide

Grades 6-8

2025-2026

Middle and Upper School

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Wildwood School cultivates reflective scholars, bold innovators and compassionate leaders equipped with the skills, ethics and inspiration to transform their world.

Middle School Curriculum: Introduction

Wildwood's middle school curriculum offers every student intellectual and creative opportunities in an active learning environment where adolescent development is understood and fully supported. Classes and programs in Humanities, STEM, World Languages, and arts tap into students' natural curiosity while satisfying their growing desire to direct their own learning and make relevant connections between the classroom and the world.

Building on the critical thinking skills developed in elementary school, Wildwood middle school students cultivate an ability to examine and understand complex concepts, investigate and build evidence, and present and share findings. Along with a rigorous interdisciplinary Humanities course, each year of middle school includes mathematics, science, languages, physical education, and a choice of electives. All teaching and learning intentionally supports students as they develop skills in inquiry, information literacy, and self-expression.

Middle School Course of Study

6th grade:	7th grade:	8th grade:
Humanities	Humanities	Humanities
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
Science	Science	Science
6th Grade Rotations <ul style="list-style-type: none">World LanguagesElectives	World Language	World Language
	Elective	Elective
Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education
Advisory	Advisory	Advisory

Adding/Dropping Courses

A student may request to add or drop a course for a limited number of days at the beginning of the school year.

Requests to add or drop a course may be made for the following reasons:

- Gaps in the required course load
- Correction due to system errors
- Level placement for mathematics or World Languages
 - Note: Level placement is contingent on departmental approval, placement diagnostic, completion of prerequisite courses, and/or space in the other level class.
- Desire to take a different elective

Requests to add or drop a course cannot be made for the following reasons:

- Requests for a specific teacher
- Requests for a specific block or section
- Requests for a class with specific peer(s)

Open Add/Drop Period: Up to the End of Week 2 of the School Year

During this period, the student may request to add or drop courses in their schedule. The open period is the only time during the school year when a student may add or drop a new course to their schedule.

Week 3 and On

After the Open Add/Drop Period closes at the end of Week 2, no courses may be added or dropped to a student's schedule. The school may make exceptions in the following circumstances:

- Extended illness or injury resulting in medical leave from school
- Appropriate placement of new students

Students are encouraged to consider schedule changes carefully. Changes may not be reversed after they have been finalized or may require shifts in the student's other classes to different sections/blocks and/or different teachers. Additionally, the student is responsible for completing work assigned before their arrival in the new class.

Humanities

Wildwood students study social studies and language arts as Humanities throughout their middle school experience. This interdisciplinary course is team-taught. All classes include literature that complements historic themes to encourage deep engagement. Essential questions connect ideas across language arts and social studies as students discuss historic and modern events, making connections to literary texts or current events. Students work individually and in small cooperative groups, learning to closely collaborate, exchange ideas, and share feedback in a variety of contexts.

Humanities 6: Ancient Civilizations

In Humanities 6, students explore the relationship between social studies, language arts, and culture. During 6th grade, that exploration focuses on the ancient world—including Africa, pre-Columbian indigenous people, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia—and its influence on our own modern world. Students turn their attention to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) to be informed about the needs of our world *now* and how we can be activists for change. Throughout the year, we cultivate the skills of being readers, writers, researchers, historians, and critical thinkers. We do that with a variety of projects such as researching and presenting those experts who teach us about human development and the ancient and modern world; learning skills from our elders; comparing the markers of a civilization in the ancient world and the sustainable goals today; exploring diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging across time and place; and using Design Thinking to create solutions to the UN SDGs. The overall goal this year is that sixth graders use these skills and experiences to better understand the needs of our society, create possible solutions to issues of today, and understand their role as changemakers.

Humanities 7: Global Perspectives

The units in Humanities 7 will build upon the work of Humanities 6, emphasizing empathy for others through a focus on individual perspectives in a variety of world cultures. Students will deepen their understanding of our world by analyzing moments throughout history in which continuity and change hang in balance. We begin each unit with students developing inquiry questions before gaining relevant historical context about each region. Through a study of fiction and nonfiction texts, students identify and analyze the values and limitations of individual stories as representations of a larger community or culture. Ultimately, students will deepen their understanding of themselves as readers, researchers, writers, historians, and collaborators and will hone their academic skills through a variety of assignments, including research, literary analyses, creative writing, and group projects and presentations. Through the course of the year, students will reflect deeply on who they are within an increasingly complex world and, by the end of the year, will have cultivated stronger collaboration skills that help them understand how their actions can contribute to continuity and change in our global community.

Humanities 8: United States History & Literature

Each course unit of Humanities 8 will explore stories that have been buried or reinterpreted throughout history, considering which voices have been acknowledged, ignored, or silenced throughout the continuing expansion of this democratic republic. Students grow to understand their own rights and responsibilities as citizens, reinterpreting and applying Constitutional principles to a modern world. Through an emphasis on multiple perspectives, students take a deep look at conflicts and compromises of a young nation's growing pains in units of study on Westward Expansion and Invasion, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. Understanding the struggle for civil rights and racial equality guides students through our selected American literature texts. As students explore examples of justice and injustice in US history, they also apply the UN Sustainable Development Goals to explore international equity, sustainability, and social justice issues on a global scale. The vehicle for this exploration is the Into the Wild capstone project which asks students to engage in global citizenship via a student-led capstone

project anchored to a specific UN SDG goal and the iterative design thinking process. By the end of the year, students not only have synthesized and heard numerous distinct voices but also have a sense of the elements necessary to effectively engage the world with a sense of one's own writing style and voice.

Mathematics

Building on the skills and content mastered during the elementary years, students move through concepts, mindsets, and skills that provide readiness for algebraic thinking. Experiential activities, using visual and kinesthetic approaches, help students learn the skills essential for algebraic reasoning. Hands-on equations and project-based learning provide real-world connections to abstract concepts, allowing students to learn answers to the perennial question, “When will I ever use this again?”

Direct instruction coupled with cooperative group work fosters collaboration, creative problem-solving, and an appreciation of multiple means of finding solutions. Students gain confidence as they master concepts through a range of assessments, including peer and teacher feedback, demonstrations of knowledge, and projects. Student projects include components of engineering applications, art, and social justice. The middle school math curriculum provides the foundation for the following skills. Individual classes support the development of additional skills as specified.

Pre-Algebra A

Sixth-grade mathematics is about (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing an understanding of statistical thinking.

Pre-Algebra B

Seventh-grade mathematics is about (1) developing proportional reasoning through the use of percents to draw comparisons; (2) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (3) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (4) analyzing two-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Algebra

Students will explore linear, quadratic, and exponential functions by drawing a graph of a real-life situation and choosing and interpreting units to solve problems related to the graph they create. Students will describe the domain and range, x- and y-intercepts, intervals where the function is increasing and decreasing, and intervals where the function is positive or negative. Students will discover how the commutative, associative, and distributive properties and the properties of equality allow equations to be solved. Students make sense of real-life problems by analyzing the given information, making sense of the quantities in the context, creating equations or inequalities based on the constraints of the problem, graphing the solution set to the equations or inequalities, and interpreting the solution. Students will discover the concept of quadratic expressions, equations, and functions, and learn important skills such as factoring trinomials and graphing quadratic equations from the vertex form. Students will explore the shapes and centers of distributions and will calculate and interpret measures of center and spread.

Science

Middle school science students learn to engage in the ongoing process of scientific thinking by asking and reasking questions, collecting and analyzing data, and drawing conclusions rooted in evidence. They learn to apply these skills to engineer solutions to real-world global problems with the aim of cultivating a love of scientific investigation that will contribute to a sense of personal connection to the world around them and their place in it.

Science 6: Physical Science

Sixth grade science is an opportunity to explore the fundamental skills of being a scientist. We'll look at the tools, the writing, the math, and the questions that drive scientific inquiry. Our experiments will help us understand the workings of atoms and their relationship with energy. You will be introduced to the instruments of lab science by boiling and freezing matter in beakers, flasks, and graduated cylinders. As the year progresses, you will use your knowledge of Newton's Laws and potential energy to engineer egg-drop devices and compete with your classmates. In the second semester, our focus will shift to subatomic particles—protons, neutrons, and electrons—and how their charges govern the laws of the universe. You will interact with a "lightning machine" and build your own working circuits when we study the movement of electrons and charge. We will explore how energy travels in waves and how this applies to our own senses of hearing and sight. The year will culminate in an exploration of how atoms give, take, and share electrons in chemical reactions. You will learn what an acid is and mix acids and bases together to trigger colorful reactions. Throughout the year, you will be assessed on both your understanding of the material and your approach to scientific inquiry, both of which are the foundations of later scientific skill-building.

Science 7: Life Science

Seventh grade life science offers students the opportunity to explore the natural world in many similar ways that notable scientists have done in the past! Students will learn how to use scientific instruments and methods to complete laboratory experiments, hands-on activities, and projects as part of a team. In the first semester, students investigate science at the molecular level where everything is small! Working their way through cellular structure and function, cell division and replication, and cellular energy processes, students become experts on how and why living organisms function. Throughout the first semester, students complete labs and cumulative assignments that stretch their thinking and challenge their perceptions of the natural world around them. As the year progresses, students explore the subjects of genetics and heredity, revealing how traits are passed from parents to offspring, and how certain traits can either be hidden or seen. Students use probability and computational skills to predict the outcomes of various traits in organisms. In the second semester, students build on concepts they learned by investigating evolution and natural selection and interactions of living things from bacteria to plants and animals. The culmination of the academic year is a unit on anatomy and physiology where students learn about the intricate workings of body systems. The year is filled with projects, labs, hands-on activities, and many opportunities to sharpen analytical skills by digging deep into the mysteries the natural world has to offer! From the smallest unit of life to the largest animal on the planet, seventh-grade life science is a journey to discovery, inquiry and investigation, and collaboration.

Science 8: Environmental Science

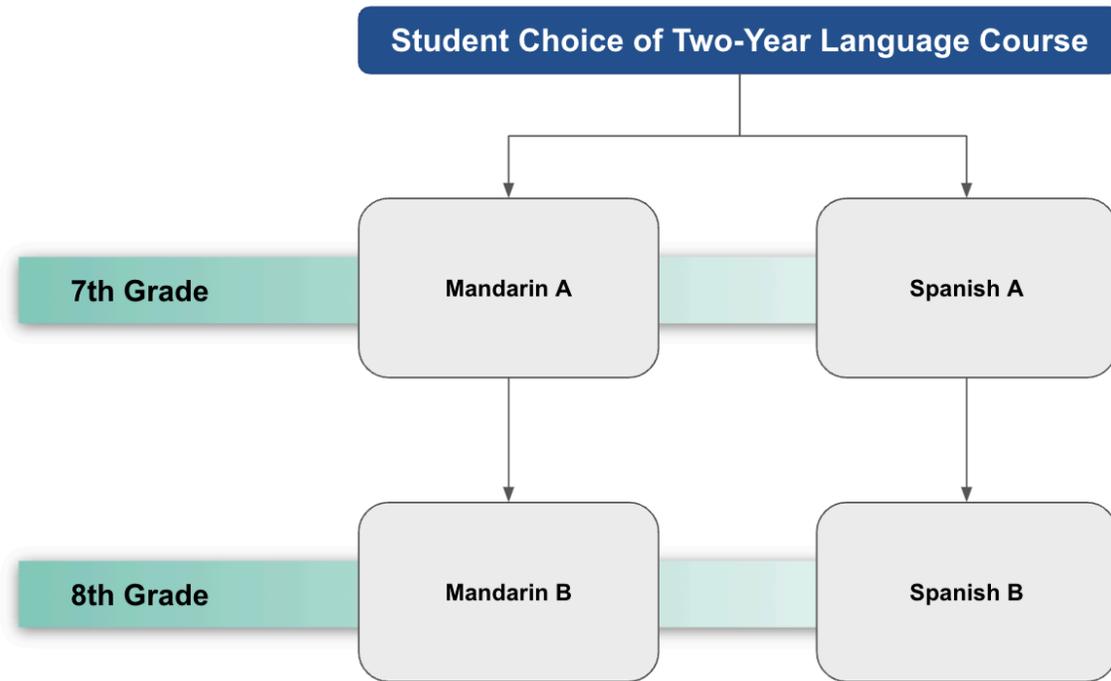
Through experimentation, inquiry, systems modeling, research, and design thinking, eighth-grade scientists investigate global challenges such as ocean acidification, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, and warming atmospheric temperatures. In environmental science, we explore the connections among natural and human-created systems and their impact on Earth's biomes; the eighth-grade science curriculum intersects biology, chemistry, ecology, atmospheric science, engineering, and ethics. After defining the environment's critical biotic and abiotic factors, students explore Earth's life-sustaining systems and evaluate how human population growth influences these natural processes. The essential

questions of this course include: What is the environment's value? How are you connected to the environment and other living things? How can you best balance your interests and needs with environmental health? When it comes to the Earth, what is your responsibility to future generations? Toward the end of the year, students apply their scientific knowledge and skills to assess local water quality, engineer potential solutions to water pollution issues, educate others on the natural world's value, and inspire others to take environmental action.

World Languages

Middle school students have the opportunity to explore two different World Languages: Mandarin and Spanish. Students then select one of these two languages to study over the next two years in 7th and 8th grades. Students do not switch languages between 7th and 8th grades.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WORLD LANGUAGES COURSE PROGRESSION



MANDARIN

With an emphasis on communication, each course is designed to create opportunities for students to speak, listen, read, and write Chinese in every class. While learning vocabulary relevant to daily life, students work on a range of rigorous projects using visuals to reinforce the spoken language. Units of study include increasingly sophisticated vocabulary and grammatical structures, encouraging students to expand their communication skills. By the end of middle school, students should be able to communicate basic daily life topics in Mandarin, demonstrating mastery of basic Chinese character writing skills and an ability to express themselves fluently and creatively in Mandarin through speaking, writing, and typing.

Mandarin 6

6th Grade Rotations

This course features a variety of basic topics for students to explore. Each topic introduces a vocabulary theme and simple basic daily-life dialogues. Activities to practice the learned materials include listening, speaking, and games. Reading and writing are taught but are not the focus of this course. Every topic will also relate to Chinese culture. Students will also develop a basic understanding of Chinese characters writing and try writing/typing basic 20 Chinese characters as well as using different technologies to explore their learning.

Mandarin A

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of the Chinese language, focusing on listening, speaking, reading, and writing/typing, with an emphasis on listening and speaking skills. Students will learn to exchange greetings, introduce themselves, describe family members, friends, and pets, and discuss daily routines, hobbies, emotions, and drinks. Lessons will incorporate visuals, songs, dialogues, and online resources to enhance learning. Chinese cultural topics will be integrated into the curriculum, and current events will be introduced to foster social awareness and build positive connections with students.

Mandarin B

Building on the foundation of Mandarin A, this course further develops students' basic knowledge of Chinese. Emphasizing listening and speaking, it also enhances reading and writing/typing skills. Students will discuss topics such as their schools, classes, sports, food, weather, and seasons. Lessons incorporate slideshows with rich visuals, songs, games, educational video clips, authentic real-life dialogues, and online resources. Chinese cultural topics, including traditional and national holidays, will be integrated into the curriculum, and current events will be used to foster social awareness. By the end of Mandarin B, students will be able to discuss a variety of topics related to their daily lives.

SPANISH

With an emphasis on effective communication, the middle school Spanish journey offers students many unique opportunities to speak, listen, read, and write in Spanish. As they progress on their linguistic journey, they will learn how to navigate the three modes of communication—interpretation, conversation, and presentation. The goal is for students to use their language skills inside and outside of the classroom in order to better understand themselves, their communities, and the world. In doing so, they explore the connection between language and identity in increasingly complex situations.

Spanish 6

6th Grade Rotations

Spanish 6 introduces students to the language and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. The student's language journey begins with communication on familiar topics such as giving and asking for biographical information and preferences, as well as talking about family, the weather, and the date. Students will learn Spanish through repeated, comprehensible messages, presented in stories and songs using high-frequency verbs and other grammatical structures. As they acquire the language, students will begin to narrate events in Spanish. They will also communicate about themselves and others through special-person interviews. In the rotation, students get a sense of the many vibrant cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

Spanish A

With a focus on using the language for real-world purposes, students will explore the products, practices, and perspectives of the Spanish-speaking world. Students' appreciation and understanding of the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world will be reinforced through reading a novella in basic Spanish, listening to Afro-Latin bands and their music, writing introductory cards to pen pals in Mallorca, Spain, and speaking during class performances. Students will continue their acquisition journey in Spanish B.

Spanish B

In Spanish B, students will build on previous Spanish courses to reinforce and expand their ability to effectively communicate in Spanish about familiar topics, such as themselves, their lives, and their surroundings. They also will deepen their understanding of the perspectives, products, and practices of the Spanish-speaking world, including art, sports, and cultural events. Their linguistic and cultural competence will be enriched through reading a novella in accessible Spanish, listening to a variety of pop songs, writing letters to pen pals in Mallorca, Spain, and presenting about themselves and their

communities. By the end of Spanish B, students are able to communicate about diverse topics that comprise their daily lives.

Electives

Sixth Grade Rotations

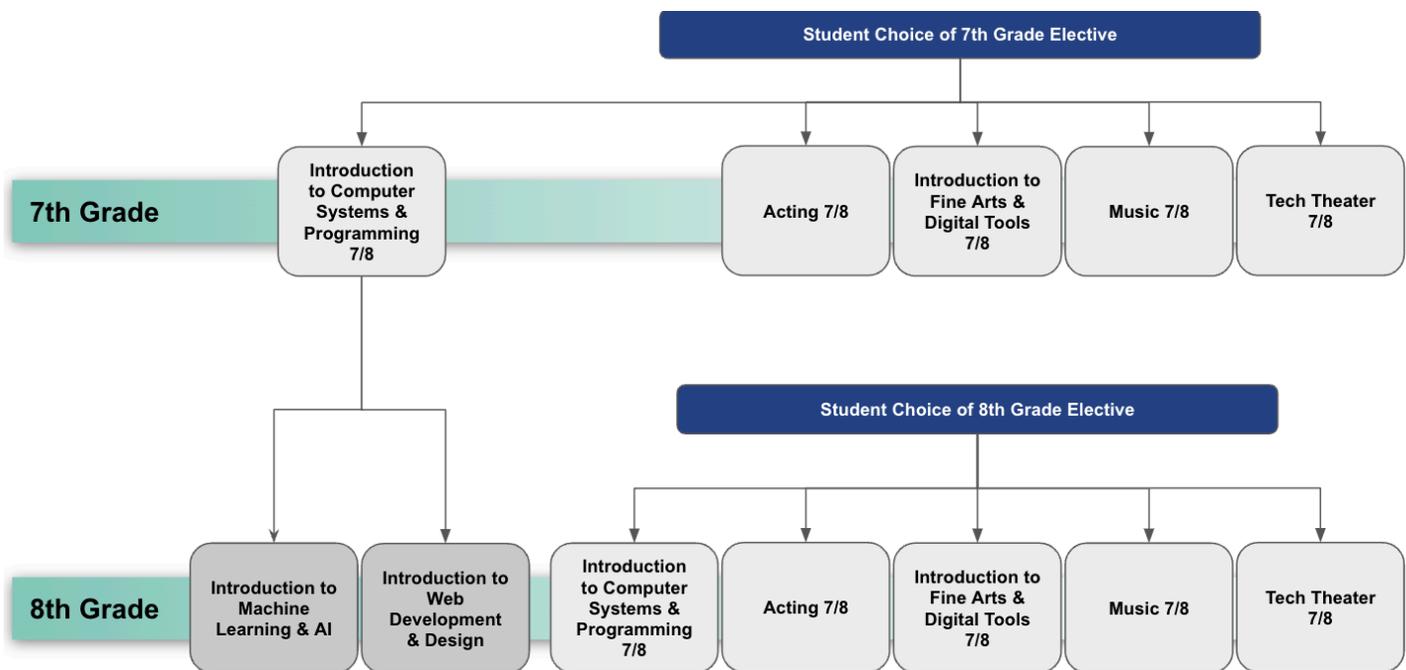
During 6th grade, students rotate through courses each quarter in the 6th Grade Rotations: Music 6, Performing Arts 6, Visual Arts 6, Navigating the Digital Landscape, Digital Storytelling, Computer Literacy Foundations, Mandarin 6, and Spanish 6.

Subject matter from other coursework is woven into a range of arts, technology, and world languages that deepen knowledge and develop creative skills and talents, giving them introductions to skills and content they can choose to extend later in the middle school years.

Electives 7/8

Seventh and Eighth graders may then choose from among five electives that range across the arts and computer tech. In 8th grade, students may choose to take a second year of the same elective class or switch to a new elective. One exception is the elective Introduction to Computer Systems and Programming. In order to take the 8th-grade offerings (Introduction to Machine Learning & AI or Introduction to Web Development & Design), students will have needed to complete the 7th Grade pre-requisite as skills gained in seventh grade are required for matriculation into the 8th Grade Class.

Note: Students also select a World Language that is a two-year commitment.



MUSIC ELECTIVES

Music 6

6th Grade Rotations

Each student learns basic techniques on the ukulele, piano, bass, drums, keyboards, and guitar. Students also sing and can learn trumpet, flute, clarinet, and saxophone, depending on their interests. Together, students create music using ensemble instruments, learning to fill multiple distinct roles of rhythm, melody, and harmony. The chromatic scale and major and minor chords on the piano and guitar are introduced. Students play together and create short rhythmic and melodic compositions and

improvisations. They work in small groups to create original compositions and perform them for the class. They also participate in guided discussions on the role of music in society, ancient and modern.

Music 7/8

Students learn to sing and play in small ensembles. They learn to thoughtfully choose repertoire and to transcribe arrangements as well as create their own arrangements with consideration for their instrumentation and playing abilities. Students learn to notate music and to understand the basics of music theory. Students learn to cover songs and then write their own songs and play them with their groups. Students have the opportunity to try different instruments and are encouraged to do so. Students become acquainted with the elements of music including instrumentation, form, melody, harmony and rhythm by learning music from around the world and from the American tradition of the blues or rock (the focus alternates each year). Music history and conventions of various genres and the basics of notation are introduced. With these new skills, the students write, notate, and perform their own original compositions with lyrics, collaborating in small groups to prepare and practice. Students research artists, along with cultural, historical, and social issues relevant to the music, and participate in discussions using the language and vocabulary of music. Students also listen to a variety of musical styles and learn to appreciate and understand music in its cultural context.

PERFORMING ARTS ELECTIVES

Performing Arts 6

6th Grade Rotations

A primary goal of the performing arts class is to introduce students to fundamental knowledge of acting, as well as a broad survey of different topics in technical theater. Students will perform scenes and monologues, design sets and costumes, and explore experimental forms of puppetry and improvisation. Students gain skills, cultivate their talents, and take risks beyond their comfort zone to understand the demands of dramatic discipline. A nurturing, safe ensemble environment allows students to experience artistic growth.

Acting 7/8

In this course, students will explore and discover many aspects of acting, writing, and creating. Through theater games, improvisations, and exercises, students learn to take creative risks and use their imagination in new ways. Students act in scenes, learn how to analyze text and play both comedic and dramatic characters. This class is a supportive and safe place for students to take risks and discover their unique artistic voice. Projects will include participating in a theater festival held by DTASC (Drama Teachers Association of Southern California), studying the history of theatre including the Ancient Greeks, Shakespeare, and Commedia dell'Arte, developing a character in a contemporary scene, and studying musical theatre. The class will culminate with a student choice project focusing on their own passions and interests. Students who wish to explore directing have the opportunity to direct their peers.

Technical Theater 7/8

This course is an introduction to the basic terminology, skills, and practices used professionally in technical theatre and theatrical design. This course will provide you with introductory knowledge of the design process and the practical application of designs; as well as creative and production team structure, and how to properly communicate your ideas. Through hands on learning, you will learn technical skills that are applicable in this field, as well as in life in general (ie. carpentry, working with electrical systems, sound routing, teamwork, communication skills, etc.)

VISUAL ARTS ELECTIVES

Visual Arts 6

6th Grade Rotations

The 6th grade visual arts rotation introduces students to the processes of artists and designers through observation, interpretation, and experimentation with ideas and materials. Students build upon prior knowledge and practice artistic conventions in traditional and digital art media. Exploring the signs and symbols in our vast visual landscape, students gain a deeper understanding of the elements and principles of art and design—the building blocks of good visual communication. Projects encourage iterative imagining and give opportunities to express messages and hopes for an envisioned future through art. Lessons incorporate lettering, illustration, branding, and logos and culminate in a personalized digital portfolio for their art journey at Wildwood. Lessons emphasize how artists are storytellers and recorders of their period, with particular reference to the Humanities civilizations under study.

Introduction to Fine Arts and Digital Tools 7/8

In this year-long course, students develop fluency in both traditional fine art and digital media, responding to a series of prompts that build skills in artistic conventions such as composition and color theory. Students learn to manipulate the elements of art and principles of design to convey personal ideas, stories, and designs through exercises in figure drawing, still life, illustrative storytelling, graphics, sculpture, and more. Conceptual development and artistic inquiry is supported by essential questions that deepen students' explorations of realistic, symbolic, and abstract forms of expression. These include: *How is art a reflection of our lives and of our time? What makes a powerful pose?, and How do artists build, borrow, and break tradition?* Students keep a sketchbook to collect ideas and influences, and to practice, experiment, and reflect on their creative process. Visual literacy skills are developed through the study of historical and contemporary art references. Class shares and presentations give opportunities to collaborate as an artistic community by articulating artistic intentions and sharing feedback. Students are encouraged to develop individual areas of interest to apply to independent projects. The course can be repeated both years with a rotating curriculum that alternates between a 2D and 3D focus. No prior art experience is required, just a curious mind that is willing to explore and take creative risks!

TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

Digital Storytelling

6th Grade Rotations

In this rotation, Wildwood 6th graders tell the stories of their experiences through various digital platforms. We begin on the Adobe Express platform, exploring the concept of identity. Then, we dissect how images and text construct a narrative using a custom-designed graphic novel template in Google Slides. Our time together includes skill-building in digital platforms, a presentation on Wildwood branding, and a deep dive into the relationship between text and image.

Navigating the Digital Landscape

6th Grade Rotations

How do we navigate the digital landscape with a critical lens in informed, positive, and healthy ways? In Navigating the Digital Landscape, you will explore various technology tools to support digital creation and production, investigate and dissect information and news sources with a detective's lens, and consider ways to use technology in healthy, constructive, and humane ways. You are inheriting the most complex digital landscape in human history and together we will explore the tools necessary to engage successfully in our digital lives.

Computer Literacy Foundation

6th Grade Rotations

The rotation introduces students to a deeper understanding of how computers work, covering computer systems, internet history, and programming basics. Students develop logical thinking and problem-solving skills while exploring the wide-ranging contributions of diverse innovators in technology.

Introduction to Computer Systems & Programming 7/8:

This course builds upon the foundational knowledge from the previous class, offering 7th and 8th graders a deeper exploration of computer science. Students will gain hands-on experience with computer hardware by dismantling and assembling computers and learning about each component's function and how they work together. The programming aspect introduces them to resource editing and configuration using various programming languages, including Python, JavaScript, and Java. They will begin writing simple code, modifying existing programs, and understanding how software interacts with hardware. The course emphasizes human-centric and machine-centric perspectives to highlight the relevance of computers in everyday life and future careers.

Physical Education

The Physical Education program at Wildwood School is designed to educate minds, develop healthy bodies, and promote positive attitudes towards physical activity, fitness, and sports. Our students will learn the physical, mental, and emotional skills that will provide them the confidence, ability, and desire to be physically active for life in a wide range of activities.

6th and 7th Grades

The main focus in 6th and 7th grade PE is on team building and collaboration, as well as developing basic skills. Framed by the essential questions, "How does a team work best together?" and "What is my role on my team?" students gain awareness of productive collaboration and positive team play. Students are taught about healthy competition, respecting their opponents, and how to demonstrate good sportsmanship in all situations.

Physical coordination and general sports skills are enhanced as students rotate through a variety of units, such as cooperative games, invasion games, multicultural games, net sports, diamond sports, target games, and rhythmic/fitness. Emphasis in every unit is on "peer coaching" so that students with higher skills can help others improve and develop more confidence in themselves, while still continuing to grow their own individual skills.

8th Grade

In 8th grade physical education, students will have the opportunity to choose between a variety of 4-6 week electives, where they can focus on their desired sport or activity in a more meaningful way. The electives range from traditional team sports, like volleyball, soccer, and Basketball, to net sports like badminton, pickleball, and paddle tennis, as well as personal fitness, which goes deeper into goal setting and establishing healthy lifestyle habits. Throughout the year, the course includes enough options that every student can find ways to be active and develop the skills and desire to be active for their entire lives.

Middle School Advisory Program

GRADE LEVEL ADVISORY SKILL DEVELOPMENT

6th Grade: Navigating the Digital Landscape

How do we navigate the digital landscape with a critical lens in informed, positive, and healthy ways? In Navigating the Digital Landscape you will explore various technology tools to support digital creation and production, investigate and dissect information and news sources with a detective's lens, and consider ways to use technology in healthy, constructive, and humane ways. You are inheriting the most complex digital landscape in human history and together we will explore the tools necessary to engage successfully in our digital lives.

7th Grade: Mind and Body

Seventh grade is a year of continued transition from childhood to adolescence. With the transition comes the possibility of starting fresh as students gain an increased understanding of themselves and others. This course explores the personal changes they are experiencing as well as the choices they increasingly face during middle school and beyond. Through group discussion, writing, simulation games, and role-plays, each student has the opportunity to develop self-confidence, learn to manage emotions, cultivate friendships, and learn decision-making and stress-management skills. Topics covered include mindfulness and stress awareness, communication, values, relationships, the teen brain, media literacy, puberty, and drugs and alcohol.

8th Grade: Gateway Preparation

Eighth grade students conclude their middle school experience at Wildwood with their 8th Grade Gateway Presentations. These presentations provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate fluency and mastery of their learning by exhibiting a specific body of academic work reflecting on their middle school experience. In preparation, students are individually coached by advisors in reviewing their academic work portfolio, identifying strengths and stretches, setting goals, and demonstrating readiness to advance to the next grade level. Gateways, delivered at the end of the school year to teachers, family, and peers, are a bridge between the work completed in one division and the work that is about to begin in the next.

Technology and Library Resources

In middle school, presentation skills are enhanced as students learn to use and gain fluency in software that helps them organize and showcase academic projects. All middle school students are introduced to the fundamentals of cloud computing with the use of Google Drive, allowing the use of collaborative apps such as Google Slides, Google Docs, and Google SketchUp. Teachers use iPad apps in their coursework, ranging from life-science labs in frog dissections and examining cell structure to Humanities study of the history of the Aztecs.