



# MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM 2011-2012

## ENGLISH

### Grade 6

Surveying literature—including short story, non-fiction poetry, myths, legends, fables  
Examining literary terms  
Writing essays, impromptu, character study, journals  
Studying vocabulary—spelling, definition, usage, WordMaster  
Reviewing grammar—parts of speech, phrases, punctuation, capitalization, diagramming  
Developing study skills—dictionary, thesaurus, note-taking  
Reading and analyzing four to five novels

### Grade 7

Continued study of novels, short stories, drama, poetry, non-fiction  
Study of literary terms  
Writing essays—creative writing, literature, and poetry critiques  
Studying vocabulary and spelling based on literature  
Study grammar—continue sentence diagramming; emphasize phrases and clauses, pronoun agreement, and subject-verb agreement  
Usage and application  
Studying Shakespeare  
In-depth reading of six to seven novels

### Grade 8

Studying a variety of classical literary forms  
Focusing on short stories, novels, poetry  
Writing literature-based essays with introduction to the deductive essay, reports, original compositions  
Stressing precision with applied grammar, mechanics  
Studying vocabulary  
Using literary terms competently  
Studying Shakespeare  
In-depth reading of eight to nine novels

## Mathematics

### Grade 6

This course provides students in key middle grades a strong foundation of mathematical concepts and skills. These topics are covered:

Representing and interpreting data, geometry concepts, applications with fractions and decimals, operations with integers, patterns, measurement, number theory, ratio, proportion, percent, probability, and problem solving

### Grade 7 / Pre-Algebra

This course provides a review of Math 6 topics and extends those topics to include a thorough Algebra readiness curriculum. These topics are included:

Organizing, displaying, and analyzing data, patterns in geometry, integers and variable expressions, algebraic equations and inequalities, graphing in coordinate plane, patterns, rational numbers, applications of proportion and percent, probability, measurement, number theory, and problem solving

### Grade 8 / Algebra 1

This course covers the real number system and its properties, solving and writing equations in one and two variables, solving and graphing inequalities, systems of linear equations, exponents and radicals, radical equations, quadratic equations, polynomials and factoring, exponential functions, problem solving, logical reasoning, and algebraic applications using technology

## SCIENCE

### Grade 6 / Earth Science

This course covers:

Scientific probing of nature, observations, recording of laboratory data and analysis, astronomy, oceanography, meteorology, geology, and related sciences

### Grade 7 / Life Science

This course covers:

Scientific probing of nature, introduction to biology, observations, recording of laboratory data and analysis, integration of biological and health sciences, and ecosystems

### Grade 8 / Physical Science

This course covers:

Scientific method: observations, laboratory data, and analysis; the metric system; chemistry: Periodic Table, atomic structure, and chemical reactions and processes; and physics: light, sound, mechanics, and their applications

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

### Grade 6 / World History - to 1500

Early Man  
Early River Civilizations  
Egypt  
Classical Greece  
Rise and fall of Rome  
Rise of Christianity  
Medieval Age  
Geography: physical/cultural project

### Grade 7 / European History - 1500 to Present

Renaissance; Protestant Reformation;  
Enlightenment;  
French Revolution; Napoleon  
Nationalism; German and Italian unification;  
nineteenth and twentieth century European Imperialism  
World War I; Russian Revolution and Stalin;  
World War II;  
Current world events

### Grade 8 / U.S. History

The following topics are viewed through the lens of the history of the American West:

Colonization; the American Revolution; the Constitution; Jefferson; Jackson;  
westward expansion and the impact on Native American; Civil War and Reconstruction; industrialization; the Progressive Era; immigration;  
World War I; Great Depression; New Deal; World War II; Cold War;  
contemporary American politics and history

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

### Spanish 6

Emphasizes proficiency through storytelling and reading, covers present tense, sentence and question formation, and short compositions and stories, along with various cultural aspects.

### Spanish 7

Emphasizes proficiency through storytelling and reading, reviews present tense, covers negative commands, the future tense, sentence and question formation, short compositions and stories, along with various cultural aspects.

### Latin IA – 7th Grade

Stresses basic grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, translation, English derivatives, and Roman culture and its role in building Western civilization (one semester).

### Spanish 8 – Text - Realidades 2

Emphasizes language usage in the present and past tenses. Continues verb and vocabulary enrichment. Exposes students to Spanish in a variety of listening activities, including viewing television programs and composing and performing oral presentations. Concludes the year with the reading and discussion of a short novel.

### Latin IB – 8th Grade

A yearlong continuation of Latin IA in more depth with special attention to more advanced grammar and preparation for Upper School Latin II.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

### Grade 6

This year-long course provides students with an array of experience within the world of computers: basic computer operation; keyboarding skills; work within an integrated software package incorporating word processing, database, spreadsheet, and PowerPoint; creation of a multimedia presentation; photo/video production; and graphic animations. Built-in extensions will be provided to help support and enhance the curriculum as needed. Study skills are also a point of emphasis in this course.

### Grade 7

This year-long course provides a continuation and extension of the 6th grade curriculum. Basic computer operation; keyboarding skills; work within an integrated software package incorporating word processing, database, spreadsheet, and PowerPoint; creation of a multimedia presentation; photo/video production; graphic animations; website design; and programming are extensively covered. Built-in extensions will be provided to help support and enhance the curriculum as needed. Study skills are also a point of emphasis in this course.

### Grade 8

This year-long course will provide an exploration of current computer application and creation software. Student knowledge and ability are expanded through an array of varying computer programs. Basic computer operation, keyboarding skills, animation creation, photo manipulation, website creation, desktop publishing, video creation, and programming dominate the scope of this course. Built-in extensions will be provided to help support and enhance the curriculum as needed. Study skills are also a point of emphasis.

## FINE ARTS / RELATED ARTS

### FINE ART

Elements of art                      Historical references                      Development of skills                      Variety of media  
Principles of drawing                      Art exhibition                      Master painters

Basic objective is to apply the fundamental elements of fine art using line, tone, color, composition, and appeal

### SCULPTURE

Focuses on the production and exhibition of three-dimensional art using a variety of media, including plaster, sugar, metal, wood, clay, wire, etc. Course includes an art historical component.

### MUSIC

**Show Choir (6th,7th, 8th)** combines upbeat choral music with dance to produce a dynamic show choir. Students will be given an opportunity to gain confidence, improve vocal ability, and conquer Broadway style movement. Classwork involves putting together small shows for presentation throughout the school year. This course is an intense, hands-on, performance-based class. Styles will range from Gershwin to Broadway and Pop. Students will be required to maintain a repertoire of music. Show Choir is one semester.

**6th grade Beginning Band** is for students who have never played a wind, brass, or percussion instrument. The instruments are: flute/oboe, clarinet/saxophone, trumpet/French horn, trombone/tuba, and percussion. Students need no musical experience to join this class. Band is a year-long class.

**7th grade Intermediate Band** is for students who have limited experience on their instrument. Students should know basic fingerings and how to read music. Many students in this band are learning a second instrument or are gaining more experience before moving on to another band level. Band is a year-long course.

**8th grade Advanced Band** is for students who have successfully completed at least one full year of Beginning Band. The objective in Concert Band is to teach students the skills they will need for Upper School Band. Band is a year-long course.

Students have the opportunity to be in the following ensembles:  
Drum Ensemble                      Musical Theatre                      Pep Band                      Strings

### DRAMA (one semester)

Vocal and physical warm-ups                      Theatre games                      Stage terminology                      Improvisation  
Duo acting scenes                      Monologues                      Ensemble acting scenes                      Stage crew work  
Performance of a one-act play or partner scenes

## HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### PERSONAL BEST FITNESS PROGRAM

#### Skill Instruction:

Aerobic fitness                      Football                      Soccer                      Track and Field                      Weight Training  
Badminton                      Golf                      Softball                      Volleyball                      Wrestling  
Basketball                      Recreational games                      Tennis

#### Health Instruction:

	Sixth Grade	Seventh and Eighth Grade
Nutrition	Proper Diet	Expands on the subjects covered in sixth grade, with emphasis on roundtable discussion, group work, and student-driven conversation. Topics are treated in-depth according to the interests and needs of the group.
Reproduction	Peer Pressure	
Puberty/Adolescence	Decision Making	
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	Stress Management	
Addiction		

### SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Basketball, cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball, wrestling

## **EXTRACURRICULAR**

Chess Club  
Cheerleading (7th and 8th grades)  
Drama Productions  
Educational Field Trips  
Forensics Club  
Math Counts  
Music Ensembles  
National Junior Honor Society  
National Junior Spanish Honor Society

Newspaper  
Pep Band  
Spirit Squad (6th grade)  
Student Government  
Varsity Quiz

## **COLLEGE COUNSELING**

College Counseling begins in the 8th grade with individual planning of each student's Upper School curriculum. Small class size permits personalized monitoring to insure guidance and support of a successful college planning effort for each student. All students take the PSAT Examination in the freshman, sophomore, and junior years as research and selection processes continues. Senior-year counseling includes the comprehensive application process for admission.