



Nicolas Junior High School

Course Offerings

Required Coursework At Nicolas Junior High includes:

7th-grade Core Classes	
English Language Arts*	In 7th-grade English Language Arts, students build strong reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills aligned with the California Common Core State Standards. Students read and analyze literary and informational texts, develop close reading and critical thinking skills, and strengthen writing through argumentative, informative, and narrative pieces supported by textual evidence. Instruction also emphasizes academic vocabulary, grammar, and effective communication through discussion and presentations. Please check below for honors.
History/Social Science*	In 7th-grade History/Social Science, students study world history from the fall of the Roman Empire through the early modern era, aligned with California State Standards and Common Core literacy skills. Students analyze major civilizations, examine primary and secondary sources, and develop historical thinking skills through evidence-based reading, writing, and discussion. Please check below for honors.
Mathematics *	In 7th-grade Mathematics, students develop skills aligned with the California Common Core State Standards, focusing on ratios and proportional relationships, operations with rational numbers, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics. Students solve real-world problems, simplify and solve equations, and analyze geometric concepts such as area, volume, and angles. Please check below for honors.
Science*	In 7th-grade Science, students explore the natural world through the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Instruction focuses on life, physical, and earth sciences, including cells, ecosystems, energy and matter, and Earth's systems. Students engage in hands-on investigations and scientific inquiry to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Please check below for honors
Physical Education ● PE ● Dance ● Strength Training	In 7th-grade Physical Education, students build physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship through activities aligned with California State Standards. Students may choose Dance, Regular PE, or Strength Training, each designed to improve strength, endurance, flexibility, coordination, and overall wellness through safe and age-appropriate movement.



Nicolas Junior High School

Course Offerings

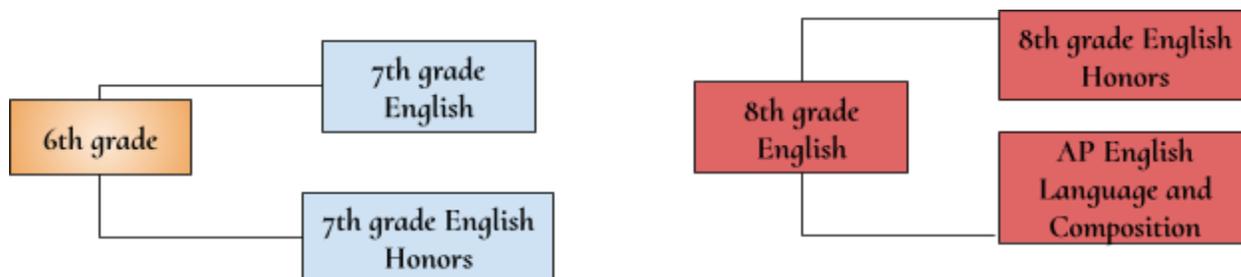
8th-grade Core Classes	
English Language Arts*	In 8th-grade English Language Arts, students strengthen reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills aligned with the California Common Core State Standards. Students analyze complex literary and informational texts, develop evidence-based arguments, and produce well-organized argumentative, informative, and narrative writing. Instruction emphasizes author's craft, textual evidence, academic vocabulary, and effective communication. Please check below for honors.
History/Social Science*	In 8th-grade History/Social Science, students study United States history from the American Revolution through the early 20th century, aligned with California State Standards and Common Core literacy skills. Students analyze key events, foundational principles, and social, political, and economic changes using primary and secondary sources and evidence-based discussion and writing. Please check below for honors.
Mathematics *	In 8th-grade History/Social Science, students study United States history from the American Revolution through the early 20th century, aligned with California State Standards and Common Core literacy skills. Students analyze key events, foundational principles, and social, political, and economic changes using primary and secondary sources and evidence-based discussion and writing. Please check below for honors.
Science*	In 8th-grade Science, students explore physical science concepts aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Topics include matter and chemical reactions, forces and motion, energy transfer, and waves such as light and sound. Through hands-on investigations and scientific inquiry, students collect and analyze data and develop evidence-based explanations to solve real-world problems. Please check below for honors.
Physical Education ● PE ● Dance ● Strength Training	In 8th-grade Physical Education, students build physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship through activities aligned with California State Standards. Students may choose Dance, Regular PE, or Strength Training, each designed to improve strength, endurance, flexibility, coordination, and overall wellness through safe, age-appropriate movement.



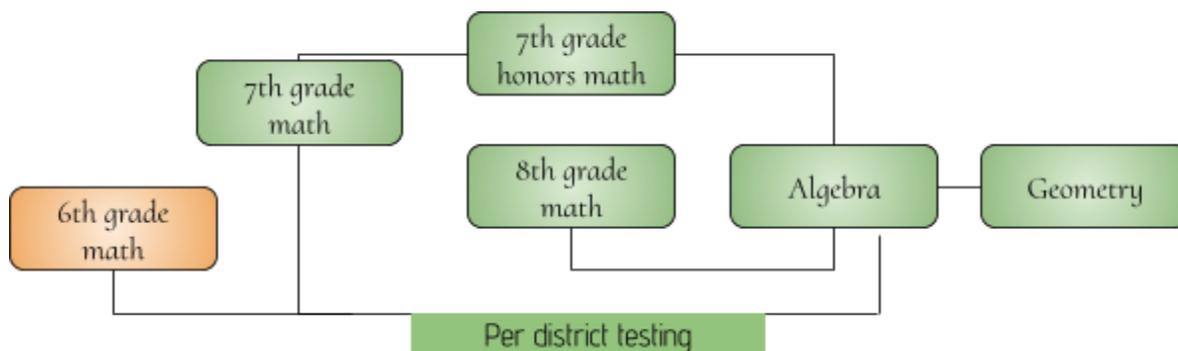
Nicolas Junior High School

Course Offerings

*English



* Math



Placement in the Honors/GATE Program for English Language Arts, Mathematics, History, and Science is determined by assessment results, report card grades, and teacher recommendations.



Nicolas Junior High School

Course Offerings

Electives	
<p>Dance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dance 1• Dance 2• Dance 3	<p>Beginning Dance: This introductory course invites students to discover the joy of movement while learning foundational dance techniques, terminology, and basic choreography. Students explore a variety of dance styles, including jazz, lyrical, and hip hop, while building confidence, coordination, and an appreciation for dance as an art form. No prior experience is required. Audition is suggested but not mandatory.</p> <p>Intermediate Dance: Designed for students with prior dance experience who are placed through a 3-day audition clinic, this course deepens dancers' understanding of technique, performance quality, and expressive movement. Students refine their skills, strengthen stage presence, and begin developing personal style and artistic expression through dance. Audition required.</p> <p>Advanced Dance: This advanced-level course is designed for highly skilled dancers ready to take their training to the next level. Students focus on advanced techniques, complex choreography, and performance artistry, while engaging in rigorous practice and creative exploration. Opportunities may include student choreography and live performances. Audition mandatory.</p>
<p>AVID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7th grade• 8th grade	<p>7th-grade AVID: In 7th-grade AVID, students build the skills and habits needed to succeed in middle school and beyond. The course emphasizes organization, time management, note-taking, critical thinking, and effective study strategies. Students set academic and personal goals, develop a growth mindset, and participate in collaborative activities that promote self-reflection, confidence, and college readiness.</p> <p>8th-grade AVID: 8th-grade AVID builds on the foundation established in 7th grade while preparing students for the transition to high school. The course focuses on advanced organizational strategies, critical reading and writing skills, and academic discourse. Students refine their goals, engage in Socratic seminars, and strengthen the habits and mindset needed for long-term academic success.</p>
<p>Spanish</p>	<p>Spanish 1A</p>



Nicolas Junior High School

Course Offerings

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1A• 1B	<p>Spanish 1A is an introductory course designed for junior high students to develop a foundational understanding of the Spanish language and culture. Students will learn basic vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structure focusing on listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Emphasis will be placed on everyday conversational phrases, simple present tense verbs, and building confidence in expressing themselves in Spanish. We will use the ¡Asi se Dice! Level 1 textbook along with other resources.</p> <p>Spanish 1B</p> <p>Spanish 1B builds upon the skills and knowledge acquired in Spanish 1A, deepening students' understanding of the language and expanding their ability to communicate in real-world situations. Students will study more complex grammar structures, including past tense verbs, adjectives, and additional vocabulary themes such as hobbies, travel, and family. The course will emphasize conversational fluency and comprehension through interactive activities like dialogues and group work. Cultural exploration will continue, providing students with a broader perspective on the diversity of Spanish-speaking countries and their traditions. We will use the ¡Asi se Dice! Level 2 textbook along with other resources. Upon successful completion will receive high school placement in Spanish 2.</p>
<p>Woodshop/Spyder Lab (semester courses)</p>	<p>Wood 1</p> <p>This is an introductory course that focuses on fundamental woodworking skills, including the safe use of hand tools, understanding materials and basic project designs. Students learn to read plans, measure accurately and construct simple projects, and emphasizing safety and craftsmanship</p> <p>Woodshop 2/Academy</p> <p>Wood II builds on the fundamentals of woodworking that were acquired during Wood I. The course will continue lessons in tool and shop safety, advanced woodworking techniques, framing, and an introduction to careers in the building trades.</p> <p>Spyder Lab</p> <p>The Spyder Lab is an exciting hands-on course where students learn by creating, designing, and doing real projects instead of just taking notes. This class was developed with support from real companies and industry experts who help students explore careers in design, business, and technical creation. In the lab, students get to make products like shirts, banners, posters, and even custom items such as mugs, bags, and stickers. The Spyder Lab helps students grow critical thinking, creativity, teamwork, and real-world business skills by working on projects that</p>



Nicolas Junior High School

Course Offerings

	<p>matter in the real world. It's a space where students can turn their ideas into actual products while learning what it takes to run a real business. The Spyder Lab is all about imagining it, creating it, and learning from the experience in a fun and meaningful way.</p>
<p>Mariachi</p>	<p>Mariachi class is a fun and energetic course where students learn the traditions, music, and culture of authentic mariachi performance. In this class, students get to play real instruments like the violin, trumpet, guitar, vihuela, and guitarrón while learning classic songs and performance skills. Mariachi helps students grow confidence, teamwork, discipline, and pride as they perform together like a real ensemble. Students also learn about the history of mariachi and what makes the music special, from powerful vocals to exciting rhythms. Whether you're new to music or already love performing, this class is a place to express yourself, support your group, and share beautiful music with your school and community. Mariachi is all about tradition, friendship, and performing with corazón/heart.</p>
<p>Band</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beginner ● Intermediate ● Advance 	<p>Beginner Band Beginner Band is an entry-level course for students who are new to playing a musical instrument or have minimal experience. In this class, students will learn the basics of music theory, instrument care, and essential techniques such as proper posture, breath control, and finger placement. The focus will be on developing fundamental skills, including reading music, rhythm, and basic melody. Students will also begin playing simple songs as part of a group, learning to work together as an ensemble.</p> <p>Intermediate Band Intermediate Band is designed for students who have mastered basic music skills and are ready to expand their technical abilities and musical knowledge. Students in this class will build on their understanding of music theory, improve their proficiency on their instruments, and explore more complex rhythms and melodies. The course will focus on developing individual technique, tone quality, and musical expression while continuing to work as part of a cohesive ensemble. Students will perform intermediate-level repertoire, engage in sight-reading exercises, and prepare for concerts and performances.</p> <p>Advanced Band Advanced Band is for students who have a strong command of their instrument and are ready to tackle challenging and diverse musical pieces. The focus of this course is on refining individual technique, musical</p>



Nicolas Junior High School

Course Offerings

	<p>interpretation, and ensemble performance. Students will explore a wide range of advanced musical genres, improve their sight-reading abilities, and deepen their understanding of music theory. This class will challenge students to perform complex repertoire and engage in detailed practice, preparing them for high-level performances and possibly auditions for select groups or competitions. Advanced Band offers students the opportunity to hone their skills, collaborate with other skilled musicians, and perform at a high level, emphasizing excellence in both individual and group musicianship.</p>
<p>Robotics/Drones (semester courses)</p>	<p>Robotics (1 Semester Course) In this one-semester Robotics course, students will be introduced to the fundamentals of robotics, focusing on building, programming, and troubleshooting simple robotic systems. Through hands-on projects, students will learn how to assemble robots, understand basic mechanical engineering concepts, and write simple code to control their robots. Key topics include sensors, motors, programming languages like Blockly or Python, and problem-solving techniques.</p> <p>Drones (1 Semester Course) The one-semester Drones course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to the world of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Students will learn the basics of drone technology, including the principles of flight, drone components, and safety protocols. They will practice flying drones in various environments, learn how to operate drones for photography and mapping, and explore the use of drones in real-world applications such as agriculture, search and rescue, and filmmaking.</p>
<p>Art/Coding (semester courses)</p>	<p>Art In this elective, you will learn about a variety of different artists and styles of art. We will cover the Elements of art and design. Students will create a variety of masterpieces and maintain a digital portfolio throughout the semester. We will use a variety of mediums, including: Crayons, color-pencil, watercolors, paper-mache, and many more. Art is a great place to unplug, have fun, and get creative.</p> <p>Coding The first step in our Coding Pathway is Applied Coding . In applied coding we will primarily use Block Coding on Scratch to create several projects including animation and a simple game. We will also learn the basics in Python and Swift UI which is Apple's coding language (used on iPhones and iPads). Coding is a great place to learn new skills and have fun.</p>



Nicolas Junior High School

Course Offerings

<p>Advance Coding</p>	<p>Advance. Coding</p> <p>This is a yearlong course. In this course we will build on the skills learned in Applied Coding. In the first quarter we will work to create your own apps and participate in the Congressional App Challenge. This is also an AP class so we will prepare to take the AP Computer Science Principles test for College Credit. As well as Learn more advanced skills in Python coding.</p>
<p>Support Classes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RTI (based on iReady scores) ● Math Essentials (based on iReady scores) ● Academic Language Development 	<p style="text-align: center;">Support Classes provide personalized assistance to students, helping them build academic skills and strategies to succeed in various subject areas.</p> <p>RTI (Response to Intervention) RTI focuses on providing targeted academic support and interventions to students based on their specific learning needs to ensure academic success in English.</p> <p>Math Essentials Math Essentials helps students strengthen foundational math skills and understanding, focusing on key concepts needed for success in higher-level math courses.</p> <p>Academic Language Development Academic Language Development supports ELL students in improving their academic vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing skills to succeed in all content areas.</p>
<p>Study Skills</p>	<p>Special Education students with identified needs are placed in a Study Skills class to support academic goals</p>

Special Education Courses	
<p>Fundamental English, Math, Science, History</p>	<p>Fundamental Courses: Designed for students receiving special education services. These courses cover grade-level content that is tailored by the Education Specialist to address each student's individualized education plan.</p> <p>Fundamental History This course introduces students to key historical events, cultures, and civic responsibilities with an emphasis on understanding cause and effect, timelines, and basic government functions. Students will engage in hands-on activities, discussions, and</p>



Nicolas Junior High School

Course Offerings

adapted reading materials to develop comprehension and critical thinking skills related to historical concepts. While the curriculum remains grade-level, it is differentiated and scaffolded to support individual learning. Accommodations and modifications are provided within the classroom environment. The class size is kept small, typically no more than 12-15 students, to allow for personalized instruction.

Fundamental English Language Arts

This course focuses on improving reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will work on decoding, fluency, and comprehension through structured literacy strategies, while also developing their ability to express ideas through writing with sentence structure, grammar, and paragraph development. Vocabulary and communication skills are integrated to support overall literacy growth. While the curriculum remains grade-level, it is differentiated and scaffolded to support individual learning. Accommodations and modifications are provided within the classroom environment. The class size is kept small, typically no more than 12-15 students, to allow for personalized instruction.

Fundamental Mathematics

Students will develop essential math skills, including number sense, basic operations, fractions, decimals, and problem-solving strategies. Instruction is adapted to meet each student's learning level, utilizing manipulatives, visual aids, and step-by-step instruction to build confidence and fluency in mathematical reasoning. While the curriculum remains grade-level, it is differentiated and scaffolded to support individual learning. Accommodations and modifications are provided within the classroom environment. The class size is kept small, typically no more than 12-15 students, to allow for personalized instruction.

Fundamental Science

Students will explore scientific principles in life, earth, and physical sciences through hands-on experiments, observations, and interactive lessons. The course emphasizes inquiry-based learning, vocabulary development, and real-world connections to help students understand scientific concepts at a fundamental level. While the curriculum remains grade-level, it is differentiated and scaffolded to support individual learning. Accommodations and modifications are provided within the classroom environment. The class size is kept small, typically no more than 12-15 students, to



Nicolas Junior High School

Course Offerings

	allow for personalized instruction.
Foundational Living Skills, Math, English, Social Science, Science	<p>This program is specifically for our moderate to severe students. The classes focus on significant differentiation to support individual learning needs, with an emphasis on foundational life skills such as understanding time, days of the week, months, and the year. Additionally, students learn basic skills like letter recognition, name recognition, and safety awareness.</p>

Extra Curricular Activities	
<p>Clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● E-Sports ● Jesus Club ● Speech & Debate ● Mariachi ● Folkoriko ● Leading Ladies ● C.A.R.E. Club ● Robotics & Drones Club ● Art 	<p>Sports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Football (co-ed) ○ Volleyball(co-ed) ● Winter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Soccer (boys and girls) ● Early Spring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basketball (boys and girls) ● Spring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Street Hockey (co-ed) ● Late Spring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Track & Field (co-ed)