



*Middle School
Course of Study*

2026-2027

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Your Academic Journey at Linden Hall

Welcome to Linden Hall! Whether you are a new student or have been with us for years, we are glad to have you as a member of our vibrant community of learners. You are part of a group of committed students who choose to engage with a world-class educational program that will help you identify your strengths, grow intellectually, challenge your capabilities and prepare you to be a leader in a dynamic, global society.

Our Middle School schedule is intentionally designed to give students meaningful opportunities to explore their interests, especially in the arts and innovation. In addition to a strong academic foundation, students choose electives such as Art, Music, Theater, and our STEM Makerspace, allowing them to pursue an area of interest. These classes give girls the chance to create, perform, design, build, and collaborate, often discovering new talents and deepening existing interests along the way. We believe these experiences are not “extras,” but essential parts of a well-rounded education that build confidence, creativity, and problem-solving skills that will serve our students far beyond the classroom.

This course catalog is designed to provide basic information about classes that are offered at Linden Hall, and we look forward to working with you on individualizing your educational journey!



Planning Your Coursework

Planning a student's coursework is a vital step in ensuring academic growth, personal development, and readiness for future opportunities. In this course of study, students will explore the range of subjects and learning experiences available, considering their interests, strengths, and long-term goals.

To support this process, each student will meet with either the Director of College Counseling or the Director of Academic Affairs during course selection. These meetings provide individualized guidance, helping students make informed decisions about their schedules, balance rigorous coursework with personal interests, and create a plan that aligns with both graduation requirements and their aspirations beyond middle school.

Sixth Graders

Sixth graders will typically take the following courses:

Humanities (English & History): Global Stories

Language, Skills, & Planning (LSP): All sixth-grade students will be enrolled in LSP.

Mathematics: Usually, Mathematics Exploration or Pre-Algebra. New students are placed via application and/or teacher recommendation

Science: Life Science

World Languages: Survey of Language

Arts: Sixth graders will participate in the following courses each for a quarter: Music Fundamentals, Art Fundamentals, Theater Fundamentals & STEM Makerspace Exploration. In addition, sixth graders also have the choice to participate in Choir or those students who have a year and a half of experience playing an instrument, may join the Orchestra during Music Block. The Myrtle V. Eckert Hand Bell Choir is another option and meets in the evening for its rehearsals.

PE/Health & Wellness: Sixth graders will be required to take a Physical Education course three days a week. In addition, they will also be required to take Health & Wellness two days a week.

Seventh Graders

Seventh graders typically participate in the following coursework:

Humanities (English & History): Herstory

Language, Skills, & Planning (LSP): All seventh-grade students will be enrolled in LSP.

Mathematics: Usually, Pre-Algebra or Algebra I. New students are placed via application and/or teacher recommendation

Science: Physical Science

World Languages: French 1A or Spanish 1A

Arts: Seventh-grade students will have the choice to participate in two of the following courses each for a semester: Fall Semester-Music History or Theater Fundamentals II, Spring Semester-Art Fundamentals II or STEM Makerspace II. In addition, seventh graders also have the choice to participate in Choir or those students who have a year and a half of

experience playing an instrument may join the Orchestra during Music Block. The Myrtle V. Eckert Hand Bell Choir is another option and meets in the evening for its rehearsals.

PE/Health & Wellness: Seventh graders will be required to take a Physical Education course three days a week. In addition, they will also be required to take Health & Wellness two days a week.

Eighth Graders

Eighth-grade students typically will take the following classes:

English: Humanities English: Civics in Action

Language, Skills, & Planning (LSP): Eighth grade students identified as needing additional supports and not enrolled in a world language class will be enrolled in LSP.

Mathematics: Usually, Algebra I or Geometry. New students are placed via application and/or teacher recommendation

History: Humanities History: Civics in Action

Science: Introduction to Engineering

World Languages: French 1 or Spanish 1

Arts: Eighth-grade students will have the choice to participate in two of the following courses each for a semester: Fall Semester-Music Practicum or Theater Fundamentals III, Spring Semester-Art Fundamentals III or STEM Makerspace III. In addition, eighth graders also have the choice to participate in Choir or those students who have a year and a half of experience playing an instrument may join the Orchestra during Music Block. The Myrtle V. Eckert Hand Bell Choir is another option and meets in the evening for its rehearsals.

PE/Health & Wellness: Eighth graders will be required to take an After School Physical Education (ASPE) course. If they choose to play a sport or participate in a minimum of two hours of riding lessons per week they satisfy this requirement. Students will also be required to take a Health & Wellness course.

Co-curricular Requirements

Area	Requirement(s)
Community Service	Middle school students are required to complete a total of 9 hours of community service per school year. Students are allowed to submit a maximum of 3 hours completed internally, though the remaining 6 hours must be completed via external placement
Foundations of Academic Integrity Course	Middle school students are required to take the Foundations of Academic Integrity course annually to reinforce ethical academic practices, keep up with evolving standards, and strengthen their research and citation skills.

Signature Programs

Equestrian

The Linden Hall Riding Program offers a year-round competitive training schedule. Whether you want to compete internationally or are looking to become involved with horses for the first time, you will find opportunities in our equestrian program. A comprehensive study for both horse and rider, our program establishes a strong foundation in riding and horsemanship, with a focus on Hunters, Jumpers, Dressage, and Equitation. Linden Hall is also the proud home barn for the Franklin & Marshall College Equestrian Team. There is an additional fee for riding lessons and horse boarding.

English as a Second Language

Linden Hall is one of the very few schools in the United States that offers a supportive environment for second language learners. We focus on students' intellectual capabilities and balance their readiness to engage in high level intellectual pursuits with a supportive program that enhances their acquisition and refinement of the English language as they are ready to take college preparatory courses without additional support. There is an additional fee for students needing ESL services.

POTENTIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS LIST FOR 2026-2027

GRADE 6		
CORE SUBJECTS	Ensemble Options	Students will take each of the following for 1 Quarter:
Foundations of Academic Integrity LSP Humanities: Global Stories Mathematic Exploration or Pre-Algebra* Life Science Survey of Languages Physical Education I Health & Wellness I	<u>Music Block:</u> Choir Symphonic Orchestra <u>Evening Rehearsals:</u> Bell Choir	Art Fundamentals Music Fundamentals STEM Makerspace I Theatre Fundamentals
GRADE 7		
CORE SUBJECTS	Ensemble Options	ELECTIVES Students will choose one per semester.
Foundations of Academic Integrity LSP Humanities: Herstory Pre-Algebra or Algebra I* Physical Science French 1A or Spanish 1A Physical Education II Health & Wellness II	<u>Music Block:</u> Choir Symphonic Orchestra <u>Evening Rehearsals:</u> Bell Choir	Fall: • Music History • Theater II Spring: • Art Fundamentals II • STEM Makerspace II
GRADE 8		
CORE SUBJECTS	Ensemble Options	ELECTIVES Students will choose one per semester.
Foundations of Academic Integrity Humanities English: Civics in Action Humanities History: Civics in Action Algebra I or Geometry* Introduction to Engineering French 1 or Spanish 1 After School Physical Education (ASPE) III Health & Wellness III	<u>Music Block:</u> Choir Symphonic Orchestra <u>Evening Rehearsals:</u> Bell Choir	Fall: • Music Practicum • Theater III Spring: • Art Fundamentals III • STEM Makerspace III

MIDDLE SCHOOL ESL

Non-Native English Speakers with a TOEFL score below a 70 will be enrolled in the Middle School ESL Program.

6th Grade students will take LSP/ESL Support, Humanities/Support, Math, Science, Phys. Ed., Health & Wellness, Foundations of Academic Integrity and the following:

- Students will take the following elective courses for one quarter each: STEM Makerspace I, Middle School Art I, Middle School Theatre I and Music Fundamentals, and the option to participate in Ensembles (Music Block-Choir or Symphonic Orchestra and/or Evening-Bell Choir)

7th Grade students will take LSP/ESL Support, Humanities/Support, Math, Science, Phys. Ed., Health & Wellness, Foundations of Academic Integrity and the following:

- Students will choose two semester long electives from these courses: STEM Makerspace II, Middle School Art II, Middle School Theatre I, Music History, and the option to participate in Ensembles (Music Block-Choir or Symphonic Orchestra and/or Evening-Bell Choir)

8th Grade students will take ESL Literature, ESL Support, History, Math, Science, ASPE, Health & Wellness, Foundations of Academic Integrity and the following:

- Students will choose two semester long electives from these courses: STEM Makerspace II, Middle School Art II, Middle School Theatre I, Music Practicum, and the option to participate in Ensembles (Music Block-Choir or Symphonic Orchestra and/or Evening-Bell Choir)

* Student will be placed in Math courses in accordance with teacher consultation.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: THREE-YEAR PLANNING DOCUMENT

Name: _____ Date: _____

Subject	Year/Semester	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
English	Year	Humanities: Global Stories	Humanities: Herstory	Humanities English: Civics in Action
Language, Skills, & Planning (LSP)	Year/Semester	LSP (Year)	LSP (Year) or LSP (Semester)	No LSP (Teacher Recommendation) LSP (Year) or LSP (Semester)
Mathematics	Year	Math Exploration or Pre-Algebra	Pre-Algebra or Algebra I	Algebra I or Geometry
Science	Year	Life Science	Physical Science	Introduction to Engineering
History	Year	Humanities: Global Stories	Humanities: Herstory	Humanities History: Civics in Action
World Languages	Year	Survey of Languages	French 1A	French 1
			Spanish 1A	Spanish 1
Physical Education & Health	Year	Physical Education I (3 Days/Week) and Health & Wellness I (2 Days/Week)	Physical Education II (3 Days/Week) and Health & Wellness (2 Days/Week)	After School Physical Education (ASPE) and Health & Wellness III
Choir or Orchestra (Music Block)	Year	Choir (2 Days/Week)	Choir (2 Days/Week)	Choir (2 Days/Week)
		Orchestra (2 Days/Week)	Orchestra (2 Days/Week)	Orchestra (2 Days/Week)
Myrtle V. Eckard Hand Bell Choir (Evening Rehearsal Option)	Year			
Electives: Performing Arts/ Visual Arts/Makerspace	Quarter/Semester	(One Quarter Each) Art Fundamentals Music Fundamentals STEM Makerspace Exploration Theatre Fundamentals	(Choose 1 Per Semester) Fall: Music History Theater II Spring: Art Fundamentals II STEM Makerspace II	(Choose 1 Per Semester) Fall: Music Practicum Theater III Spring: Art Fundamentals III STEM Makerspace III

Extra-Curricular Activities:	Year/Semester	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Sports				
Clubs and Activities				
Service				
Leadership				
Summer Plans				

Course Materials & Supplies

Supply Lists

In addition to their textbooks, students will be required to purchase supplementary materials to use in their courses. The lists for both the middle and upper schools' supplies can be found in Blackbaud under the "2026–2027 School Year" group and on the "Middle School Supply List" topics page.

Textbooks

At Linden Hall, students are required to purchase textbooks for some of their courses. The textbooks may be purchased through the student's choice of vendor(s). To access a list outlining each required textbook and its ISBN number, please visit Blackbaud under the "2026–2027 School Year" group and the "Textbook" topics page. This information can also be found in this document under each course.

Visual and Performing Arts Department

The Visual and Performing Arts are an integral part of human culture and education. Historically, they have served as a means of storytelling, religious enhancement, social documentation, and personal expression. The Arts reflect the conventions of the society in which they are created. At Linden Hall, we teach appreciation for historic and contemporary Arts through hands-on experiences and art history. We nurture student creativity and strive to celebrate students' individuality.

Music

Music Fundamentals

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6

Course Description:

This course will teach students how to read, write, sing, and play music by learning music theory, terms, and vocabulary.

Music History

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 7

Course Description:

This course is a survey of musical styles and practicum for each period of Western Music.

Music Practicum

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 8

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to world music. Students will learn to perform music found across the globe.

Choir

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6–8
* Offered during Music Block	

Course Description:

Offers opportunities for students to perform with peers in a school concert choir setting. Students learn choral repertoire through a performance-based curriculum and their talents are showcased at on and off-campus events throughout the year. There is no audition required to enroll, and previous choral experience is not required.

Symphonic Orchestra

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: Ensemble members must have at least one semester of experience on their instrument prior to enrolling in Orchestra
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6–8
* Offered during Music Block	

Course Description:

Develops students' technical skills in proper playing abilities, as well as in music literacy. Emphasis is placed on the development of musicianship through progressive technical studies, as well as through modern and classic orchestral literature featuring instrumentation that includes all wind, string, and percussion instruments. In symphonic orchestra, students will grow in their performance abilities on their individual instruments, learn their role in creating a good ensemble sound, improve their aural skills, and expand their knowledge of musical terminology and symbol identification. In this ensemble, students can play any string, wind, or percussion instrument (including piano).

Myrtle V. Eckert Handbell Choir

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6–8
* Evening Rehearsals	

Course Description:

Offers students the opportunity to perform with peers in a school concert ensemble setting. Students learn bell repertoire through a performance-based curriculum and perform at several on-campus events throughout the year. There is no audition required to enroll, and previous ringing experience is not required. Students gain a better understanding of the fundamentals of musical literacy through an active rehearsal process.

Theater Arts

Theater Fundamentals

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the basic elements of the Dramatic Arts. Students will be given the vocabulary of the theater discipline. A brief history of early theater beginning with rituals will lead to the study of stage movement and monologs.

Theater II

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 7

Course Description:

In this course, students will continue to learn their way around the stage and proper stage positions. Theater students will be introduced to the world of Elizabethan England and the plays/monologs of William Shakespeare.

Theater III

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 8

Course Description:

While Theater Fundamentals I and Theater II focus largely on monologs, this course will dive into small scene work. Contemporary plays written for students will be featured. Students will learn to respect their vocal instrument.

Visual Arts

Art Fundamentals

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6

Course Description:

This course will teach students the basic design elements: Line, Color, Shape, Value, and Form. In addition, students will be introduced to the vocabulary of visual art and learn the proper use and care of tools of various mediums.

Art Fundamentals II

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 7

Course Description:

This course will teach students the basic design principles: Balance, Contrast, Emphasis, Pattern, and Proportion. In addition, students will be introduced to the vocabulary of visual art and learn the proper use and care of tools of various mediums.

Art Fundamentals III

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 8

Course Description:

This course will focus on composition by including design elements and principles in their projects, while studying artists and movements throughout history. Students will continue to be introduced to the vocabulary of visual art and learn the proper use and care of tools of various mediums.

English Department

The English department at Linden Hall introduces students to the world through literature. We read and respond to literature from across time and cultures, believing that reading and writing teach empathy and critical thinking. Our students read literature from a variety of genres and work to understand how genre and history, form and content, inform one another. Additionally, our students strive to become more successful communicators through regular speaking and writing opportunities. Vocabulary and grammar are studied to improve the clarity and precision of communication. Finally, Upper School students give yearly speeches to the school community.

Foundations of Academic Integrity

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6–8
* A one-week course completed in class advisory. A version of this course is taken in Grades 6, 7, & 8.	

Course Description:

Teaches students how to succeed academically while adhering to ethical and legal standards, covering topics such as plagiarism, academic misconduct (including improper AI use), MLA citation, and proper paraphrasing techniques. This project-based course, integrated into advisory, encourages collaboration among students as they explore each topic and build a sense of community.

Language, Skills, and Planning (LSP)

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6, 7, & 8

Course Description:

Teaches a range of soft skills to help middle schooler students become better scholars, communicators, and problem-solvers. Students set specific and measurable goals for personal and academic improvement, explore strategies and systems to maximize effective organization, study skills, and workflow.

Humanities: Global Stories

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6

Course Description:

This humanities (English and history) course requires students to read stories from different cultures and time periods; they practice strategies to effectively reflect upon, discuss, and write about themes within literature and the world around them. Writing assignments vary from analytical paragraphs to creative short stories and responses to literature.

Humanities: Herstory

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 7

Course Description:

This humanities (English and history) course places focus on the role of women in society. Students acquire and practice critical reading habits, discussion tactics, and writing skills through a variety of analytical, creative, and performative assignments. Students practice strategies to effectively reflect upon, discuss, and write about themes within literature and the world around them.

Humanities English: Civics in Action

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 8

Course Description:

Prepares students for the rigors of upper-school English, exploring reading, writing, vocabulary, and grammar. Reading and writing assignments examine how writing is used as a tool for narration, description, explanation, and persuasion. Literary texts challenge and engage students, serving as vehicles for broadening reading ability and as models for writing. Public speaking skills are emphasized through discussions and presentations.

English as a Second Language Program (ESL)

This program assists English language learners in acquiring a sufficient command of the language and academic English vocabulary to be successful in our rigorous, college preparatory classes. Following an initial placement test, the ESL placement committee uses a combination of grades, placement test scores, and teacher recommendations to determine ESL course placement and promotion. The ESL program also features extensive preparation for the TOEFL exam. Students do not select their own placement.

ESL Literature

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6–8

Course Description:

Supports students in the four language skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The primary purpose of the class is to transition second-language students to the study of English as literature rather than language. Students learn to use literary devices both in their discussions of literature and in their own writing, and they move beyond the comprehension of the text into close reading and analysis through full-class discussion.

Sixth and seventh grade students will be placed in a traditional English course and given ESL supports.

ESL Content Support

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6–8

Course Description:

Supports students in ESL with the language assistance they will need to excel in college prep-level courses. Emphasis is placed on decoding academic text, the study of word roots and families, and effective research practices for the American classroom. Students will also study directly for the TOEFL exam. *ESL Support is taken by students with TOEFL scores below 70 or by other students requesting support in their coursework as they become proficient in English.*

Sixth and seventh grade students will receive ESL Content Support as part of their LSP course.

History Department

The History Department at Linden Hall encourages each student to develop her critical thinking skills while expanding her knowledge of the world around her. Courses within the department examine western, world, U.S., local, modern, and ancient history, as well as related fields in the humanities and social sciences. We use primary and secondary sources, class discussion, independent and guided research, analytical writing, and standardized test preparation as appropriate. Courses in the department develop students' ability to interpret data, think and write clearly, make comparisons, draw conclusions, present and defend material, conduct research, and read actively.

Humanities History: Civics in Action

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 8

Course Description:

Examines how the United States government works on the national, state, and local levels and the rights, responsibilities, and benefits of citizenship. The course places constitutional principles in a historical context through a closer study of key moments in American political history.

Mathematics Department

The Mathematics Department is dedicated to developing the reasoning and problem-solving skills of each student and to instilling confidence in her mathematic ability. We incorporate the use of technology to enhance learning and mastery of concepts and provide a collaborative working environment that emphasizes the further development of analytical, problem solving and communication skills. Mathematical concepts and Excel skills are taught and reinforced through collaborative critical thinking activities and projects.

Mathematics Exploration

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6

Course Description:

Focuses on computational proficiency, critical-thinking skills, and developing an organized approach to problem-solving. Students study integers, rational numbers, coordinate systems, percentages, and proportions. They investigate the practical applications of two-dimensional geometry and are introduced to solid geometry.

Pre-Algebra

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6 & 7

Course Description:

Addresses the transition from arithmetic to the basic elements of theoretical mathematics. This course emphasizes critical-thinking skills and focuses on writing and solving multistep equations and inequalities, all operations with rational numbers, proportions, percentages, square roots, the Pythagorean Theorem, graphing linear equations, and solid geometry.

Algebra I

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 7 & 8

Course Description:

Provides students with a deeper understanding of linear functions and inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, and their graphs. Students are introduced to factoring, polynomials, radical equations, all operations with rational expressions, and quadratic equations. Throughout the year, students work collaboratively to apply the skills they learn in solving word problems. In addition, they participate in both individual and group projects in which they explore and solve real-life problems.

Geometry

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: The Successful Completion of Algebra 1
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 8

Course Description:

Introduces students to the concepts of Euclidean Geometry. Students in this course study the properties of geometric figures and develop abstract and logical thinking skills through deductive and inductive reasoning techniques. Emphasis is placed on justifying conjectures by writing proofs. Topics studied include properties of triangles, including right triangle trigonometry, quadrilaterals, congruence, and similarity.

Science Department

We encourage students to develop their understanding of the natural world around them and of technological advances. We also emphasize the development of the analytical and logical thinking skills necessary to succeed in the sciences through:

- Courses that introduce the major ideas of science through the use of laboratory techniques currently used in scientific investigation.
- Discussion of recent advances made in science, the world of opportunities available in modern science, and the impact that science has on our society and environment.

Life Science

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6

Course Description:

Explores fundamental biology concepts, focusing on living organisms and their interactions with the environment. Through hands-on investigations and inquiry-based learning, students study topics such as cells, genetics, evolution, ecosystems, and human biology while developing critical thinking and scientific inquiry skills.

Physical Science

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 7

Course Description:

Introduces students to key principles of physics and chemistry through hands-on experiments and inquiry-based learning. The course emphasizes critical thinking and problem-solving while covering topics such as atomic structure, chemical reactions, motion, forces, and energy transformations.

Introduction to Engineering

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 8

Course Description:

This course is a hands-on course where students learn how cities are planned, built, and improved. In the fall, we focus on the Future City Competition. Students look at real challenges that affect communities - transportation, energy use, housing, public spaces, and environmental impact - then use the engineering design process to research solutions, work in teams, and build a model city. They also practice planning, staying organized, and explaining their thinking through short writing and presentations. The competition takes place in January. After that, the course shifts to practical projects

that introduce different engineering disciplines and show how engineers approach problems in the real world. By the end of the year, students will have a clearer sense of how design decisions shape daily life and what engineers actually do.

STEM Makerspace

The STEM Makerspace Department provides middle school students with hands-on opportunities to explore science, technology, engineering, and math in an interactive, creative environment. Across multiple courses and projects, students design, build, and experiment while developing critical thinking, collaboration, and innovation skills. From coding and robotics to prototyping and engineering challenges, the department empowers students to turn ideas into real-world solutions and fosters a lasting excitement for STEM.

STEM Makerspace Exploration

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6

Course Description:

This course introduces students to foundational engineering concepts through hands-on design experiences. Students will collaborate to explore problem-solving strategies, develop and refine ideas, and create interactive projects that combine physical construction with basic programming.

STEM Makerspace II

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 7

Course Description:

This course builds on prior knowledge to deepen students' understanding of engineering, technology, and design. Through hands-on challenges, students integrate creative thinking and technical skills to develop original designs.

STEM Makerspace III

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 8

Course Description:

This course encourages students to apply their engineering and technology skills to hands-on, experiential challenges. Students will investigate real-world themes and develop solution-oriented projects.

World Languages Department

In the World Language Department, we believe that the acquisition of a second language is an integral part of every student's education. Knowledge of another language provides an insight into other cultures and other people and creates a better understanding of the world.

Survey of Languages

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6

Course Description:

Introduces students to the basics of the Latin, French, and Spanish languages. Students will spend the first semester learning basic Latin grammar and vocabulary, with a particular emphasis on recognizing root words. Students will spend half of the second semester learning basic French language grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation and French and Francophone culture, then half of the second semester learning basic Spanish grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation and Spanish and Hispanic culture.

French

French 1A

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 7

Course Description:

French 1A is an introduction and foundation of the study of French language, literature, and culture. Students intensely study basic vocabulary and grammar structures to build the base for continuing study of the language. Through the use of appropriate-level authentic texts and resources, students learn commonly used French words and idiomatic expressions.

French 1

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 8

Course Description:

French I is an introduction and foundation to the study of the French language, literature, and culture. Students intensely study vocabulary and grammar structures to build the base for continuing study of the language. Through the use of appropriate-level authentic texts and resources, students learn commonly used French words and idiomatic expressions.

Spanish

Spanish 1A

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 7

Course Description:

Middle School Spanish 1 is an introductory course designed for middle school students who are beginning their journey in learning Spanish. This course is designed for Grade 7 students and focuses on building basic communication skills in a fun, supportive, and interactive environment. Upon completion of the course, students will learn the different aspects of the Spanish language, including grammar, reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills appropriate to their level. Students learn to greet others, introduce themselves, and talk about school, family, daily activities, hobbies, food, and simple cultural topics from the Spanish-speaking world. Emphasis is placed on listening and speaking, with a gradual introduction to reading and writing. Through songs, games, role-plays, projects, and cultural activities, students develop confidence using simple sentences in Spanish while gaining an appreciation for Hispanic cultures and an understanding of the diversity, historical significance, and global importance of the Spanish language today. The curriculum meets the standards for Foreign Language Learning as set forth by ACTFL, and culture is fully integrated into the lessons to represent the Spanish-speaking world.

Spanish 1

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 8

Course Description:

Introduces grammar principles, cultural themes, and provides a simple structure of the language through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This course is a foundation for further study of the language and includes the present tense of regular and irregular verbs, vocabulary needed for introductory-level communication in Spanish, and grammar needed to construct complete sentences in the target language. Students can interact in a simple way provided the native speaker speaks slowly and clearly.

Physical Education and Health & Wellness Department

Physical Education Overview

This program is dedicated to promoting lifetime fitness and physical activity, and enhancing personal fitness, health and wellness for all students. To that end, the focus of this curriculum is to help all students become informed, independent decision-makers capable of planning for enjoyable lifetime fitness and physical activity and achieving personal fitness and sport activity goals. The objectives of the curriculum are to assist students to:

- Become physically active and physically fit
- Acquire knowledge of the benefits of physical activity, health and wellness, and the principles of fitness
- Become an individual capable of designing his or her own personal fitness program

Physical Education I

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6

Course Description:

Students will participate in a physical education class three times a week. Students will take part in both individualized instruction and cooperative learning opportunities in regard to sports, exercise, and health issues. By following all the proper procedures, instructions, and behavior expectations, students will be able to participate effectively as positive team players, critical and independent thinkers, problem-solvers, and active lifelong learners.

Physical Education II

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 7

Course Description:

This course meets three times each week and focuses on helping students stay active and build healthy habits. Students take part in a variety of activities, including team sports, individual skill work, and lessons connected to overall wellness. At times they work independently to improve specific skills, and at other times they collaborate with classmates in team settings. The class emphasizes effort, respect, and responsibility. By following directions and meeting behavior expectations, students learn to be supportive teammates, think through challenges, and take ownership of their growth both in and out of the gym.

After School Physical Education (ASPE)

Students in grade 8 will be scheduled for After School Physical Education (ASPE) for a semester.		
Who	Method for fulfilling PE Requirement	Grading
All non-athletes	Participation in one of the following After School PE options: fitness room, record walk/run on a phone, or participate in a fitness-related weekend activity	Students must participate in a minimum of two hours of physical activity each week to earn full credit. Individuals are required to provide the athletic director with "proof" of weekly activity completion.
All Linden Hall sports athletes	Competing on one or more Linden Hall athletic teams	LH sports participants will receive a participation grade for all practices/contests during their sports season. Successful completion of the season will result in earning a 1/2 credit of PE.
All independent sports athletes	Participation in a designated sport outside of Linden Hall.	Independent sport participants will be required to email their completed independent sport form prior to the start of the course. This form is sent out by the teacher and can also be found on the Blackbaud "Athletics" topics page.
All equestrian riders	Participation in riding lessons	Equestrian riders will be required to participate in a minimum of two hours of riding per week. If students only participate in one hour a week, they will be required to use other After School PE options to fulfill the remaining hour for the week.
Report Card Grades/Comments		At the end of each quarter, a student's grade will reflect a "P" for Pass or an "F" for Fail. The grade will be given for PE only no matter how the credit was fulfilled. Report card comments will delineate which method through which the student fulfilled their PE requirement.
* Any student that signs up for an alternate method to earn their PE requirement (sport/riding) and fails to participate in that activity, will be required to make up their missed class time during the next quarter using a plan created by the Director of Athletics.		

Health & Wellness Overview

Focuses on the "whole student" and provides them with the tools they need to succeed beyond Linden Hall. Issues related to life skills, social-emotional health, and well-being are explored through specific topics of internet safety, self-defense, depression prevention, bullying, empathy, kindness, nutrition, relationship building, financial literacy, and leadership. The content for each level is determined by the prevailing challenges of each group.

Health & Wellness I

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6 -7

Course Description:

The course will include a broad range of topics related to physical and emotional/mental health as well as life skills. Topics that will be covered include the female reproductive system, relating to others in a positive way, body image, nutrition, communication skills, the dangers of alcohol and tobacco use in teens, stress management, cultivating healthy relationships, and how to take and read basic vital signs.

Health & Wellness II

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 6 -7

Course Description:

This course explores key topics that support students' overall well-being and personal development. Instruction addresses both physical health and social-emotional growth, with attention to understanding the female reproductive system, building positive relationships, and developing a healthy sense of self. Students will examine the impact of nutrition and substance use on adolescent health, while also strengthening communication and decision-making skills. Additional units focus on managing stress, recognizing the characteristics of healthy relationships, and learning practical skills such as measuring and interpreting basic vital signs.

Health & Wellness III

Credit Value: MS-Level Course	Prerequisite: None
Course Level: Academic; College Preparatory	Department Recommendation: N/A
Course Weight: MS-Academic	The Course is for Students in Grade(s): 8

Course Description:

This course focuses on the "whole student" and giving them the tools they need to succeed. Health and Wellness courses address a broad range of issues related to life-skills, social-emotional health and well-being. Topics covered include internet safety, depression prevention, bullying, empathy, nutrition, financial literacy, and leadership.