



Prepare | Explore | Empower

2025 - 2026

The Academy Middle School Course Catalog

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Academy serves our students to develop college ready, exemplary citizens

by promoting excellence in academics, character and relationships.



Prepare | Explore | Empower

2025-26
6th - 8th GRADE
COURSE OFFERING CATALOG

The Academy Middle School serves students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Particular focus in the 6th grade is given toward successfully transitioning students from an elementary to a secondary environment while providing exposure to a number of different areas (Fine and Performing Arts, STEM, and more). The 7th and 8th grade courses provide further opportunities for students to explore their passions and interests while also preparing them for success in High School and beyond.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Courses

- English 6, 7, or 8
- Math 6, 7, or 8 - *Each student is placed in his/her math class based upon current math class and assessment data (STAR / MAPS)
- Science 6, 7, or 8
- Social Studies 6, 7, or 8
- MS Pride Time 6, 7, or 8

Elective Courses – Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students may take 2 electives courses each semester. Below is a list of possible choices.

Year-long Electives	Semester Electives
MS Choir	MS P.E.
MS Concert Band	MS Advanced P.E.
MS Concert Orchestra	MS Art Foundation
MS Jazz Band	MS STEM and Creative Engineering
MS Symphonic Band	MS Digital Art
MS Sinfonia Orchestra	MS Foundations of Theater Arts
MS Yearbook / Photography	MS Theater Arts Productions
	MS Introduction to Spanish
	MS Leadership

THE ACADEMY

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH

MS ENGLISH 6

Open to Grade: 6

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

MS English 6 builds upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and includes the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students will focus on the structure of various types of essays including persuasive, research, narrative, and literary analysis using The Academy's 6-12 Common Writing Rubrics Program. Grammar instruction is woven throughout the course in each unit. Students will also be required to complete projects, speeches, and performances as we move through units on novels, short stories, and poetry. These activities will expand student knowledge of literary elements, vocabulary, authors, and literature while preparing them for the demands of higher education. Focusing on rigor and student accountability, we will continuously strive to become more critical readers, thinkers, and decision makers through our choice reading selections.

MS ENGLISH 7

Open to Grade: 7

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

This course focuses intensively on writing, speaking, listening, and reading while using our pillars of Character Education. Students will focus on the structure of various types of essays including persuasive, research, narrative, and literary analysis using The Academy's 6-12 Common Writing Rubrics Program. Grammar instruction is woven throughout the course in each unit. Students will also be required to complete projects, speeches, and performances as we move through units on novels, short stories, and poetry. These activities will expand student knowledge of literary elements, vocabulary, authors, and literature while preparing them for the demands of higher education. Focusing on rigor and student accountability, we will continuously strive to become more critical readers, thinkers, and decision makers through our choice reading selections.

MS ENGLISH 8

Open to Grade 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

8th Grade English is based on The Colorado Academic Standards. Texts used include a range of genres: plays, short stories, and novels. Students will focus on the structure of various types of essays including persuasive, research, narrative, and literary analysis using The Academy's 6-12 Common Writing Rubrics. Grammar instruction is woven throughout the course in each unit. 8th Grade English is designed to thoroughly prepare students for high school literature and writing courses.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

MS MATH 6

Open to Grade 6

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Math 6 follows the Pearson EnVision Math 2.0 6th -8th grade curriculum. This course focuses on the central concepts of the Math 6 curriculum and extends students' understanding of numbers and computation to include integers and proportional reasoning. It covers basic algebraic reasoning and it will prepare students for future algebra based understandings. All concepts and skills are presented in the context of problem solving and applied to the real world. Students that complete this course typically move to Math 7 the following year.

MS MATH 6 ACCELERATED

Open to Grade 6*

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: We will use a body of evidence to recommend students for placement in this class. The following criteria will be considered: **Above Grade Level Proficiency on previous STAR Math Assessments, Met/Exceeded Expectations on previous CMAS Assessments and 90% or Higher in previous math courses.**

School Recommendation: Yes

Math 6 Accelerated follows the Pearson EnVision Math 2.0 6th -8th grade curriculum. This course is faster paced than the Math 6 course and covers all units of the Math 6 curriculum. Students will also be introduced to some of the concepts from Math 7 as an introduction to basic algebra concepts and a review of foundational arithmetic algorithms. The course emphasizes the concepts necessary to be successful in Math 7 Accelerated the following year. For students to advance to Math 7 Accelerated, they must meet the prerequisites listed for that course.

MS MATH 7

Open to Grade 7

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Math 7 follows the Pearson EnVision Math 2.0 6th -8th grade curriculum. The course focuses on the fundamental concepts of the Math 7 curriculum and extends students' understanding of numbers and computation to include integers and proportional reasoning. It covers basic algebraic reasoning and it will prepare students for future algebra based understandings. Students that complete this course typically move to Math 8 the following year.

MS MATH 7 ACCELERATED

Open to Grade 7*

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: We will use a body of evidence to recommend students for placement in this class. The following criteria will be considered: **Above Grade Level Proficiency on previous MAPS Math Assessments, Met/Exceeded Expectations on previous CMAS Assessments and 90% or Higher in previous math courses.**

School Recommendation: Yes

Math 7 Accelerated follows the Pearson EnVision Math 2.0 6th -8th grade curriculum. This course is an introduction to basic algebra concepts and a review of foundational arithmetic algorithms. The course emphasizes the concepts necessary to be successful in Algebra I and II. The course helps students develop good mathematical study skills and learning strategies. For students to advance to MS Algebra I the following year, they must meet the prerequisites listed for that course.

MS MATH 8

Open to Grade 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Math 8 follows the Pearson Envision Math 2.0 6th-8th grade curriculum. This course is designed to provide a pathway to Algebra I by increasing students' understanding of real numbers, manipulation and solving of equations, utilizing functions to model real world relationships, congruence and similarity and application of the Pythagorean Theorem. All concepts and skills are presented in the context of problem solving and application to the real world. Students that complete this course typically move to Algebra I the following year.

MS ALGEBRA I

Open to Grade 8*

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: We will use a body of evidence to recommend students for placement in this class. The following criteria will be considered: **Above Grade Level Proficiency on previous MAPS Math Assessments, Met/Exceeded Expectations on previous CMAS Assessments and 90% or Higher in previous math courses.**

School Recommendation: Yes

The Algebra I class follows the Pearson EnVision Math 2.0 Algebra I curriculum. This course is an in depth study of algebraic concepts which include solving and graphing different types of equations and inequalities; manipulating and transforming

equations and expressions; and utilizing the concepts learned to apply them to real world problems. Students will also begin the study of quadratic, exponential, and polynomial functions. Taking this course does not result in earning High School credits, but does allow students to enroll in Geometry as a 9th grade student. For students to advance to Geometry the following year, students must demonstrate grade level proficiency on the Winter MAPS Math assessment and maintain a 90% in the MS Algebra I course.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

MS SCIENCE 6

Open to Grade 6

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

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

MS SCIENCE 7

Open to Grade 7

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Science 7 includes the standards based curriculum where students will engage in learning about cellular structure and functions, ecology and ecosystems, populations, human impacts on the biosphere, human body systems and functions, heredity, modern genetics, the theory of evolution, and chemistry within biology. The scientific method, laboratory techniques and safety are also covered.

MS SCIENCE 8

Open to Grade 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Science 8 follows both Colorado Academic Standards as well as the Next Generation Science Standards. Topics include measurement, chemistry, physics, Earth science, conservation biology and a review of concepts taught in 7th grade. The scientific curriculum uses project-based learning and inquiry to develop curiosity among our scholars. As the year concludes, students will have the knowledge of a variety of scientific disciplines to guide their interests throughout their academic careers. This course covers topics at a more challenging level than previous years as Science 8 focuses on developing students into critical thinkers by investigating the world around them.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

MS SOCIAL STUDIES 6

Open to Grade 6

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

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

MS SOCIAL STUDIES 7

Open to Grade 7

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

History 7 covers a variety of ancient cultures in the context of state standards. We study ancient cultures such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, Rome, and transition to more recent societies like Medieval Europe. In each culture we discuss elements of government, culture, religion, geography, and economics. Students will discuss how historians learn and interpret primary sources/artifacts to better understand ancient cultures and to create a historical argument. Class is instructor based with some group work, projects, and a focus on independent study outside of the classroom. This course covers historical topics at a faster pace and a more challenging level.

MS SOCIAL STUDIES 8**Open to Grade 8****Yearlong Course****Prerequisite: None**

Through the lens of history 8th graders will learn and apply skills in the areas of Geography, Economics, and Civics, among others. Students will continue to build on skills practiced in 7th grade Social Studies, such as creating a historical argument, researching, map reading, and primary source analysis. Class is instructor based with some group work, projects, and a focus on independent study outside of the classroom. This course covers topics at a faster pace and a more challenging level.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

MS PHYSICAL EDUCATION**Open to Grades 6, 7, 8****Semester Course****Prerequisite: None****Teacher Recommendation: No**

We will continue to progress with the knowledge learned in Elementary PE with breakdown, review and further development of basic sport skills and rules. We will learn the basics of fitness and healthy practices through assessing our own abilities. You will also leave with the knowledge of teamwork, responsibility, cooperation and how to make your own goals and take steps to achieve them. Some activities that we may do each year, weather permitting, are Team Sports (Volleyball, Flag Football, Basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, Softball, Floor Hockey, Lacrosse, and Soccer) and Lifetime/Individual Sports (Badminton, Pickleball, Frisbee Golf, Track and Field). All 7th and 8th grade classes will include Pre, Mid and Post Fitness Testing.

MS ADVANCED PE COED**Open to Grades 7, 8****Semester Course****Prerequisite: None****Teacher Recommendation: No**

This course covers concepts of health-related fitness [cardiorespiratory endurance, flexibility, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and body composition] as well as concepts of skill-related fitness [speed, agility, balance, power, and coordination] through skills instruction, practice, and assessment. Additionally, students learn age-appropriate introductory strength-training protocols in The Academy Weight Room and will develop a beginner's personal lifting plan. Elements of Comprehensive Health Education, like the importance of good nutrition, the many benefits of physical activity, the skill of goal-setting, and risk prevention are covered as well. Other opportunities through this class may include sport research, coaching, officiating, or volunteering. A good candidate for this class has a strong desire to give 100% effort in physical activities, a personal interest in health and fitness, and consistently demonstrates safe and responsible behavior.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WORLD LANGUAGE

MS INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH**Open to Grades 6, 7, 8****Semester Course**

Prerequisite: None

School Recommendation: No

This class allows students to develop basic conversational skills, while acquiring vocabulary useful to everyday life, and establishing a novice level understanding of Spanish conventions. Students will utilize the four main facets of language learning; reading, writing, listening, and speaking, to increase their confidence in Spanish communication. Students who take Spanish in middle school will have a basic understanding of Spanish concepts before taking Spanish for credit in high school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM

MS STEM AND CREATIVE ENGINEERING

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8

Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

This course will provide students an opportunity to explore, design, and create through a series of STEM-related projects. These projects will incorporate Science, Technology, Engineering and math and will require students to plan, design, test, reflect, and refine before submitting their final product. Students in this course will also practice working in groups, collaborating on projects while meeting deadlines, and communicating as a team.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

MS ART FOUNDATIONS

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8

Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

This course covers a broad range of 2D and 3D media skills as well as an overview of art history from Classical to Contemporary Periods. Students build upon their drawing, painting, and sculpting skills while being introduced to new skills, methods, and media that connect to historical art movements and traditions. In addition to studio projects, students engage analytically with art, learning how to look critically and communicate clearly about the art of professionals, their peers, and their own.

MS DIGITAL ART

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8

Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

Middle School students in our Digital Art class are challenged to express ideas through digital media technology. They will learn about digital literacy and elements and principles of design as they explore a wide range of programs, software, and applications to create images, photographs, videos, websites, and more.

MS YEARBOOK AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

In this elective course, students create and publish the middle school yearbook. Students must be self-motivated, willing to follow directions, and committed to creating a first-class publication. All staff members are responsible for all aspects of publication: journalism ethics, interviewing, writing, editing, photography, computer publishing, graphic design, advertising, sales, printing, and distribution. Meeting deadlines is a must. Although strong writing and computer skills are ideal, we need a wide range of abilities on staff. The best skills are a sense of fun, good work ethic, creativity, and commitment to making them great!

MS FOUNDATIONS OF THEATER ARTS

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8

Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

This course is intended for students to develop their understanding of the theater and theatrical works. Students will create their own short plays, develop and perform scripted scenes, explore all elements of technical theater, practice acting techniques for film, and play a variety of improvisation games. The course is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. It may be taken multiple times (basic content is the same, but students will never create the same scene or perform/design the same scripted scene).

MS THEATER ARTS PRODUCTION

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8*

Semester Course (Semester 2)

Prerequisite: Foundations of Theater Arts or participating in a play at The Academy

This course is an introduction to creating a theatrical production. Students will create a short performance based on adapting a traditional fairy or folk tale into a production or use a pre-written script. Students in this class may choose either the performance track or the technical theater track (tech theater spots are limited to 3 students). Performers will act in the play and technical theater students will design and run the production. Students must have taken Foundations of Theater Arts or have participated in a play at the Academy and must be able to commit to time outside of school for rehearsals and performances. Priority will be given to students in Grades 7 and 8. *This course may be taken multiple times, as we will never put on the same production twice.*

MS CHOIR

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Middle School Choir is a performance-based class designed to foster musical appreciation and students' improvement as vocalists. Students will be guided through elements of pitch recognition, music literacy, and the voice changes that students of this age are experiencing. The choir will sing a wide repertoire of music for various concerts and occasions. Students in Junior High Choir are preparing for singing in high school ensembles. Rehearsals and performances regularly occurring outside regular school hours are a required part of this course. This course can be repeated for credit.

MS CONCERT BAND

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8*

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: 1+ years on a band instrument

Teacher Recommendation: Yes

Concert Band is a non-auditioned large band ensemble offered for middle school students at The Academy. In this course, students continue to develop musicianship and skills begun in earlier band classes. Students will also be given additional performance opportunities including an annual off-campus music festival performance. An audition is not required to register for this class, but students should have at least one year experience on a wind or percussion instrument or have approval of the director. Rehearsals and performances occurring outside regular school hours are a required part of this course. It is expected that students will have access to a high-quality instrument and supplies. This course can be repeated for credit.

MS CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8*

Yearlong Course

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

Teacher Recommendation: Yes

Concert Orchestra is our first middle-school level orchestra offered to all students at The Academy and is available to students in 6th-8th grade. Most students in Concert Orchestra have one year of experience on a string instrument, but beginners are also welcome! Students in Concert Orchestra will work to develop basic skills in performing music on string instruments, learn to evaluate and talk about musical performances, and expand their knowledge of musical concepts.

Rehearsals and performances do happen outside regular school hours (usually in the evenings) and are a required part of this class. It is expected that students will have access to a quality instrument and supplies. Anyone needing assistance obtaining an instrument should speak to the orchestra director.

MS JAZZ BAND (zero period)

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8*

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: 1+ years on a band instrument

Teacher Recommendation: Yes

Fee: \$25.00 per semester

Jazz II is designed to develop advanced musical techniques and skills specific to the various jazz styles along with a cultural and historical understanding of jazz in American history. An audition is not required to register for this class, but students should have at least one-year experience on a jazz-related instrument or receive approval from the director. Performances occurring outside regular school hours are also required as part of this course. It is expected that students will have access to a high-quality instrument and supplies. This course can be repeated for credit.

MS SYMPHONIC BAND

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8*

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: 2+ years on a band instrument

Teacher Recommendation: Yes

Symphonic Band is a non-auditioned large band ensemble offered for secondary students at The Academy. In this course, students continue to develop musicianship and skills begun in prior large ensemble classes. Students will also be given additional performance opportunities including an annual off-campus music festival performance. An audition is not required to register for this class, but students should have at least two years' experience on a wind or percussion instrument or have approval of the director. Rehearsals and performances occurring outside regular school hours are a required part of this course. It is expected that students will have access to a high-quality instrument and supplies. This course can be repeated for credit.

MS SINFONIA ORCHESTRA

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8*

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: 2+ years on a string instrument

Teacher Recommendation: Yes

Sinfonia Orchestra is an intermediate string ensemble offered for secondary students at The Academy. An audition is not required in order to register for this class, but students should have at least years' experience on a string instrument or have approval of the director. In this course, students continue to develop musicianship, technique, and skills begun in prior large ensemble classes. Students will also be given additional performance opportunities including an annual off-campus music festival performance. Rehearsals and performances occurring outside regular school hours are a required part of this course. Students are expected to have access to a high-quality instrument and supplies. This course can be repeated for credit.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NON-DEPARTMENTAL COURSES

MS RESOURCE 6

Open to Grade 6

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

School Recommendation: Yes

This is an assigned classroom for students on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) to receive direct instruction from a learning specialist to meet their IEP goals as per their service minutes. The small group setting is for one-on-one help and time to organize materials to ensure success in secondary grades.

MS RESOURCE 7

Open to Grade 7

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

School Recommendation: Yes

This is an assigned classroom for students on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) to receive direct instruction from a learning specialist to meet their IEP goals as per their service minutes. The small group setting is for one-on-one help and time to organize materials to ensure success in secondary grades.

MS RESOURCE 8

Open to Grade 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

School Recommendation: Yes

This is an assigned classroom for students on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) to receive direct instruction from a learning specialist to meet their IEP goals as per their service minutes. The small group setting is for one-on-one help and time to organize materials to ensure success in secondary grades.

MS STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8

Semester Course

Prerequisite: None

Teacher Recommendation: No

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

MS PRIDE TIME

Open to Grades 6, 7, 8

Yearlong Course

Prerequisite: None

Pride time is a required class for all 6-8 grade students. This course impacts student GPA. Pride time is dedicated time for students to practice reading strategies, social and leadership skills, test-taking skill building, and college and future preparation. Students also spend time focused on guided class support, grade conferences and completing community service activities. All aspects of Pride time directly relate to The Academy's Strategic Plan.