The Academy at Lincoln

Encore Handbook

Helping you choose the right Encores for your schedule.

(2026-2027)

THE ACADMY AT LINCOLN

1016 Lincoln St.
Greensboro, NC 27401
336-307-3471

Art

The middle school visual art curriculum is about exploring and experiencing many different kinds of art. The curriculum is designed to help every young artist, from the most experienced to the least, grow and become more successful. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Mary Arante at arantem@gcsnc.com

6th Grade

All 6th graders are welcome to register for art. In 6th grade, all art classes are "minors" and meet every day for one semester. The 6th grade curriculum focuses on fundamentals of art: learning art vocabulary, experimenting with different materials, and exploring different processes. Students complete about three small projects a quarter, as we focus on variety and breadth of study.

7th & 8th Grade: Becoming an Art Major

In 7th and 8th grade, students have the opportunity to select a major. To become an art major, an audition/application is required. Auditions/applications take place in late February and consists of a written portion and a drawing portion. The audition focuses on identifying students who are teachable, focused, dedicated, and ready to become better artists. Although a very basic foundation in art knowledge is required, it is not necessary for students to be excellent artists in order to qualify as an art major.

Art majors classes meet every day for the whole school year. This extended time provides extra opportunities for students to explore more art techniques, history, media, and processes. Certain materials will only be available to majors due to materials and time constraints. All art majors are required to participate in the Art Show at the end of the year.

7th & 8th Grade: Art Minors

Students who want to continue their study of art but do not wish to major are encouraged to register for art as a minor. Some projects will overlap with the majors. These students will create projects that expand upon skills and techniques learned in 6th and 7th grade. While it is not necessary to have previous experience in Visual Art as a rising 8th grader, it is recommended.

Band

The Academy at Lincolns Band Program is a year long performance class that teaches students the skills needed to play a wind or percussive instrument.

Our class motto is **To Be the Best and The Brightest**.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Band?
Band is a class where students learn how to play band instruments and learn how to read music.. Students also give a variety of musical performances throughout the year.

Can I start or join Band in 7th or 8th Grade?
Students who did not take band in 6th grade but would like to start in 7th or 8th grade must speak with Mr. Parnell. Only a select number of students will be chosen to help fill in specific instruments. Students who participate in GCS Jump Ahead and Band Reboot classes during the summer at Moore Music will be given priority over those who do not. (Scholarships available)

What instruments are in Band?
Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba and Percussion

What are the different Bands at Lincoln?

Elementary Band — 5th Grade Only	**7th and 8th Grade Students Only**
Beginning Band — 6th Grade	Jazz Band – Before School Club
Concert Band — 7th and 8th Gade	Lincoln Swarm – Before/After School Club
Symphonic Band — 8th Grade	Festival Band — Before School Club

Lincoln Band Students annually participate in following local Festivals and Honor Bands.

Music Performing Arts Festival	All County Band
Music in the Parks Festival	All District Band
GCS Middle School Jazz Festival	All State Band
Greensboro Holiday Parade	Piedmont Honors Band

If you have any questions, feel free to email Mr. Parnell
parnelj@gcsnc.com

Career and Technical Education–
Family and Consumer Sciences

Career and Technical Education (CTE) in middle school provides students the opportunity to explore three program areas which include Business and Marketing. Family and Consumer Sciences, and Technology Engineering and Design. Students at The Academy at Lincoln can make more appropriate choices in their high school course selections.

If you have any questions, please contact Thomas Ocean at oceant@gcsnc.com.

All students are eligible to sign up for these Semester long classes.

6th grade
Exploring Nutrition and Wellness
Provides an opportunity for students to learn more about making healthy food choices that help to mend, grow & develop ones' body. The course also introduces & develops knowledge and skills of proper kitchen measurement and kitchen safety. Careers in Nutrition & Wellness are identified.

7th grade
Exploring Apparel and Interior Design
Provides an in-depth focus on the Elements and Principles of Design. Discussions include, but not limited to the use of color, lines and texture as they impact clothing and interior design. Units of study include an understanding of how to manage and maintain ones' living space.

8th Grade
Exploring Personal Finance and Hospitality
Provides a closer study of financial literacy and resource management skills. Students gain an understanding of the importance of basic consumer skills. Discussions include but not limited to budgeting, earning income and identity theft. Careers in food service and the Hospitality industry are identified.

Career and Technical Education- Computer Science Discoveries (CSD).

What Is Computer Science Discoveries?

A Student Guide to CS Discoveries
Computer Science Discoveries (CS Discoveries) is a fun, hands-on computer science class for **middle school students**. In this course, you won't just learn about computers—you'll learn how to **create with technology**, solve problems, and work as a team.

What Will I Learn?
In CS Discoveries, you'll explore many areas of computer science, including:

- Problem solving and critical thinking
- Coding and programming
- Game, app, and website design
- Robotics and physical computing

How technology impacts the real world
You'll learn by **doing**, not just watching or listening.

Problem Solving Comes First
All CS Discoveries classes start by learning the **Problem-Solving Process**. This helps you learn how to:

- Break big problems into smaller steps
- Work through challenges and puzzles
- Test ideas and fix mistakes (debugging!)

Collaborate with classmates
These skills are useful in computer science—and in everyday life.

Coding & Creating
You will learn different coding languages and tools that allow you to create real projects, such as:

- Block-based coding
- JavaScript
- HTML (used to build webpages)

CSS (used to design and style webpages)
With these tools, you'll build:

- Websites
- Apps
- Games
- Animations
- Robotics and physical computing projects

Hands-On Learning & Real-World Connections
CS Discoveries is all about hands-on learning. You will:

- Program robots and mini processors
- Learn about 3D printing
- Explore how smart devices work
- Go on field trips related to technology and careers
- Hear from guest speakers who work in tech and STEM fields

Career and Technical Education-
Computer Science Discoveries (CSD).

What Will I Learn Each Year?

6th Grade – CS Discoveries I (Express Course)
In 6th grade, you'll learn the basics of computer science using **drag-and-drop block coding**. You will:

- Create drawings and simple games
- Learn how coding works
- Build your own webpages
- Use **HTML** to add content
- Use **CSS** to add colors, images, and design features

7th Grade – CS Discoveries II (Game Lab)
In 7th grade, you'll design **animations and video games** using the Game Lab. You will learn how to:

- Create shapes and sprites
- Make characters move and interact

Use coding logic to build projects
You'll create projects such as:

- Captioned Scenes
- Animated Scenes
- Interactive Greeting Cards

8th Grade – CS Discoveries III (Physical Computing)
In 8th grade, you'll explore **physical computing**, where software and hardware work together. You will:

- Program real devices using App Lab
- Use Circuit Playground boards
- Learn how sensors and outputs work

Build and test prototypes using a maker mindset
You'll see how simple ideas can turn into real products.

Why Take CS Discoveries?
CS Discoveries helps you:

- Become a better problem solver
- Gain confidence using technology
- Be creative and innovative
- Work well with others

Prepare for future computer science and STEM classes
In CS Discoveries, you don't just use technology—you create it.

If you have any questions, feel free to email Mr. Brown
brownr3@gcsnc.com

Vocal Ensemble/Chorus

The Academy at Lincoln Chorus program provides opportunities for students to expand their knowledge surrounding vocal performance. Each year will build on the concepts associated with listening to, moving with, reading, analyzing, and performing a variety of music. The music selection covers a broad variety of cultures and genres, and students will learn what it takes to perform as a member of a vocal ensemble. Any student may sign up for chorus at any point, regardless of whether or not they have taken the class previously.

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact Emily Zaruba at zarubae@gcsnc.com

6th grade Class
Students will learn the basics of sound production on the voice as an instrument, as well as learning to read music. Our goal is to learn how to "unlock" our best singing voice and expand the vocal range in a healthy way. We will learn both the numerical system and the Kodaly syllables for learning rhythm, and solfege system to learn reading pitches. Repertoire for performances will focus on unison and 2-part pieces as we work toward independent part singing.

7th grade Class
In this class, students will expand upon their knowledge of reading music as well as performing music with a higher degree of difficulty. Because students can take Chorus at any point, we will spend the first part of the semester reviewing the basics, and then dive into more challenging repertoire. There is more focus on singing multiple parts simultaneously as well as reading and performing more complicated rhythms.

8th grade Class
In this class, students will continue to develop music literacy and performance skills, as well as understanding more of the cultural and historical significance of vocal music. Healthy singing will be a particular focus of the class, as many 8th grade students will be navigating their voice change during this time. Repertoire will focus on 3-part or SAB singing, with singers divided by voice part.

7th & 8th Grade Chorus Majors
7th and 8th Grade students will have the option to take Chorus as either a Minor (one semester) or a Major (year-long class.) In the Majors class, students will have the opportunity to work on more challenging music, as well as dive deeper into music theory and music literacy concepts. Chorus majors will perform in at least two concerts during the school year, and may also represent Lincoln at other community events. Students who love to sing and learn about music, and have taken Chorus before in either 6th or 7th grade, are highly encouraged to sign up as a Chorus Major. If you are interested in being a Chorus Major, but have not taken Chorus before, please see Ms. Zaruba for an informal audition and interview.

Other Opportunities:
Various clubs are also available from year-to-year depending on interest. Clubs offered previously included A Capella Club, Caroling Club, and Show Choir.

Dance

Dance at the Academy at Lincoln is an opportunity for students to get exposure to movement from an artistic standpoint. Students will gain experience learning many different dance styles. As a dance educator my objective is to help students develop a well-rounded artistic practice which includes use of correct technique, experience with performance, connecting dance to history, and self-expression through choreography.

If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Damman at dammank@gcsnc.com

Sixth Grade Dance and One-Semester Dance in 7th and 8th

Students in the sixth grade focus on dance in a creative movement context before moving into choreography and technique. Students learn the elements of dance and choreography tools they can use to create movement of their own. Dance styles that will be explored include ballet, jazz, modern, and hip hop. Through learning a variety of dance techniques, students will build a solid foundation in dance that they can build upon in 7th and 8th grade. All 6th grade dance classes are intro level, one semester classes and students are invited to perform in the dance concert as part of their performance grade. Students who are interested in becoming dance majors are advised (but not required) to take dance for a semester before auditioning for the program in the spring. Students can continue to take dance as a one semester course in the 7th and 8th grade, without becoming a major.

7th and 8th Grade Dance Majors

7th and 8th Grade Dancers get opportunities to learn more rigorous techniques, learn choreography, collaborate with other artists, and create dances for performances. Students will dive deeper into their studies of ballet, modern, contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, and musical theatre dance styles. This level will be expected to analyze and interpret movement that they experience. Dancers will learn dance history as they study each dance style and will make connections to their personal lives as well as other curricular areas. Majors are expected to take ownership of their artistic expression and challenge their choreographic process.

Dance Majors take dance year-round and are expected to dress out daily for class, perform in both Spring and Fall dance concerts. This program is for serious dance students who have a passion for dance and want to enhance their skills through daily technique practice. Anyone can audition to be a dance major but should understand the responsibility of the position.

Orchestra

Orchestra Courses at the Academy at Lincoln

Purpose:
Orchestra is a performing ensemble where students learn to play bowed string instruments; the violin, viola, cello, and double bass. The mission of the Academy at Lincoln Orchestra is to teach the skills, techniques, and musicianship that will help students to successfully participate in many styles of string playing, in orchestra and beyond! Orchestra is a year-long Encore class; all orchestra students are orchestra "majors" in the performing arts.

Course Expectations:

- Orchestra students perform in school-sponsored events such as Performing Arts Day, Open House, and School Concerts; ***all students are expected to participate in performances.***

- Students are required to have an instrument to use in class. There are many reputable music stores in the area that rent high-quality instruments for affordable prices. The Academy at Lincoln owns some instruments that are available for check-out, but families are encouraged to rent an instrument if possible.

- Our orchestras regularly receive superior ratings at festivals and adjudications; ***we work hard and expect excellence of ourselves.***

Who Can Register?

- Students who are interested in joining the orchestra ***must start in the 6th grade****.*

- It is common for students to sign up for orchestra without ever having played an instrument, this is your chance to get started!

- Students who have learned to play a string instrument before 6th grade should definitely join the orchestra! Your skills and leadership will be important to our success.

About String Instruments:

- String instruments come in different sizes; like a pair of shoes, there is a correct size for each student. It is important that students are sized by a professional so the instrument can be played correctly and without injury. Beginning students are sized in the first week of classes, and can also be sized at instrument rental stores.

- A large factor in a student's success is the quality of their instrument. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. I do not recommend purchasing or renting instruments from anyone other than reputable instrument dealers. ***Please do not buy or rent a pink or blue violin on Amazon.*** *When in doubt, reach out!*

Music Appreciation

Purpose

The purpose of the Music Appreciation at the Academy at Lincoln is to introduce students to the real-world music skills and technology used to create popular music like pop, rock, hip-hop, and other modern genres. Students learn to play the instruments used in popular music production, such as:

- Ukulele
- Keyboard
- Bass
- Guitar
- Drum Set and Percussion
- Vocals

Students also learn how to create their own music using these instruments and other music technology, such as:

- Using Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs)
- MIDI Controllers
- Electric Instruments (guitars, basses, keyboards)
- Microphones, cables, amplifiers, and other live sound gear

Music Appreciation students share their learning at Lincoln Open Mic, a relaxed, informal event where any Lincoln student can sign up to sing, dance, or share their talents. Music Appreciation is a semester-long course; students may take Music Appreciation multiple times.

Course Expectations

Music Appreciation students are expected to complete assignments and performances, such as:

- Guided Class Notes: learning targets, strategies, and important concepts
- Classwork: listening assignments, worksheets
- Instrument Practice Assignments: recordings of progress on your instrument
- Open Mic: All Music Appreciation students perform at Open Mic!
- Collaborating with classmates to create and arrange performances

Who Can Register?

Modern Music Production is open to ALL 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at the Academy at Lincoln. Students who want to enroll should be:

- Curious about how modern popular music is created
- Willing to work collaboratively with peers, teachers, and community members.

Physical Education and Health

The Academy at Lincoln Physical Education and Health Education department is committed to providing a safe and diverse learning environment to all students. In Physical Education, students will be given opportunities to develop self-esteem, social interaction, fitness, and skill development, along with a complete understanding of many different activities and sports. In Health Education, students will cover First Aid/ CPR, Relationships, Nutrition, Goal Setting, Decision Making and much more. We will provide the students with knowledge to develop a healthy lifestyle.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Ms. Dennis (dennisd@gcsnc.com) or Mr. Watkins (watkinw@gcsnc.com).

Physical Education

Physical education not only teaches the psycho-motor domain but the cognitive and affective domains as well. Our goal is to encourage the students to participate and enjoy the benefits of physical activity. We hope to accomplish this goal by providing a safe environment where each child is able to be successful in the activities taught in class. The purpose of this class is to provide opportunities for students to gain current knowledge of physical fitness facts, healthful living practices, stress management techniques, and to receive instruction in the skills necessary for successful participation in activities necessary for optimum health and physical efficiency.

Health Education

In the coming years, your child will be making decisions that impact his or her physical, emotional, mental and social health. The purpose of the Health education class is to provide students with the knowledge and resources they need to make responsible and well-informed decisions about their health. As the course progresses, students will be asked to explore their values, opinions and beliefs about health. It is important that students receive mature guidance in the classroom and at home as they deal with these issues.

An understanding of what constitutes good health and of the conscious decisions individuals make in order to reach and maintain a state of wellness will influence your child's decisions for the rest of his or her life. It is my goal as your child's health teacher to give them the knowledge needed to empower and strengthen them to make wise decisions concerning their health.

There will be a Guilford County School Health Resource Teacher come in and teach Family Life with the students. The Family Life Unit is approximately a 10-day session for 7th and 8th grade students. Topics of discussion during the 7th and 8th grade classes include sexual abstinence until marriage, male and female reproductive systems, risks of premarital sexual activity, the prevention of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, as well as sexual assault. Methods of contraception are also taught ONLY in the 8th grade. 6th grade students are taught in a brief 3-day session on effective communication, decision making skills, and puberty.

Piano

The Academy at Lincoln Piano program is a unique opportunity for all students at Lincoln, regardless of experience on the instrument. Students will have access to our 18 piano keyboard lab for daily instruction. Students in piano class learn music reading, practice skills, and music history. There are typically two concerts every year—one in the winter, and one in the spring.

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact
Emily Zaruba at zarubae@gcsnc.com

6th grade Class
Students will learn basic skills on the piano, with a focus on correct hand position and posture, music literacy, and practice skills. Music literacy instruction will focus on the notes of the grand staff, as well as rhythms in simple meters.

7th grade Class
In this year, students will expand upon their knowledge of reading music as well as performing music with a higher degree of difficulty. Students with previous piano experience will be able to work at their own pace on self-selected repertoire with the guidance of the instructor. This class will also start to introduce more music history, as students learn the background information on the composers and pieces they are studying.

8th grade Class
In this class, students with previous piano experience will continue to improve their skills will individualized, self-paced curriculum. This self-paced instruction allows all students to grow and learn, regardless of their starting point. In addition to fundamentals of technique and music literacy, this class will also allow students to explore improvisation and compositional skills.

Spanish

Speaking a second language opens doors in your child's life.

GREAT NEWS!

Learning a 2nd Language:

Stimulates brain development
Opens new career options
Enhances first language speaking ability
And Improves:

- attention span
- memory and
- multitasking abilities

Taking Spanish at Lincoln gives your student so many opportunities. Students learn about geography, history, and the many cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. Students enjoy learning about music, foods, arts, literature and traditions. Students develop novice level proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, writing.

In all levels of Spanish, students are exposed to the language through everyday conversations, dialogue, reading, writing, storytelling, and games. As students progress through courses, they are expected to produce more and more of the language on their own.

Introduction to Spanish* - 6th Grade In the sixth grade, students gain exposure to the language through music, simple stories and discussions. They learn basic vocabulary and simple sentences that help as they progress to higher levels of Spanish.

***Introduction to Spanish, while helpful, is not required prior to taking Spanish 1A.**

Spanish Level 1A - 7th Grade Spanish 1A focuses on Spanish as it relates to the everyday lives of students with experiences such as school work, family, future careers, hobbies, foods and music. Students learn about Spanish speaking cultures and important historical facts like the development and relevance of the Panama Canal for world trade.

Spanish Level 1B - 8th Grade Spanish 1B builds on Spanish 1A. Students, having a basic grasp of the language, begin creating their own stories, presentations, and comics to share aspects of their lives and to communicate on educational topics. Students develop more complex Spanish abilities, including speaking in multiple verb tenses, on topics such as family, chores, jobs, and community and cultural folklore. Students will be able to read a wider variety of written materials with a solid understanding of the message and make the great leap into speaking with others in basic natural conversations.

For more information, call the main office at 336-370-3471 or email Jodi Johnson at johnsoj17@gcsnc.com.

Theater

Purpose- *The Academy at Lincoln Theatre department is committed to providing a comprehensive learning environment to all students. Through classwork, community involvement, field trips and opportunities to strive outside of the classroom, students are given all the tools to function as an artist and become well– rounded individuals.*

In the theatre class, we not only strive to make our learners be successful on stage, but also in the real world. This class is designed to create people who are passionate about life, work hard to create products they are proud of and to create good role models for our future generations. We spend time creating, nurturing, and reaching for the standards that are placed so we can be proud of the work we accomplish.

6th grade/ 7th and 8th grade minors
Everyone is urged to take Theatre in the 6th, 7th and 8th grade minor class. All you need to do is sign up for the class. You will take the class for 1/2 year (Semester)
You will learn the following;

Pantomime	Auditioning	Breaking stage fright
Creating Characters	Technical Theatre	Playwriting
Directing	Story Telling	Acting/ Film

7th and 8th Majors
Auditions for the majors classes will happen on February 13th from 4:10– 5:15. However, If you are seeing this after those dates and are interested, please see Mrs. Whitley for more information. All students have to reaudition for the next year in theatre.

By attending this class everyday, students get a more rigorous and in-depth look into Theatre. This class will be involved in many more hands on experiences through field trips and various opportunities within the community. Students will fully learn what it means to be a professional. Students are urged to audition for one or more of the school plays we have each year.
Majors also perform at Performing Arts Day and Open House. You will also have the opportunity to attend the North Carolina Thespian Festival and the North Carolina Theatre Conference. Majors will also attend various field trips during the school year to better understand what it means to be a professional in Theatre. If you love or like theatre, this is the place you want to be!



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