



# Middle School Course Offerings 2026-2027



THE MONTGOMERY ACADEMY

# Middle School Course Catalog 2026-2027

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# Welcome to the 2026–2027 Middle School Course Catalog!

Our Middle School curriculum is thoughtfully scaffolded and developmentally appropriate, beginning with welcoming our fifth graders to the Vaughn Road Campus and guiding them toward becoming confident, well-rounded leaders prepared for Upper School.

Within these pages, you will find descriptions of our core academics, course requirements, and electives. Each course is designed to provide appropriate challenge, foster curiosity, and encourage critical thinking, while electives offer opportunities for exploration and growth. We look forward to partnering with you in making these middle school years engaging, enriching, and foundational for future success.

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## Middle School Academics

In the 5th and 6th grade, students enroll in yearly courses of English, mathematics, science, social studies, and physical education that are divided into two semesters. Enrichment opportunities are provided on a rotational basis in research/technology, leadership, study skills, and Fine Arts.

In the 7th and 8th grades, each student's schedule will include English, mathematics, science, history, physical education and electives in STEM, World Language and Fine Arts.

Teachers seek to give meaningful assignments that review and reinforce skills taught during class. The maximum time students are expected to spend on written homework is 20 minutes per core academic class. This does not include special projects or papers. Middle School students should also seek opportunities to read nightly in addition to completing their written work.

Grades for the middle school are given in numerical form, reflecting the following standards of performance:

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 100-90       | Excellent    |
| 89-80        | Good         |
| 79-70        | Satisfactory |
| 69 and below | Failing      |

A student will not receive a grade below 50 for a first quarter failure in any course. After the 1st quarter, the accurate grade will be reported even if it is below 50.

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## Academic Support

Students who would benefit from further intervention may be referred for academic support services. Parents who are interested in learning more about academic support and/or classroom accommodations should contact the Middle School Counselor.

The Middle School facilities may be used for private tutoring sessions. To prevent a conflict of interest, employees of The Montgomery Academy must receive permission from their division director to tutor any MA student for compensation. A student may not be tutored by his or her teacher.

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## Examinations

The purpose of a semester exam is to serve as a measurement tool of learning, which includes acquisition, synthesis and performance of material within a course of study covering an entire semester. A "semester exam" is defined as a test, paper, presentation and/or project that, in the opinion of the faculty member presenting it, achieves the purpose of a semester exam, pending approval by the Division Director.

Prior to the examination period, an exam schedule is published. No changes will be allowed without the expressed permission of the Division Director. Requests for changes must be submitted to the Middle School office.

The final two days before the exam period will be devoted to review for examinations. No new material or graded work may be assigned during this review period except for extra-credit exercises at the discretion of the teacher.

5th and 6th graders do not take semester exams. While 5th and 6th grade students do not take final exams, they do take final unit tests and engage in the campus' exam week schedule and structure in order to prepare them for the longer format of exams they will experience when they get to 7th and 8th grade.

Examinations are given at the end of each semester for 7th and 8th grades. Semester exam grades will represent 20 percent of the semester grade.

- Exemptions. A student in 7th or 8th grade may be exempted from the second semester examination in a year-long course if the student has a yearly average of 93, a second semester average of 93, and a fourth marking period average of 93, and the exemption is approved by the teacher. A student who is exempt from an examination may elect to take the examination. Exemptions do not apply to final projects or papers even if they carry the same weight as an in-class examination.

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## Failures and Remediation

A student who does not pass a course upon the completion of the final examination will be asked to either remediate or repeat the course. For courses wherein a student may repeat between 6th-9th grade (i.e. Pre Algebra or Spanish I), the student will, at the recommendation of the teacher and the Division Director, be permitted to repeat the course in the following grade level. Some summer remediation may still be required in order to be eligible for this repetition.

For a course that is signature to the grade level (i.e. 6th Grade Science), the student will be required to complete an appropriate remediation to prove mastery of the content and/or prepare the student for learning skills in the following grade level. This assignment is at the discretion of the teacher and the Division Director.

Normally, a student who fails more than one course is not invited to return to the Academy.

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## Middle School Academic Honors

At the conclusion of each semester, 7th and 8th grade students with all grades at 90 or above will be recognized for Middle School Academic Honors.

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## Contact Us

**Katie Lavelle, Vaughn Road Campus Director**  
katie\_lavelle@montgomeryacademy.org  
334-273-7119

**Sarah Bryan, Assistant Middle School Director**  
sarah\_bryan@montgomeryacademy.org  
334-273-7118

**Brandalyn Wright, Middle School Counselor**  
brandalyn\_wright@montgomeryacademy.org  
334-273-7139

**Rolanda Woods, Middle School Division Assistant**  
rolanda\_woods@montgomeryacademy.org  
334-273-7137

### English

#### English 5

In English 5, students develop their reading, comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and writing skills. Wordly Wise is used daily for direct instruction of vocabulary and spelling. Units focusing on grammar skill sets and rules are integrated into daily instruction as well. In the fall, students read works of fiction, working to develop and promote the critical thinking and comprehension skills needed to intelligently discuss works of literature. Fiction skill units include identifying and comparing traditional story elements, plot, making inferences, theme, point of view, and summarizing. The spring semester will highlight non-fiction works, focusing on comprehending academic writing and crafting/defending arguments. Students will read a wide variety of literature to practice these skills: novels, short stories, poetry, and scholarly articles. In addition to novel studies throughout the year, students will participate in literature circles. All of these activities will be used to develop composition skills throughout the year. At the end of the year, students will be able to write a proper paragraph including a topic sentence, examples and evidence, and a conclusion.



#### English 6

In English 6, students develop their grammar, writing, comprehension, presentation, and vocabulary skills. Wordly Wise is used for vocabulary instruction. Simplify Writing is used for students' writing units. Students will explore personal narrative, explanatory, argumentative, informational, compare and contrast, and creative narrative writing. Through this writing curriculum, students will integrate their own personal voices, grammar skills, and newly learned vocabulary. Grammar is taught with an integration of Simplify Writing's grammar resources and outside resources. Although grammar is integrated into the writing program, grammar will also be taught independently to ensure understanding of how to apply it in students' own writing and recognize its purpose in texts they are reading. In reading comprehension of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, students learn to read fluently with emphasis on understanding plot, author's purpose, and character development. By the end of the year, students will be able to analyze a text for deeper meaning, identify and use new vocabulary, write clearly and effectively, and identify and use new grammar skills.

#### English 7

In English 7, students develop their reading, writing, and interpretive skills. Students complete engaging learning exercises that address the areas of vocabulary, composition, grammar, reading, and interpreting. Students refine their composition skills, in particular paragraph structure, writing a 5-paragraph essay, and mechanics. They learn to read actively and to analyze both orally and in writing the literature that they read. Grammar study in English 7 builds on knowledge of terminology and concepts and an

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understanding of the necessary grammatical framework, enabling students to effectively proofread and correct their work. Students engage in a vocabulary study focused not only on memorizing the meanings of words, but on applying the words' meanings and on using the newly learned words in students' own writing.

### English 8

The major focus of English 8 involves the integration of grammar, study of literature, and emphasis on composition and critical thinking. Through the study of selected novels, emphasis is placed on paragraph development, the full essay, and correct use of mechanics. The second semester, students are assigned a major documented paper. This includes research on chosen topics, writing an outline, writing a works cited page, and writing a documented paper approximately 6-8 pages in length. Students will continue their vocabulary study and will also study the play *Romeo and Juliet* and the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Grammar study will continue with emphasis on more complex grammar skills.

## Mathematics

### Math 5

Math 5 reinforces and builds on previous math skills. taught in elementary grades. Students will learn to compute numbers to 10,000,000, round and estimate numbers to the nearest thousand, and solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division problems. The course introduces fractions, decimals, and percentages. Students will compare and round decimals, rewrite decimals as fractions, and solve word problems involving percentages. Additional topics include algebraic equations using variables to represent unknown numbers, area of triangles, and ratios to compare numbers or quantities.

### Math 6

Math 6 solidifies and expands on elementary concepts, develops math literacy and number sense, and explores the application of mathematical operations in problem solving. The course introduces integer operations, variables, expressions, and equations. Additionally, the course develops students' understanding of statistical thinking, graphical analysis, applications of geometric concepts, and introduces some aspects of financial literacy. Students should be able to connect mathematical concepts to their everyday experiences.

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### Math 6 Accelerated

Math 6 Accelerated provides similar course content to the Math 6 course, but with additional rigor and expectation for independence. A strong emphasis is placed on number fluency and with integers, fractions, and decimals and proficiency with the application of mathematical operations in problem solving. Additionally, the course develops students' understanding of statistical thinking, graphical analysis, applications of geometric concepts, and introduces some aspects of financial literacy. Students should be able to connect mathematical concepts to their everyday experiences.

### Pre-Algebra 7

Pre-Algebra 7 provides students with an introduction to the concepts of Algebra and Geometry and reinforces properties of real numbers. This course places a strong emphasis on the continued study of integers, ensuring students master this important concept before entering Algebra. Students dive deep into the order of operations and work with variables, expressions, and equations. Students explore the language of Algebra, Geometry, and other areas of mathematics in verbal, graphical, and symbolic form. Problem solving activities and real-world applications encourage students to model patterns and relationships with variables and functions and allow them to see how they can apply what they are learning in daily life.

### Pre-Algebra 7 Accelerated

Pre-Algebra 7 Accelerated provides similar course content to the Pre-Algebra 7 course, but with additional rigor and expectation for independence. A strong emphasis is placed on the connection between arithmetic and algebra, writing and solving equations and inequalities, and mastery of number theory and fraction concepts. Students explore the language of algebra, geometry, and other areas of mathematics in verbal, graphical, and symbolic form, including introduction to probability, statistical analysis, and data sampling. Problem solving activities and applications encourage students to model patterns and relationships with variables and functions. In addition to standard classroom lectures, worked examples, and practice sets, this course frequently involves online practice through Kuta Math and self-guided exploration through tools like Desmos Classroom.

### Algebra I

Algebra I begins with a review of the skills covered in Prealgebra that are built upon in Algebra I: variables and expressions, order of operations, properties of numbers, distributive property, and functions. Students then explore linear equations and inequalities, systems of linear equations, exponential, rational, and quadratic functions graphically, numerically, and symbolically. Parallel and perpendicular lines are also introduced. In addition, operations of polynomials, radicals, and rational expressions are studied. Included are the properties of exponents. Problem solving and real-world applications encourage students to model patterns and relationships with variables and functions using algebraic symbols.



### Algebra I Accelerated

Algebra 1 Accelerated provides similar course content to the Algebra 1 course, but with additional rigor and expectation for independence. The course explores linear equations and inequalities, systems of linear equations, exponential, rational, and quadratic functions graphically, numerically, and symbolically. In addition, operations of polynomials, radicals, and rational expressions are studied. Included are the properties of exponents. Problem solving and real-world applications encourage students to model patterns and relationships with variables and functions using algebraic symbols. The pace of the accelerated course will allow for deeper exploration of quadratic functions and relationships.

### Geometry

Geometry emphasizes visualizing and understanding Euclidean geometric properties and mathematical relationships, making, and verifying conjectures, and establishing connections between geometric and algebraic properties. After an introduction to logic and reasoning, students develop a thorough foundation in proof writing using theorems and postulates. Students apply their proving and problem-solving skills to the concepts of measurement, congruence, proportionality, and similarity. Exploration of geometric properties is completed with a study of right triangle trigonometry, properties of circles, and an introduction to measurement of two and three-dimensional shapes. **Placement Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Algebra I as determined by the math department.

## Science

### Grade 5: Science and Geography

5th Grade Science and Geography is a hands-on, interactive course that dives deep into the seven continents of the world, looking closely at the location of countries and oceans and researching each one along the way. Students engage in exploring landforms, map features, forces of motion, erosion and deposition, and rocks and minerals throughout the course. Students explore flight and rocketry through experiments to further explore hot air balloons, kites, parachutes, paper airplanes, jet and propeller planes, and more. The unit focusing on flight and aerodynamics is a class favorite. Students also have the opportunity to take a closer look at fish, amphibians, mammals and reptiles as their introduction to Biology. Lastly, the students build volcanoes as they learn about chemical reactions. This course is designed to promote deep thinking, curiosity, and the fundamentals of science, culture, and the diverse world that surrounds us.

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### Grade 6: Life Science

Life science is an introductory course designed to provide a solid foundation in the discipline and allow students to apply scientific principles to real-world situations. Students develop an understanding of the scientific method as a process by which scientists systematically ask and answer questions. Emphasis is placed on developing curiosity and appreciating the wonder that arises from observing the natural world. Students learn how selective breeding, cloning, and genetic engineering help to solve global issues and discuss the ethical questions that arise from such methods. Life Science builds off of students' Lower School experiences through further hands-on exploration and investigation to prepare them for higher-level science courses. Students also have the opportunity to participate in problem solving scenarios that take place on an annual field trip to the Coosa River 4-H Center.

### Grade 7: Earth Science

The purpose of the 7th grade Earth Science course is to expose students to the science of the Earth and to study the branches of science which include meteorology, geology, oceanography, seismology, astronomy, and volcanology. These areas are best understood when they are experienced through inquiry based hands-on investigations of real world phenomena. As such, we do many labs and activities in class to support the scientific concepts. Critical thinking skills are cultivated as we set out to investigate and explore many scientific concepts, laws, and theories. Beach, maritime forest, and salt marsh ecologies as well as coastal geology will also be studied during a class trip to Jekyll Island, Georgia.

### Grade 8: Physical Science

Physical Science is designed to serve as a foundation for high school courses, especially chemistry and physics. Chemistry units include composition and classification of matter, history of atomic structure up to present day model, learning the periodic table to include chemical symbols, patterns, trends and isotopes, chemical bonding, compound naming, and chemical reactions. Physics units include Newton's 3 laws of motion, forces, scientific definitions of work and power, momentum, conservation and conversions of energy, electricity, wave phenomena and behavior (including characteristics and calculations) including electromagnetic and sound waves. Because experimentation is the basis of science, laboratory demonstrations and investigations are an important part of this course. Lab Instruction centers around inquiry-based learning that is incorporated into class activities.

## History

### History 6: Ancient Civilizations

Because the sixth-grade history class incorporates both social studies and literature, the course focuses on experiences of reading and responding to literature while



cultivating a love for history. Through their studies, students learn how ancient civilizations are related to the world today. History 6 is an active study of ancient world cultures including the development of government and social structures, innovations and technology, religion, and the arts. Language arts skills will be developed across the content and include reading comprehension through historical fiction. At the end of the year, students have both an understanding and a working knowledge of the world around them, past and present.

### **History 7: American Foundations: 1491–1865**

Beginning in the first semester, American Foundations studies the social and political origins and the fundamental principles on which the United States was founded. The course begins with the first landing of non-natives from Europe and moves to colonial settlement. Further study includes the development of America's early government, the rise of political parties, and the growing tension between national power and states' rights. Another goal of the course is to offer a number of activities using primary and secondary sources. This will include enrichment exercises, and cooperative learning experiences. Over the course of the year, each student will participate in frequent small-group work and will take part in a variety of hands-on activities. The first semester includes major events from pre-Columbian societies through the American Revolution and the creation of the United States Constitution.

In the second semester - beginning with an American Civics unit that culminates with our participation in Junior Youth Legislature - American Foundations serves as an introduction to the basic principles and structure of the U.S. Constitution and the American system of government. Topics include republicanism, federalism, separation of powers, check and balances, and civil liberties. This study of the structure of the American system of government will include the examination of primary and secondary sources, utilize technology to analyze essential concepts, and facilitate discussion on significant issues in American political history. The second semester includes major events from our first presidency through the American Civil War.

### **History 8: The U.S. and Beyond: 1865–Present**

The first semester will be a study on the social history of the United States from the Civil War to the Progressive Movement. The major political events will be discussed, but an additional focus will be on the social and cultural movements associated with each event and time period. Furthermore, a large portion of the semester will be devoted to studying the roles of various groups in society such as women, immigrants, Native Americans, and African Americans.

The second semester will be a survey of the major events throughout the world during the 20th century. A focus will be on both World Wars, the Cold War, and the Civil Rights Movement. The students will have the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. for the 8th grade trip and be able to see both monuments and memorials to

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many of the events we will be studying this semester. In both semesters, students will also examine the lives of influential Americans from each era, with great attention given to determining the qualities that helped these men and women become successful leaders. Students will study this content through a variety of methods that include: interpreting primary sources, photographs, writing essays that support a thesis, watching historical film and listening to sound clips, utilizing proper note taking, and exploring creativity with projects. The assignments are designed to help students develop their skills as students of history as well as prepare them to be competent, active, and productive citizens.

### Additional Course Requirements

#### Physical Education

The Montgomery Academy Middle School Health and Physical Education Program is a fitness based program designed to promote the health and fitness of our students. The program strives to enhance the joy of physical activity and to improve the motor skills, health knowledge and fitness levels of our students. Our program emphasizes fitness based performance. Seventy percent of each student's week is devoted to fitness based individual activities. Basic weight training, flexibility, agility/speed training, running, cross training, core exercises, and circuit training are a major part of these fitness based individual activities. Thirty percent of our program is devoted to team or individual sports or activities. These team sports and activities emphasize many of the skills that are taught in our fitness related activities.

#### 5th & 6th Grade Enrichment

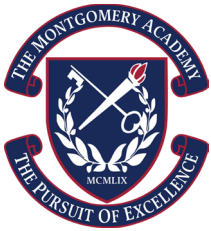
5th and 6th Grade Enrichment courses allow students to explore a carousel of disciplines that provide a well-rounded academic experience. These learning opportunities include Art, Drama, Music, Leadership/Life Skills, Research/Technology, and Study Skills - each subject taken at different times of the year. By experiencing these varied topics at this grade level, students will have a more informed idea of what electives they would like to take when they are given the opportunity to choose their elective courses in 7th and 8th grade.

### World Language Electives

#### French IA: 7th Grade

The Middle School French program introduces the young learner to basic language training by stressing foundational grammar and conversation methods. Students will develop vocabulary, grammatical structures, reading comprehension, and written and oral expression in French through the integrated skills approach. The instructor will use a series of computer-based technologies to expand and individualize basic textbook activities. Use of the Internet and various websites provided through the textbook will reinforce and broaden concepts learned in the classroom. Digital voice recordings and videos of student's performances are some of the course highlights. At

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this level, students learn to appreciate the culture and civilization of a selected group of French-speaking countries.

### French IB: 8th Grade

This course is a continuation of the IA course. It continues to build on foundational skills in French vocabulary, grammatical structures, and conversation. The instructor will continue to use a series of computer-based technologies to expand and individualize basic textbook activities. Use of the Internet and various websites provided through the textbook will reinforce and broaden concepts learned in the classroom. Digital voice recordings and videos of student's performances are some of the course highlights. At this level, students learn to appreciate the culture and civilization of a selected group of French-speaking countries. They should also be able to sustain a basic conversation and understand novice-level texts.

### French I: 8th Grade

French I serves as an introduction to the French language and culture through the four essential skills of language learning: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Activities in class focus on these skills as students build vocabulary and learn basic grammatical structures. We will practice reading comprehension through short readings in various mediums including but not limited to newspaper articles, songs, and editorials. Written activities to expand vocabulary and practice new structures using these various forms will assist in daily practice. Students will spend a considerable amount of time using French in a communicative setting through various oral activities and with the use of authentic resources that will emphasize practical usage of the French language. Students will also begin an exploration of French and Francophone culture around the world to further emphasize the important role the French language plays in contemporary global societies. The goal for French I students is to reach a middle to high novice level in all four skills while gaining a deeper appreciation and understanding of the importance of learning a second language. Diverse activities both inside and outside of class will compliment our exploration of other cultures as well as assist in building confidence communicating in the target language.

### Latin IA: 7th Grade

Latin IA is the first half of Latin I. This course will serve as an introduction to the Latin language and the culture of ancient Rome. Students learn basic language structures and essential elements of Latin pronunciation in order to be able to read simple passages in Latin. The relationship of English to Latin is emphasized in vocabulary building, word derivation, and meanings of prefixes and suffixes. Language structures and syntax are developed through the study of literary passages. Latin mythology, geography, early myths of Aeneas and Romulus and Remus, Roman domestic architecture, and early Roman history are studied. Students will learn Roman numerals and the geography of Rome and the Roman Empire. Students will study from the textbook *Ecce Romani I* and will cover Chapters 1-14.

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### Latin IB: 8th Grade

Latin IB is the second half of Latin IA. This course will serve as an introduction to the Latin language and the culture of ancient Rome. Students learn basic language structures and essential elements of Latin pronunciation in order to be able to read simple passages in Latin. The relationship of English to Latin is emphasized in vocabulary building, word derivation, and meanings of prefixes and suffixes. Language structures and syntax are developed through the study of literary passages. The geography, history, government, and culture of the Roman Empire are studied, including the kings of Rome, legendary heroes of early Rome, and the history of the Roman Republic. Students will study from the textbook *Ecce Romani I* and will cover Chapters 15-23.

### Latin I: 8th-12th Grade

Latin I is the first year of Latin. This course will serve as an introduction to the Latin language and the culture of ancient Rome. Students learn basic language structures and essential elements of Latin pronunciation in order to be able to read simple passages in Latin. The relationship of English to Latin is emphasized in vocabulary building, word derivation, and meanings of prefixes and suffixes. Language structures and syntax are developed through the study of literary passages. The geography, history, government, and culture of the Roman Empire are studied. Students will study from the textbook *Ecce Romani I* and will cover Chapters 1-23.

### Spanish IA: 7th Grade

Spanish IA is an introductory course designed to build a strong foundation in the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. Students will learn basic vocabulary, simple sentence structures, and essential grammar to communicate about everyday topics such as greetings, family, school, hobbies, and activities. The class focuses on developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through interactive activities, games, songs, and short conversations. Students will also explore cultural traditions, celebrations, and customs of Spanish-speaking countries to develop cultural awareness and appreciation.

### Spanish IB: 8th Grade

Spanish IB builds on the skills learned in Spanish IA and continues developing students' ability to communicate in Spanish. Students expand their vocabulary and grammar knowledge through topics such as food, daily routines using reflexive verbs, travel, and celebrations in Spanish-speaking countries. The course introduces the pretérito tense to help students talk about past events and experiences. Through interactive activities, short conversations, readings, and cultural projects, students strengthen their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills while gaining a deeper understanding of Hispanic cultures and tradition.

### Arts Electives - 7th and 8th Grade

#### Chorus – Fall, Spring, or Year Course

Middle School Chorus focuses on performance in choral music. This is achieved through exercises which include demonstrating proper breath support, and developing good vocal tone and correct vowel pronunciation. The chorus presents two concerts each year. Students also participate in the All-State Choral Festival, Young Voices Festival, and choral performance assessments. The Middle School chorus consists of students in both seventh and eighth grades.

#### Art – Fall or Spring Course (one semester only)

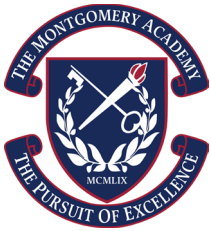
In Middle School Art, students focus on developing skills, which include drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and collage. They have the opportunity to experiment and refine skills using a variety of art media. Each lesson is reinforced with our continuous study of the elements of art and the principles of design, which improve each student's image making skills as well as their artistic vocabulary. Art history is a very important part of this course, and provides students with inspiration for their own work. Students are educated in the necessary skills of the critique where they must intelligently discuss and assess their peers' artwork as well as their own.

#### Theater – Fall or Spring Course (one semester only)

Theater for 7th and 8th grade students focuses on theater history and styles from around the world. Students will explore classical plays and stories, discussing the messages within, as well as applying that style to performances and projects. Through theater games and classroom exercises, students will collaborate to explore storytelling across the ages. From Greek theater to pantomime, from Shakespeare to present-day works, this elective can serve as both an introduction to the performing arts and a continuation of a student's education in drama.

#### Speech & Debate – Fall or Spring Course (one semester only)

Middle School Speech & Debate introduces seventh and eighth grade students to the world of public speaking and debate in order to begin the process of making stronger, more confident communicators. Through the process of learning about speech and debate, students gain essential organizational, analytical, and presentational skills that will help them in the remainder of their upper school careers and beyond. Class activities include prepared and impromptu speeches, individual and team debate, and mock-Congress.



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### Technology Elective - 7th and 8th Grade

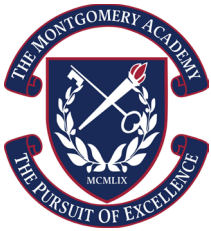
#### STEM Lab – Fall or Spring Course (one semester only)

STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines — Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics — in an interdisciplinary and applied approach. Rather than teach the four disciplines as separate and discrete subjects, STEM integrates them into a cohesive learning paradigm based on real-world applications.

### Additional Elective

#### Study Hall – Fall, Spring, or Year Course

Study Hall is a proctored time for students to complete homework and prepare for projects and tests. No student may have more than one study hall period during a school day (no credit given).





# THE MONTGOMERY ACADEMY

3240 VAUGHN ROAD | MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA | 36106

[montgomeryacademy.org](http://montgomeryacademy.org)

*The Montgomery Academy develops leaders committed  
to honor, scholarship, service and the pursuit of excellence.*