

CURRICULUM GUIDE



MIDDLE SCHOOL

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NBPS MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE

The Middle School curriculum reflects our commitment to academic excellence through the integration of social and emotional learning (SEL), backwards design, and accessible, relevant learning experiences. Guided by instructional strands that focus on specific themes, skill sets, or content areas, the curriculum fosters curiosity, higher-order thinking, and the development of habits of mind and IB learner attributes. Vertical and horizontal alignment across grades ensures coherence, while personalized and differentiated instruction empowers students to thrive as independent thinkers and learners.

Instruction emphasizes clear learning objectives, evidence-based strategies, and the intentional development of executive function and independence. Teachers model who we are as thinkers and learners, using authentic vocabulary and writing to connect learning to real-world contexts.

Assessment practices are purposefully designed to enhance learning and inform instruction. Students engage with both formative and summative assessments that provide diverse pathways to demonstrate their understanding. Frequent, high-quality feedback supports their growth, while student involvement in assessment design fosters ownership and reflection.

Through this approach, the curriculum inspires students to embody the school's mission of becoming global citizens who create their future and live with purpose. It empowers them to communicate effectively, think critically, and contribute meaningfully to the world around them.

COLLEGE PREP AND HONORS

Core Curriculum

- Both College Prep and Honors courses are designed to meet the same standards and benchmarks, which define what students need to know and be able to do by the end of the course.
- Both College Prep and Honors courses are intended to prepare students for the next step in their education. College Prep and Honors courses lay the foundation for further study, with both ultimately leading toward advanced coursework.

	COLLEGE PREP	HONORS
Depth of Content	Cover the standard curriculum Focus on foundational concepts.	Delve deeper into the subject matter. Greater depth and detail.
Instructional Practices	More direct instruction; step-by-step guidance and structured lessons More scaffolded; teachers provide additional support and gradually remove that support as students become more confident in their understanding.	Teachers encourage independent thinking and inquiry-based learning. Facilitated discussions rather than directly lecture, allowing students to explore and discover concepts through multiple avenues.
Use of class time	More class time reviewing material and reinforcing key concepts. Lessons might be structured with more repetition to accommodate different learning paces.	Less time on review and more on introducing advanced material within a given topic. More time for in-depth discussions, critical analysis, or collaborative projects.
Rigor	Aimed at ensuring students understand the fundamental concepts. Questions are designed to assess comprehension and basic application.	Questions tend to be more complex and designed to assess not just knowledge, but the ability to analyze, evaluate, and create. Assessments might ask students to apply concepts in unfamiliar situations or explore topics from multiple perspectives.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE SEQUENCE

6TH GRADE	7TH GRADE	8TH GRADE
English English 6	English English 7	English English 8
Math Foundations 1 Foundations 2 Pre-Algebra	Math Foundations 2 Pre-Algebra Algebra 1	Math Pre-Algebra Algebra 1 Geometry Honors
World Language and cultures Intro to Spanish Intro to French	World Language and cultures Spanish 1A Exploring Spanish French 1A	World Language and cultures Spanish 1B Spanish 1 French 1B French 1
Social Science World Cultures	Social Science US History	Social Science Civics and Government
Natural Sciences Earth Science	Natural Sciences Life Science	Natural Sciences Physical Science
Elective Courses Athletics Fine Arts Technology Academic	Elective Courses Athletics Fine Arts Technology Academic	Elective Courses Athletics Fine Arts Technology Academic



Some listed courses are offered at varying levels.

Elective courses do not count toward Middle School GPA.

ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY

Department Overview:

The Academic Technology program empowers all students to explore a range of technological domains and develop the skills, confidence, and curiosity to engage with them thoughtfully. Students are encouraged to mix and match topics, fostering experimentation, creativity, and meaningful connections across disciplines. The program emphasizes exploration, problem-solving, and informed choice allowing students to discover interests that can be pursued and deepened through continued study in later grades.



ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY

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ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY

ROBOTICS EXPLORATIONS/PHYSICAL COMPUTING (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

TEC 1070, 1071

Course Length: Semester

Brief Course Overview:

Robotics Explorations is a hands-on, project-based course designed to develop abstract and critical thinking through the design, construction, programming, and testing of SPIKE Prime robots. Students learn to build and customize robots, use sensors and attachments, and program behaviors that respond to real-world conditions. Physical Computing is a hands-on elective in which students design and build interactive electronic systems by combining coding with physical hardware.

Pre-Requisites:

None

FAB LAB (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

TEC 2141, 2142

Course Length: Semester

Brief Course Overview:

This course is an elective STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) Class that utilizes creativity, collaboration, and the design processes to solve problems. Projects may be explored using various technologies, e.g., laser cutters/engraver, 3D printers, or using hand-made tools and techniques. Students complete a series of projects throughout the course.

Skills/Units of Study:

- **Semester 1:** Topics might investigate human identity, natural systems, or possible futures using 3D printing, laser cutting, and hand-building.”
- **Semester 2:** Topics explore electricity and the beauty of light through 3D printing, laser cutting, and hand-building interactive projects.

Pre-Requisites:

None

COMPUTER SCIENCE EXPLORATIONS (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

TEC 2011, 2012

Course Length: Semester

Brief Course Overview:

Computer Science Explorations introduces students to computer science through creative projects and design challenges. Students use computing as a tool for problem solving, communication, and creativity while learning how digital systems are designed for real users. The course emphasizes big ideas in computer science—such as computational thinking, data, and artificial intelligence— rather than focusing on a single programming language.

Skills/Units of Study:

- **Semester 1:** App Design and Web Development
- **Semester 2:** Artificial Intelligence and Data

Pre-Requisites:

None

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING (7TH, 8TH GRADES)

TEC 2021, 2022

Course Length: Semester

Brief Course Overview:

Computer Programming focuses on learning how to write and understand code. Students develop programming skills by working directly with coding languages to build games, applications, and programs. The course emphasizes logic, structure, and precision as students learn how programs are created, tested, and debugged using real programming syntax.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Semester 1: Game Design & Programming Fundamentals
- Semester 2: Introduction to Programming with Python

Pre-Requisites:

7th or 8th Grade

COMPETITIVE ROBOTICS (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADES)*

TEC 1081

Course Length: Semester 1

Brief Course Overview:

A yearlong elective aimed at developing students' critical thinking, coding, and design skills through hands-on STEAM learning with robotics. Teams design, build, and program robots to compete against other teams in the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) or FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC).

Pre-Requisites:

*This class is only for competitors in the NBPS FLL or FTC competitive robotics teams. FLL is open to 6th–8th grades. FTC is open to 7th–8th grades. **All competitors participate in a minimum of 3 Saturday events organized by the South Florida Robotics Regional Planning Team.**

Fee: \$300 (FLL) or \$300 (FTC).

Covers team registration, robot, challenge set, and season attire.

***This class is only offered in Semester 1**

ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY

STEAM EXPLORATIONS (6TH, 7TH, 8TH)

TEC 2191, 2192

Course Length: Semester

Brief Course Overview:

STEAM Explorations is designed to stimulate inquisitive thinking and questioning. Students will explore the intersection of STEAM subjects (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) and their unique applications in today's world. Students will engage in playful exploration of different interdisciplinary topics using the problem solving process. We will use a variety of tools to tackle problems posed by the Nord Anglia-MIT Collaboration. We hope to have a lot of fun hacking solutions to real-world problems.

Pre-Requisites:

None

ACADEMIC ELECTIVES

Department Overview:

Academic electives aim to support students in developing skills to be independent thinkers and learners, whether by providing executive skills support, independent study time, leadership skills, or collaboration.



ACADEMIC ELECTIVES

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ACADEMIC ELECTIVES

LEADERSHIP (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

GEN 1031, 1032

Course Length:

Semester

Brief Course Overview:

When students discover their own self-worth and approach life prepared to achieve, the opportunities are endless. This is the philosophy behind the Leadership elective course. The course teaches students to take responsibility, express themselves, and handle problems and decisions when they arise. The course builds personal responsibility and leadership skills through role plays, group activities, speeches, and projects.

Pre-Requisites:

None

STUDY HALL (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

GEN 2011, 2012, 2021, 2022

Course Length:

Semester

Brief Course Overview:

Study Hall provides space and time for middle school students to work quietly and independently on school work under the supervision of a classroom teacher.

Pre-Requisites:

None

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

GEN 1005 (Lighthouse Point Academy)

Course Length: Year

Brief Course Overview:

Fusion students and those in the LPA program are scheduled to work with a Learning Specialist during one elective period. The learning specialist program provides a system of support for the students, teachers, and parents within the Lighthouse Point Academy program. The learning specialist works with students, parents, and classroom teachers to ensure student success in the classroom.

The goal is to expand the repertoire of strategies that can be used for different situations for each student, thus supporting the student to be more able to succeed academically. More importantly, the goal is to create confidence in our students that they will be able to use independently in a variety of situations, both academic and personal

Pre-Requisites:

LPA only

DEBATE AND PUBLIC SPEAKING (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

DEB 1040, 1041

Course Length: Semester

Brief Course Overview:

This class is a semester course where students get acclimated to publicly speaking about current events, getting out of their shells, and learning the basics of argument. The goal of the class is to get students excited about speaking and learning about global politics. Students will be given the tools to make effective oral presentations and become successful advocates. All students will be expected to participate appropriately in classroom discussions and maintain knowledge of current events.

Pre-Requisites:

None

SCHOOL GARDEN (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

SCI 1201, 1202

Course Length: Semester

Brief Course Overview:

In this course, we will use the school's alternative garden as a learning laboratory. Students will complete one project-based research activity in each semester. In addition, students will learn how to grow edible, herbal and ornamental plants from seeds, cuttings and using the grafting technique. They will care for and harvest plants; and learn different ways to preserve them. Students will create nutritious and delicious meals, infused oils, herbal creams, and lotions.

Systems used include Aeroponic Tower Gardens, Hydroponic Vertical Garden, Raised Soil Garden, Microgreen Trays, Worm/Chimney Composting, Rain Barrel Water Collection and Repurposed Household items.

Pre-Requisites:

None

FUTURE READY: LIFE AND CAREER ESSENTIALS (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

SCI 1301, 1302

Course Length: Semester

Brief Course Overview:

This semester-long elective provides learners with practical life skills designed to support success both now and in the future. Through hands-on projects and real-world application, participants develop competencies in goal setting, time management, financial literacy, safety and first aid, career planning, sustainability, and interior design fundamentals. The course includes CPR certification and culminates in the creation of a personalized Life Management Portfolio, reflecting each individual's growth, planning, and preparedness for future challenges and opportunities.

Pre-Requisites:

None

ECO AMBASSADORS: PROTECT. LEAD. INSPIRE (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

SCI 1401, 1402

Course Length: Semester

Brief Course Overview:

Ready to make a real impact on campus? This hands-on elective turns big ideas into real action! Students in this elective will run the NBPS Sustainability Brand, a student-led business that supports environmental projects at school. You'll create and sell products, manage orders, set prices, track costs, and decide how profits are reinvested into future sustainability initiatives. Your decisions will truly matter! You'll partner directly with the Garden Elective, helping prepare and market the plants and the produce they grow. Together, you'll turn their hard work into products the community can enjoy and support. You'll also choose to work in our apiary, harvesting and processing honey, or help care for our chickens, collect eggs, and learn about sustainable food systems and responsible animal care. As Eco Ambassadors, you will guide Lower School students on field trips to the garden, apiary, and chicken coop, building leadership and communication skills along the way.

Pre-Requisites:

None

Department Overview:

The mission of the Physical Education program is to help all students develop knowledge, skills, motivation, behavior, and attitudes that lead to a lifetime commitment to a physically active and healthy lifestyle. The essential question for the program is: “Will students have the physical and emotional health to meet the demands of lifestyles in the years ahead?” Through participation in the NBPS Physical Education program, students are given the opportunity to learn how to meet those demands.



ATHLETICS

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BOYS TEAM SPORTS (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

ATH 1101, 1102

Course Length: Semester

Brief Course Overview:

Instruction builds the basic motor skills required for a wide variety of physical activities and the ability to assess one's own or a peer's strengths and weaknesses as they relate to participating in, leading, or understanding physical activity. The MS athletic staff, along with our coaching staff, work towards creating a positive climate and experience for all students, focusing on effort and knowledge rather than just athleticism to minimize pressure on students. Each semester will focus on the skills and knowledge associated with two team sports. Each sport will run for half of the semester and, where applicable, will mirror the middle school athletic seasons.

Skills/Units of Study:

Semester 1: Flag Football/Soccer

- Flag Football is designed to give students basic understanding of rules and terms, with an emphasis on proper route running, throwing, and catching, while working on individual and team defensive strategies.
- Soccer provides the opportunity to learn and practice basic fundamentals of defense, dribbling and shooting. Students will also learn offensive strategies and situational game scenarios.

Pre-Requisites:

None

Semester 2: Basketball/Lacrosse/Track/Baseball

- Basketball focuses on correct fundamentals (passing, dribbling, shooting, rebounding, defensive position), strategy, and gameplay. Students will learn basic concepts, rules, and work together to develop leadership skills.
- Lacrosse is designed to give students the opportunity to learn and practice the basic fundamentals of lacrosse, which include ball control, passing, shooting, and face-offs. Students will also learn offensive approach and situational game scenarios.
- The Track and Field course will give students the opportunity to learn and run the track events spanning from 100 meters to 3200 meters long as well as the long and triple jumping events. All students will learn and perform each of these events; the culminating experience of the class will be the opportunity to compete in 1-2 local track meets.
- Baseball provides an opportunity to learn and practice the basic fundamentals, which include defense, hitting, and base running. Students will also learn offensive approaches and situational game scenarios. Students will benefit from the physical and mental training, which will build confidence.

ATHLETICS

GIRLS TEAM SPORTS (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

ATH 1201, 1202

Course Length: Semester

Brief Course Overview:

Instruction builds the basic motor skills required for a wide variety of physical activities and the ability to assess one's own or a peer's strengths and weaknesses as they relate to participating in, leading, or understanding physical activity. The MS athletic staff, along with our coaching staff, work towards creating a positive climate and experience for all students, focusing on effort and knowledge rather than just athleticism to minimize pressure on students. Each semester will focus on the skills and knowledge associated with two team sports. Each sport will run for half of the semester and, where applicable, will mirror the middle school athletic seasons.

Skills/Units of Study:

Semester 1: Volleyball/Basketball

- Volleyball focuses on correct fundamentals (serving, serve receiving, passing, defensive system, offensive attacking, setting), strategy, and gameplay. Students will learn volleyball concepts, understand the rules of the game, work together as a unit, and develop leadership skills. Additionally, students will improve their physical conditioning through drills and agility exercises that will help increase their mobility and quickness.
- Basketball is designed to focus on correct fundamentals (passing, dribbling, shooting, rebounding, defensive position), strategy, and gameplay. Students will learn basketball concepts and rules and work together to develop leadership skills. Students will improve their physical conditioning through drills and agility exercises that will help increase their mobility and quickness.

Pre-Requisites:

None

Semester 2: Soccer/Lacrosse/Track/Softball

- Soccer provides the opportunity to learn and practice basic fundamentals of defense, dribbling, and shooting. Students will also learn offensive strategies and situational game scenarios.
- Lacrosse is designed to give students the opportunity to learn and practice the basic fundamentals, which include ball control, passing, shooting, and face-offs. Students will also learn offensive approaches and situational game scenarios.
- The Track and Field course will give students the opportunity to learn and run the track events spanning from 100 meters to 3200 meters long, as well as the long and triple jumping events. All students will learn and perform each of these events; the culminating experience of the class will be the opportunity to compete in 1-2 local track meets.
- Softball gives students the opportunity to learn and practice the basic fundamentals, which include defense, hitting, and base running. Students will also learn offensive approaches and situational game scenarios. Students will benefit from the physical and mental training, which will build confidence.

PERSONAL FITNESS (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

ATH 1011, 1012

Course Length: Semester

Brief Course Overview:

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn fitness concepts and conditioning techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of strength training, aerobic training, different stretching and flexibility exercises, and overall fitness training and conditioning. The course includes both lecture and activity sessions. Students will be empowered to make wise choices, meet challenges, and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness, and movement activity for a lifetime.

Pre-Requisites:

None

TENNIS (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

ATH 1021, ATH 1022, ATH 1031, ATH 1032

Course Length: Semester

Brief Course Overview:

This course is designed for students interested in learning or improving their tennis game. The focus is on correct fundamentals for beginners (stance, grip, body position, stroke mechanics, movement patterns, etc.) and position, strategy, and match play for those with experience. Students learn tennis terminology, rules, and scoring through drills and games that improve hand-eye coordination, physical fitness, and motor skills. Coaches are USPTA/PTR certified, and all equipment will be provided.

Pre-Requisites:

None

Fee: \$1200 per semester

Department Overview:

Middle School English Language Arts (ELA)

Our Middle School English Language Arts (ELA) program is grounded in a structured, standards-based approach that fosters critical thinking, reading, writing, and communication skills. It aims to cultivate a deep appreciation for both literature and informational texts while preparing students to engage thoughtfully with language and ideas.

The curriculum is organized around five key instructional strands:

- Reading Literature
- Reading Informational Texts
- Writing
- Listening and Oral Communication
- Language and Foundational Skills

These strands are designed to address specific standards and benchmarks, guiding students through progressively more complex tasks and texts across grade levels. Students explore essential questions that remain consistent throughout middle school, allowing for deepening analysis and increasingly sophisticated responses as they grow.

Reading Literature and Informational Texts

Students learn to:

- Locate explicit textual information and draw complex inferences.
- Analyze and evaluate information within and across texts of varying lengths and genres.
- Demonstrate understanding and application of new vocabulary and concepts in reading, speaking, and writing.
- Examine how texts reflect cultural perspectives and historical contexts.
- Understand how authors evoke emotion, develop character, and communicate meaning through literary techniques.

Writing

Students engage in a wide range of writing tasks for various purposes and audiences, including:

- Narrative, informative, and persuasive writing.
- Responses to diverse stimulus materials such as poems, charts, and dialogues.
- Writing under time constraints and in different formats. They learn to generate, draft, revise, and edit their work, demonstrating effective organization, detailed development of ideas, and correct usage of written English conventions.

Listening and Oral Communication

Through collaborative discussions and presentations, students develop strong oral communication skills. They practice active listening, contribute meaningfully to group conversations, and express ideas clearly and effectively for diverse audiences and purposes.

Language and Foundational Skills

Students gain an understanding of the conventions of standard written and spoken English. Instruction in grammar, usage, spelling, and mechanics is embedded within reading and writing activities. This explicit teaching supports students in both decoding texts and producing clear, purposeful writing.

Throughout middle school, students move from foundational comprehension to critical analysis, comparative literary studies, and independent inquiry. By the end of eighth grade, they are well-prepared for high school-level work and equipped to think critically about the texts they read, the messages they hear, and the ways they express themselves in both written and spoken forms.

ENGLISH

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ENGLISH 6

ENG 1000, ENG 1005

Course Length:	Year
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Brief Course Overview:

Sixth-grade students build foundational skills in reading comprehension, vocabulary development, and literary and informational analysis. They learn to read critically, identify main ideas, and analyze an author’s purpose and word choice. In oral communication, they develop active listening skills and practice structuring their thoughts to communicate effectively. Grammar and writing instruction focus on sentence structure, paragraph development, and clear expression of ideas.

6th Grade English explores the question, “*Who Am I?*” while building strong reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Students will read and analyze a variety of whole-class novels, historical and realistic fiction, and self-selected texts, with an emphasis on comprehension and discussion. Digital annotation and multi-level reading strategies will be introduced.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Literary analysis of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry
- Author’s craft, thematic connections, and literary devices
- Expository, narrative, and argumentative writing
- Grammar and vocabulary development
- Research skills and citation

Pre-Requisites:

None

Students in English 6 Receive guided practice in a variety of texts such as:

- *The Dreamer* by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi
- *The Schwa was Here* by Neal Shusterman

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 6 HONORS

ENG 1100

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

Sixth-grade students build foundational skills in reading comprehension, vocabulary development, and literary and informational analysis. They learn to read critically, identify main ideas, and analyze an author’s purpose and word choice. In oral communication, they develop active listening skills and practice structuring their thoughts to communicate effectively. Grammar and writing instruction focus on sentence structure, paragraph development, and clear expression of ideas.

Honors 6th Grade English challenges students to explore “*Who Am I?*” through advanced reading, writing, and discussion. At an accelerated pace, students analyze complex texts, including whole-class novels, historical and realistic fiction, and self-selected literature, using digital annotation and multi-level reading strategies.

Refining ideas through the writing process. Students develop their voice, master advanced grammar and author’s craft, and expand their vocabulary. Independent and collaborative work fosters critical thinking, organization, and intellectual curiosity, preparing students for 7th-grade Honors English and beyond.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Literary analysis of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry
- Author’s craft, thematic connections, and literary devices
- Expository, narrative, and argumentative writing
- Advanced Grammar and expanded vocabulary development
- Research skills and citation
- Independent Critical thinking

Pre-Requisites:

Teacher Recommendation or placement test

Honors students engage in more independent analysis and deeper discussions through texts such as:

- *The Dreamer* by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi
- *The View From Saturday* by E.L. Konigsburg

READING/WRITING WORKSHOP (6, 7, 8)

ENG 1010, ENG 3010

Course Length:

Year

Brief Course Overview:

This course strengthens reading and writing skills through targeted practice and engaging activities. Students build comprehension, vocabulary, and writing mechanics while developing confidence in literacy.

Designed to complement Language Arts, the workshop fosters self-management, reading and writing stamina, and fluency. Student-selected literature inspires growth, reinforcing the connection between reading and writing. By year's end, students will take pride in their progress and mastery of grade-level skills.

This workshop provides students with additional practice and support to refine their writing skills, ensuring they are well-prepared for increasingly complex writing tasks throughout middle school and beyond.

Skills/Units of Study:

- **Sentence Construction** – Crafting clear, effective sentences with proper structure and variety.
- **Types of Sentences** – Exploring simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentence structures.
- **Parts of Speech** – Understanding and applying the functions of nouns, verbs, adjectives, and more.
- **Clauses and Conjunctions** – Using dependent and independent clauses effectively in writing.
- **Punctuation & Comma Usage** – Mastering punctuation rules, including commas, for clarity and correctness.
- **Independent Reading Strategies** – Strengthening comprehension and analysis to support writing.
- **Power Paragraphs** – Developing strong, well-organized paragraphs with clarity and coherence.
- **Personal & Narrative Writing** – Crafting compelling stories with voice, detail, and structure.
- **Expository Writing** – Learning to explain and inform with clear, evidence-based writing.
- **Using Text Evidence in Writing** – Integrating and analyzing textual support in responses.
- **Persuasive Writing** – Constructing arguments with logical reasoning and supporting details.
- **Poetry** – Exploring poetic forms, figurative language, and self-expression through verse.
- **Grammar and Mechanics** – Refining writing with a focus on punctuation, capitalization, and sentence structure.

Pre-Requisites:

None-This course replaces a World Language course and can alter the language pathway.

This workshop provides students with additional practice and support to refine their writing skills, ensuring they are well-prepared for increasingly complex writing tasks throughout middle school and beyond.

ENGLISH

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

ENG 1015, ENG 2015, ENG 3015 (Lighthouse Point Academy)

Course Length:	Year
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Brief Course Overview:

Writing is an essential skill for academic success. It is crucial for success in high school and college. This class will help students strengthen their writing skills along with strengthening their memory. Students begin with organizing and sequencing their thoughts. As the program progresses, we will focus on various writing conventions such as format, capitalization, and punctuation. Students will work on an organized approach to paragraph writing, editing habits, and a step-by-step process for producing longer compositions such as essays, research papers, and creative stories. The material and exercises reflect best practices in writing instruction. While sentence writing needs to be carried on over a long period of time, exercises in devising supporting sentences for a given topic can be started almost from the beginning. The writing class will help to prepare our students to be successful in all academic areas. It is a step-by-step process to produce longer compositions. By the end of the course, each student's goal will be to demonstrate knowledge of writing by utilizing the Writing Traits, which include finding ideas, organization, word choice, voice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation. All students will exhibit better writing skills using the prescribed steps for writing. Also, included in writing, students will learn the common rules of the English language along with various reading strategies. Lessons will be divided weekly into parts of speech and writing structure. My goal for all my students is to generalize the steps for writing in all academic areas.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Punctuation
- Parts of Speech
- Comma usage
- Clauses and conjunctions
- Expository writing
- Using text evidence in writing
- Types of sentences
- Narrative writing
- Poetry
- Persuasive Writing
- Argumentative Writing

Pre-Requisites:

This course replaces a World Language course and can alter the language pathway. This course is part of the LPA program.

ENGLISH 7

ENG 2000, ENG 2005

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

Seventh graders deepen their analysis of literature and informational texts, examining themes, characterization, and the influence of historical, social, and cultural contexts. They assess authorial choices in language and style while exploring the impact of digital media on language and culture. Oral communication skills develop through persuasive and analytical speaking. Writing expectations become more complex, emphasizing organization, syntax, and grammar.

Seventh-grade English explores “*The Power of Belonging and Identity*” through literature, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and oral presentation. Students discover their voice while exploring themes such as finding one’s place in the world, coming of age/self-discovery, acceptance, and rejection, and how structure shapes meaning. They will read a variety of genres, including realistic fiction, historical fiction, nonfiction, and independent choice novels. The focus will be on scaffolding skills to construct written responses, connect personal experiences with texts, and develop close reading strategies through guided reading and annotation.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Narrative, Persuasive, Expository, & Literary Analysis Writing Essay Structure & Clarity
- Citing Textual Evidence
- Grammar & Vocabulary Refinement
- Multi-Paragraph Essay Development
- Understanding Essay Structure
- Constructive Feedback & Revision – Strengthening writing through self-correction and peer feedback.
- Literary analysis through various annotation strategies
- Determining nonfiction text structures

Pre-Requisites:

None

Students in English 7 receive guided practice in a variety of texts such as:

- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *The Outsiders* by S. E Hinton
- *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
- *All Thirteen* by Christina Soontornvat
- A variety of choice novels

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 7 HONORS

ENG 2100

Course Length:

Year

Brief Course Overview:

Seventh graders deepen their analysis of literature and informational texts, examining themes, characterization, and the influence of historical, social, and cultural contexts. They assess authorial choices in language and style while exploring the impact of digital media on language and culture. Oral communication skills develop through persuasive and analytical speaking. Writing expectations become more complex, emphasizing organization, syntax, and grammar.

Seventh grade Honors English explores “*The Power of Belonging and Identity*” through literature, writing, grammar, vocabulary, research, and oral presentation. Students develop their voice while analyzing themes such as coming of age/self-discovery, finding one’s voice in society, and the impact of writing structure. Through a variety of genres, including realistic fiction, historical fiction, nonfiction, and independent choice novels, students practice independent reading, annotation, and critical thinking skills.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Narrative, Persuasive, Expository, & Literary Analysis Writing
- Multi-Paragraph Essay Development
- Citing Textual Evidence
- Grammar & Word Choice Refinement
- Pacing & Writing Independence – Advancing at a faster pace to build self-sufficiency and confidence.
- Constructive Feedback & Revision – Strengthening writing through self-correction and peer feedback.
- Developing a Strong Writing Voice
- In depth literary analysis through various annotation strategies
- Examining how authors structure ideas to convey meaning in nonfiction text

Pre-Requisites:

Teacher recommendation or placement test

Honors students engage in more independent analysis and deeper discussions through texts such as:

- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton
- *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
- *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary Schmidt
- A variety of choice novels (fiction and non-fiction)

ENGLISH 8

ENG 3000, ENG 3005

Course Length:	Year
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Brief Course Overview:

Eighth-grade students apply advanced reading, writing, and analytical skills to explore complex themes, cultural perspectives, and authorial intent. They examine how language shapes a reader’s perception, particularly in non-literary texts, and investigate how digital media changes communication. Oral communication skills focus on argumentation and rhetorical techniques while writing instruction challenges students to craft analytical and argumentative essays. Students focus on mastery of skills through structured instruction, while Honors students tackle sophisticated texts and higher expectations for independent critical thinking, discussion, and writing.

Eighth-grade English explores “*Discovering Stance on Social Justice*” through literature, writing, grammar, vocabulary, research, and oral presentation. Students will analyze how literature defines humanity and how those definitions evolve, connecting their own experiences to themes of adversity, tolerance, and advocacy. Through memoir, realistic fiction, historical fiction, and nonfiction, as well as independent reading, students will develop critical thinking and discussion skills.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Clear, Structured, & Well-Supported Writing –
- Drafting, Feedback, & Self-Editing –
- Persuasive, Expository, & Narrative Writing
- Expanding Academic Vocabulary
- Formal Argumentation & Citation Skills
- Scaffolding & Structured Support
- Independent Thought & Analytical Writing

Pre-Requisites:

None

Students in English 8 Receive guided practice in a variety of texts such as:

- *The Running Dream* by Wendelin VanDraanen
- *Black Brother, Black Brother* by Jewell Parker Rhodes
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* (the graphic novel) by Harper Lee
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 8 HONORS

ENG 3100

Course Length: Year

Brief Course Overview:

Eighth-grade students apply advanced reading, writing, and analytical skills to explore complex themes, cultural perspectives, and authorial intent. They examine how language shapes a reader’s perception, particularly in non-literary texts, and investigate how digital media changes communication. Oral communication skills focus on argumentation and rhetorical techniques while writing instruction challenges students to craft analytical and argumentative essays. Students focus on mastery of skills through structured instruction, while Honors students tackle sophisticated texts and higher expectations for independent critical thinking, discussion, and writing.

8th Grade Honors English explores “*Discovering Stance on Social Justice*” through literature, writing, grammar, vocabulary, research, and oral presentation. Students analyze themes of humanity, adversity, tolerance, and advocacy through memoirs, historical fiction, and independent choice books. Writing instruction emphasizes developing clear, well-supported drafts, self-editing for errors, and refining voice and style. Students acquire academic vocabulary and improve persuasive, expository, and narrative writing.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Clear, Structured, & Well-Supported Writing
- Drafting, Feedback, & Self-Editing
- Persuasive, Expository, & Narrative Writing
- Expanding Academic Vocabulary
- Formal Argumentation & Citation Skills
- Independent Thought & Analytical Writing

Pre-Requisites:

Teacher recommendation or placement test

Honors students will be encouraged **to take the initiative in developing original theses, leading discussions, and engaging in independent literary analysis.**

Students will complete a formal research paper and practice citing sources. The faster-paced curriculum includes a student-driven unit to build leadership, voice, and choice. – Developing critical thinking and deeper literary analysis through **more rigorous reading selections, Socratic seminars, and independent projects.**

- *The Running Dream* by Wendelin VanDraanen
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel



FINE ARTS

- [Visual Arts](#)
- [Photography](#)
- [Film](#)
- [Dance](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Theatre](#)

VISUAL ARTS

Department Overview:

NBP Visual Arts, Media Arts, and Communication Arts are engaging, hands-on programs designed to spark curiosity and build creative confidence. Through exploration of 2-D art, 3-D art, design, animation, film, and photography, students learn to envision ideas, observe closely, and experiment with materials and techniques. Rooted in cultural connections and creative problem-solving, the curriculum encourages collaboration, reflection, and risk-taking while helping students discover their unique creative voice. Across all pathways, students build strong foundations in artistic skills and visual literacy, igniting creative journeys that empower them to imagine, create, and share their voice.



VISUAL ARTS

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<u>MS Art and Culture</u>	28
<u>MS Art and Artists</u>	28
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<u>MS Photography</u>	29
<u>MS Film & Effects</u>	29

MS ADVENTURES IN ART (6TH GRADE)

ART 1141, 1142

Course Length: Semester

Brief Course Overview:

Celebrate your creativity! Learn the basics of art and apply them to personal style. Adventures in Art explores the elements and principles of art as applied to 2D, 3D, and Applied Design. The class provides exposure to our artistic heritage as well as experiences in a variety of materials and techniques from paints and pastels, to plaster and clay. This course may be taken inconsecutive Semesters as coursework is not repeated. How do artists combine the Elements and Principles of art to develop and improve their art? How do we recognize quality or skill in an artwork? Where can artists look for ideas, and how do they develop those ideas over time?

Pre-Requisites:

6th grade only

MS ART AND CULTURE (7TH GRADE)

ART 2121, 2122

Course Length: Semester

Brief Course Overview:

Get connected to the world through art! Art and Culture provides exploration of the influence of different cultures on our artistic heritage. This multi-cultural approach to the study of art allows students to develop skills in aesthetics, art criticism, history, and production in 2D Art, 3D Art, and Applied Design. Students will learn a wide variety of styles and techniques while examining how artists can use art to communicate cultural values, beliefs, and roles. How does art help us understand different cultures or groups of people? How do the arts influence the way people think, feel, or act in a community? How do artists use the Elements and Principles of Design to make strong compositions?

Pre-Requisites:

7th grade only

MS ART AND ARTISTS (8TH GRADE)

ART 3101, 3102

Course Length: Semester

Brief Course Overview:

Where do artists find their ideas, and how do they develop inspiration? From Rock Art to Pop Art: What's it all about? Art and Artists provides an opportunity for exploration of major trends in the history of art. The emphasis of the course is to examine the work of several important artists throughout history discovering artists' styles and techniques and transforming them into individual creative 2D Art, 3D Art and Applied Design work. How do we recognize quality or skill in an artwork? Where can artists look for ideas, and how do they develop those ideas over time? How can creative thinking help us imagine better possibilities for the future?

Pre-Requisites:

8th grade only

MS ART EXPLORATIONS (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

Course Length: Year

ART 1101, 1121, 1131

Brief Course Overview: (students must select two of the three options listed below)

MS 2D Art Explorations - 2D Art Explorations introduces the fundamental elements, principles and materials of 2D Art. The class is based on learning in the three areas of expression, appreciation, and criticism. Exploration in these areas is focused on drawing, painting, and printmaking. All activities are designed to promote higher order thinking skills, introduce a variety of materials and techniques, and to achieve a greater overall appreciation of the arts. How do artists use the Elements and Principles of Design to make strong compositions? How do we recognize quality or skill in an artwork? Where can artists look for ideas, and how do they develop those ideas over time?

MS 3D Art Explorations - MS 3D Art Explorations provides an introduction to the fundamental principles, techniques, and materials of 3D Art. Study includes the 3-D principles of structure, shape, form, volume, surface, and scale, and their application for artistic effect, from representations of nature to the abstract. These principles underlie working relief, as well as free standing sculpture, focusing on construction, assemblage, casting, and modeling in a variety of materials. How does craftsmanship affect the message or mood of an artwork? How does the arts help people express experiences that are hard to explain in words?

MS Digital Art Explorations - Create, explore, and think like a digital artist! MS Digital Art Explorations introduces students to the elements, principles, and tools of digital art through creative, hands-on projects. Students learn through expression, appreciation, and critique while exploring digital drawing, cartoons, character design, environments, and stop-motion animation. This course encourages students to develop ideas over time by following the creative process of preparation, incubation, inspiration, evaluation, and revision. Student artwork is assessed through teacher, self, and group feedback with a focus on composition, communication, creativity, content, and craftsmanship. How do artists use the Elements and Principles of Design to create strong compositions? Where do artists find ideas and grow them over time? How do we recognize quality?

Pre-Requisites: None

MS PHOTOGRAPHY (7TH, 8TH GRADE)

Course Length: Semester

ART 2111, 2112

Brief Course Overview:

Learn how to take fantastic photos using your smartphone camera! This course is open to all interested students in grades 7 and 8. They must have their own digital cameras (iPhone, compact, or DSLR) and iPads to participate in the course. Students will learn about their camera's functions and settings, practice different photo composition techniques, and shoot different types of photography each week. This is a very busy, but fun, course that requires students to be self-motivated and complete occasional assignments outside of the classroom. How do artists use the Elements and Principles of Design to create strong compositions? Where do artists find ideas and grow them over time? How do we recognize quality and skill in digital artwork?

Pre-Requisites: 7th & 8th Grade Only, Not Repeatable

MS FILM AND EFFECTS (7TH AND 8TH GRADE)

Course Length: Semester

ART 2101, 2102

Brief Course Overview:

Come and have fun in film style! This Semester-long class is your chance to dive into the exciting world of moviemaking. Using iPads, point-and-shoot cameras, i- movie and Adobe Premiere Pro, you'll learn how to plan, shoot, and edit your own short films. Experiment with cool effects, creative transitions, and storytelling tricks while discovering how media shapes the way we think and feel. You'll even get to watch and critique short films like a real movie reviewer! By the end, you'll be asking big questions like: How do we recognize quality or skill in a media artwork? How does media influence the way people think, feel, or act in a community? How do artists use the Elements and Principles of Design to make strong compositions?

DANCE

Department Overview:

The NBPS Dance Department provides students with opportunities to discover the Art of Dance as an extension of our academic program. Students will develop a new appreciation for dance through the exploration of various forms and styles. We inspire our students to explore and enhance their creative instincts.

The Dance Department's foundation is built upon a devoted faculty with extensive experience and knowledge in ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and tap, as well as styles in musical theatre, lyrical, contemporary, and modern. These dedicated professionals guide students in promoting health and wellness and developing a basic understanding of dance fundamentals, including proper technique, dance composition, and a working dance vocabulary. Film offers foundational courses in film and animation, which can then be further explored in advanced-level classes.



DANCE

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<u>MS Advanced Dance</u>	<u>31</u>

DANCE

MS INTERMEDIATE DANCE (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

DAN 1100, 1110

Course Length: Year

Brief Course Overview:

A yearlong course aimed at developing and continuing to learn and refine dance skills and technique. Students explore various forms and styles of dance including (ballet, contemporary, hip-hop, jazz, lyrical, modern, musical theatre and tap). Students' movement experience will include technique work, movement combinations, and performance. **All dancers take part in the Winter Showcase Performance and the end-of-year Spring Dance Recital.**

Pre-Requisites:

None

Fee: \$1,990 - Includes one recital costume.

Additional out-of-pocket expenses: class attire and dance shoes.

MS DANCE TEAM (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)*

DAN 2110

Course Length: Year

Brief Course Overview:

A yearlong course aimed at developing and refining dance skills and technique. Students are exposed to various forms and styles of dance (ballet, contemporary, hip-hop, jazz, lyrical, modern, musical theatre, and tap). Students' movement experience will include technique work, movement combinations, choreography and performance. **All dancers take part in the end-of-year Spring Dance Recital.**

*This class is only for dancers in the NB Middle School competitive dance team.

Pre-Requisites:

Must be on the competitive dance team

Fee: \$1,990 - Includes one recital costume.

Additional Out-of-pocket expenses: class attire and dance shoes.

MS ADVANCED DANCE (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)*

DAN 2100

Course Length: Year

Brief Course Overview:

A yearlong course aimed at developing and continuing to learn and refine dance skills and techniques. Students explore various forms and styles of dance including (ballet, contemporary, hip-hop, jazz, lyrical, modern, musical theatre, and tap). Students' movement experience will include technique work, movement combinations, and performance. **All dancers take part in the Winter Showcase Performance and the end-of-year Spring Dance Recital.**

*Instructor recommendation required.

Pre-Requisites:

By audition only

Fee: \$1,990 - Includes one recital costume.

Additional out-of-pocket expenses: class attire and dance shoes.

MUSIC

Department Overview:

The performing ensembles at North Broward Preparatory School play a vital role in our community, both within and beyond the school. Members of performing ensembles perform regularly in parades, festivals, concerts, and competitions and are expected to participate in all of these activities.



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MS Symphonic Band	34

MUSIC

MS CHOIR (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

MUS 1110

Course Length:	Year
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Brief Course Overview:

The Middle School Choir is for advancing vocal students (or highly motivated beginners) who aim to continue developing their vocal technique and ensemble skills. Musicians in the Choir perform fun and challenging vocal repertoire and regularly rehearse in sectionals, small music groups, and as a larger ensemble. They also routinely share in learning opportunities with professional musicians and are offered occasions to participate in music festivals, local honor ensembles, state and district music events, and competitions. The Choir makes our community better by sharing their music at public performances.

Pre-Requisites:

None

MS ORCHESTRA (6TH, 7TH, 8TH)

MUS 1100

Course Length:	Year
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Brief Course Overview:

The Intermediate Orchestra is for advancing strings students (or highly motivated beginners) who aim to continue developing their technique and ensemble skills. Musicians in the Intermediate Orchestra perform fun and challenging string orchestra repertoire and regularly rehearse in sectionals, small chamber music groups, and as a larger ensemble. They also routinely share learning opportunities with professional musicians and are offered occasions to participate in music festivals, local honor ensembles, state and district music events, and competitions. The Intermediate Orchestra makes our community better by sharing their music at a multitude of public performances.

Pre-Requisites:

None

MS MODERN BAND (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

MUS 1120

Course Length:	Year
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Brief Course Overview:

Modern Band is a student-centered ensemble that teaches contemporary popular-music performance, composition, and collaborative musicianship. The course uses culturally relevant repertoire (rock, pop, hip-hop/R&B, Latin, country and electronic-based styles) and a fixed modern instrumentation—guitar, bass, keyboards, drumset, voice, and music technology—so students begin playing meaningful music on day one.

Pre-Requisites:

- Student also must be enrolled in either a band or orchestra elective.
- Audition with Band Director
- Private lessons highly recommended

MUSIC

MS SYMPHONIC BAND (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

MUS 2100

Course Length:	Year
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Brief Course Overview:

The Symphonic Band is designed for middle school students of all ability levels. Musicians in the band perform repertoire that is both challenging and exciting, and regularly rehearses in sectional, small chamber groups and in the larger band ensemble. Students will receive the individual attention they need in order to become more proficient on their instrument. The Symphonic Band enjoys the opportunity of sharing their music at public performances both on and off campus.

Pre-Requisites:

None

THEATRE

Department Overview:

The North Broward Preparatory School theatre program provides students with a unique opportunity to explore the “World of Theatre.” Through this exploration, students develop a new appreciation for the art of theatre, while making discoveries about themselves and the world in which they live. It is a priority to provide students with a safe environment where creativity and self-expression are encouraged and embraced. Young artists are guided through their creative journeys with the tools needed to develop self-confidence and stronger communication skills.

The Theatre Department faculty is a diverse group with extensive experience in multiple areas of theatre, including acting, voice, movement, directing, playwriting, and stage management. The faculty is fully committed to sharing their knowledge with each and every student, while providing a new understanding and appreciation for all aspects of the art form.



THEATRE

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THEATRE

ADVENTURES IN ACTING (6TH GRADE)

THE 1101, 1102

Course Length: Semester

This course is designed to give students a creative outlet while teaching them the fundamentals of acting. Though the curriculum builds on previous knowledge, all students are welcome and can learn the fundamentals of theatre. Musical Theatre will be explored and experienced through singing, acting, choreography, and musical appreciation. Students will learn about production elements, theatrical terminology, and conventions. There will be opportunities to create and perform original characters and scenes, whilst learning to relate to fellow actors through varied acting exercises and games. The students will also begin to learn how to prepare for an audition and how to present to an audition panel.

Pre-Requisites:

None

THEATRE EXPLORATIONS (6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE)

THE 2101, 2102

Course Length: Semester

This course is designed to give theatre students a creative outlet while giving them an opportunity to embrace different theatrical styles and genres. This course will instill the concepts of teamwork and group effort as applied to the craft of acting. Students will learn how to select appropriate material and how to work to create a polished performance. They will take a hands-on approach to learning all aspects of theatre using proper vocabulary and theatrical terminology. Students will be given opportunities to express themselves creatively, both individually and as part of a group.

Pre-Requisites:

None

STUDIO THEATRE (7TH AND 8TH GRADE)

THE 2100

Course Length: Year

This course is designed to give advanced theatre students a creative outlet and an opportunity to discover and experience the process of putting on a production from start to finish. Students will take on the role of playwright to create their own short scenes using theatrical terminology and staging techniques. They will also have the opportunity to direct short scenes and plays, experiencing both the performance and directorial aspects and viewpoints of a scene. Musical theatre will be explored and experienced through singing, acting, choreography, and musical appreciation and understanding.

Pre-Requisites:

7th and 8th Grade only

Full year of Adv. in Acting, Theatre Explorations, and/or recommendation required

Department Overview:

Our Middle School Mathematics curriculum is designed to develop students' conceptual understanding, problem-solving abilities, and mathematical reasoning. It provides a strong foundation in mathematical fluency while fostering critical thinking and real-world application. The curriculum follows a structured, standards-based approach built around five key instructional strands.

These strands align with process standards that emphasize problem-solving, reasoning and proof, communication, connections, and representation. Through inquiry-based learning, hands-on activities, exploration, and collaborative practice, students engage deeply with mathematical ideas and develop the skills necessary for success in mathematics and beyond.

Through in-depth exploration of the following strands, students develop a deep and lasting understanding of mathematics. Each strand is anchored in specific standards and benchmarks and is revisited with increasing complexity as students progress from Foundations 1 through Algebra or Geometry, moving from concrete skills to abstract reasoning.

Numbers and Operations

- Understand number types, representations, and relationships
- Grasp the meanings and connections between operations
- Compute accurately and estimate efficiently

Algebra

- Explore patterns, relationships, and functions to develop algebraic thinking
- Represent and analyze situations using algebraic symbols
- Model quantitative relationships
- Analyze change in real-world and mathematical contexts

Geometry

- Investigate properties of 2D and 3D shapes
- Use coordinate systems and visual models to explore spatial relationships
- Apply symmetry and transformations to solve problems
- Visualize and model geometric concepts

Measurement

- Understand measurable attributes and appropriate units
- Use tools, techniques, and formulas for accurate measurement

Data Analysis and Probability

- Pose questions and collect, organize, and display data
- Apply statistical methods to analyze and interpret results
- Evaluate predictions and inferences based on data
- Understand and use probability in real-life contexts

As students progress through middle school, they transition from concrete skills to abstract reasoning, laying the groundwork for success in high school-level math. By the end of eighth grade, they are equipped to analyze, model, and communicate mathematical ideas with confidence.

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MATHEMATICS

FOUNDATIONS 1

MAT 1000, MAT 1005

Course Length:	Year
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Brief Course Overview:

This course includes the development of the four basic operations (add, subtract, multiply, and divide) of the number system, how they pertain to introductory fractions, decimals and percents, and real-world money problems. The course will use concepts of data organization and basic graphs, as well as common geometric figures. An emphasis will be placed on the practical use of concepts such as ratio, proportion, percent, perimeter, area, and volume. Introductory applications to real-world problem-solving are an inherent part of the course.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Number Relationships
- Operations with Fractions & Decimals
- Order of Operations
- Ratios, Proportions, Unit Rate
- Fractions, Decimals, Percents
- Geometry & Measurement
- Rational Numbers & Integers
- Data & Statistics

Pre-Requisites:

6th Grade

FOUNDATIONS 2

MAT 2000, MAT 2005

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

Foundations to Mathematics II continues the development of number sense through integers (positive and negative numbers) and their use within expressions and equations. The course will cover rational numbers and how fractions, decimals, and percents all relate to one another. Students will be governed by math rules such as the Order of Operations and the Distributive Property. The course will emphasize the role of the decimal in place value when it comes to metrics, standard units of measure, and scientific notation. Data and graphs will play a significant role, as will two- and three-dimensional geometry. Practical applications to topics and concepts will be emphasized with real-world problem-solving and their strategies.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Number Relationships
- Operations with Integers
- Operations with Rational Numbers
- Percentages
- Rates as Proportions
- Expressions & Equations
- The Coordinate Plane
- Geometry
- Data Analysis & Probability

Pre-Requisites:

Successful completion of Foundations 1,
Teacher recommendation and/or placement test.

MATHEMATICS

PRE-ALGEBRA

MAT 1100, 2010, 3000, 3005

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

The major emphasis of Pre-Algebra is to reinforce the student's understanding of the four basic operations, helping facilitate the transition from concrete to more abstract mathematics. Students will be engaged in one- and two-step problem-solving in both computation and application of equations with a variable, as well as making use of the inverse operation. In addition, students will identify the differences between rational and irrational numbers and their attributes. The use of fractions, decimals, percents, ratios, proportions, and their place in the real world is essential in this course. Students will use two- and three-dimensional geometry in such concepts as area, perimeter, circumference, volume, and surface area. Students will use in-depth data analysis with the likes of range, mean, median, mode, outlier, and various tables, charts, and graphs. Students will use functions, determine slope, use ordered pairs for linear and nonlinear relationships on the coordinate plane. Practical experience with real world problem solving is an emphasized element in this course.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Real Numbers
- Expressions & Equations
- Equations & Inequalities
- Ratios & Proportions
- Linear Functions & Graphs
- Percentages
- Financial Literacy
- Exponents & Powers
- Geometry
- Data Analysis & Probability

Pre-Requisites:

Successful completion of Foundations 2,
Teacher recommendation and/or placement test.

ALGEBRA 1

MAT 2100, MAT 3100

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

The main goal of this course is to provide students with a thorough and extensive study of linear and quadratic functions and graphing on the xy -coordinate system. By the end of this course, students will have all the knowledge necessary to solve and graph equations and inequalities. They will also be able to apply this knowledge to other areas of math, such as word problems, ratios, and proportions. Questions that will guide learning throughout the year include: How will students use the language of algebra — its vocabulary, symbols, and reasoning — to solve problems, describe relationships and patterns, and apply algebra to represent real-life situations, using algebraic, numerical, and graphical representations; how will students use critical and creative thinking to solve problems and acquire the algebraic foundation and skills necessary for Geometry and Algebra 2.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Expressions & Equations
- Inequalities
- Functions
- Linear Functions
- System of Equations & Inequalities
- Factoring Polynomials
- Quadratic Functions & Equations
- Radical Functions

Pre-Requisites:

Successful completion of Pre-algebra, teacher recommendation and/or placement test.

MATHEMATICS

GEOMETRY HONORS

MAT 3110

Course Length:	Year
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Brief Course Overview:

This course challenges students to explore Euclidean geometry and includes analytical thinking and an introduction to proofs. An extensive study of relationships in triangles (congruence, inequalities, similarity, specific theorems, postulates, and definitions) and an introduction to right-angle trigonometry are included in the curriculum. Circles and geometric solids are studied (circumference, area, and volume), and throughout the course, a higher degree of algebra skills is required in solving specific problems. In order to be successful in this Honors course, students will be expected to have strong algebra skills, a high level of higher-order thinking skills, and the ability for abstract thinking.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Points, Lines, Planes, & Angles
- Intro into Triangles
- Triangles
- 2D/3D Shapes: Area, Surface Area, Volume
- Similarity
- Right Triangles & Trigonometry
- Circles

Pre-Requisites:

Successful completion of algebra 1, teacher recommendation and/or placement test

NATURAL SCIENCE

Department Overview:

Our Middle School Natural Science program nurtures curiosity, scientific thinking, and a meaningful understanding of the natural world. Students engage in hands-on investigations, use evidence to draw conclusions and make interdisciplinary connections across scientific domains. Organized around three core disciplines—Earth Science, Life Science, and Physical Science—the curriculum empowers students to explore phenomena, ask thoughtful questions, and apply their knowledge in real-world contexts.

Each discipline is anchored in key strands and enduring understandings that guide students toward deeper conceptual insight and scientific literacy as they progress through middle school:

Earth Science

- Earth's Systems
- Earth and Human Activity
- Earth's Place in the Universe
(*The Solar System, Stars, and the History of Earth*)

Life Science

- From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes (*Structure, Function, Growth, and Development*)
- Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy and Dynamics
- Heredity: Inheritance and variation of traits
- Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

Physical Science

- Matter: Structure and Properties
- Chemical Reactions
- Motion and Stability: Forces and interactions
- Energy
- Waves

A Culture of Scientific Inquiry

Across all three disciplines, students participate in authentic scientific practices—designing experiments, collecting and analyzing data, and constructing evidence-based explanations. As they grow, they develop independence, accuracy, and fluency in scientific reasoning, preparing them for advanced coursework and active, informed engagement with the world's scientific and environmental challenges.



NATURAL SCIENCE

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NATURAL SCIENCE

EARTH SCIENCE

SCI 1000, SCI 1005

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

Earth Science explores the systems and processes that shape our planet and its place in the universe. Students investigate Earth's structure, weather patterns, natural resources, and human impact on the environment. Using a systems-thinking approach, they model energy flow, matter cycling, and the interaction between Earth's geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere.

The course also covers astronomy, examining Earth's relationship to the solar system and beyond. Students analyze real geoscience data, develop models, and explore the technological tools used in space exploration. Emphasis is placed on human impacts on land, energy, and water resources and on understanding geoscience processes that both provide resources and pose natural hazards.

By the end of the course, students will gain critical skills in data analysis, scientific modeling, and problem-solving while developing an informed, responsible perspective on environmental issues.

Skills/units of Study:

- Earth's Systems
- The History of Planet Earth
- Earth's Materials & Systems
- Water in Surface Processes
- Weather & Climate
- Earth & Human Activity
- Natural Resources
- Natural Hazards
- Human Impact
- Global Climate Change
- Earth in the Universe
- The Universe & Its Stars
- Solar System:

Pre-Requisites:

6th Grade

EARTH SCIENCE HONORS

SCI 1100

Course Length:	Year
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Brief Course Overview:

Honors Earth Science challenges students to explore Earth’s systems and its place in the universe through advanced scientific inquiry and analysis. With a strong emphasis on systems thinking and interdisciplinary connections, students investigate the formation and structure of Earth, atmospheric and oceanic processes, geologic activity, weather patterns, and human impact on the environment.

The course dives deeper into modeling the flow of energy and cycling of matter among Earth’s spheres—the geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere—and emphasizes the use of real-world geoscience data to construct explanations and design solutions. Students explore complex environmental issues related to land use, natural resource development, and sustainability and are expected to engage in higher-level analysis of the technologies and challenges involved.

In addition to Earth-based systems, students examine astronomical concepts such as Earth’s position in the solar system, the Milky Way, and the universe, using models and engineering principles to explain celestial patterns, eclipses, and seasons.

Designed for students ready to engage in rigorous scientific thinking, **Honors Earth Science** builds proficiency in modeling, data analysis, and scientific reasoning. It prepares students to critically evaluate environmental challenges and contribute thoughtfully to global problem-solving efforts.

Skills/Units of study:

- The History of Planet Earth
- Earth’s Materials & Systems
- Roles of Water in Surface Processes
- Weather & Climate
- Natural resources
- Natural Hazards
- Human Impact
- Global Climate Change
- Earth and solar system
- The Universe & Its Stars
- Solar System
- History of Planet Earth

Pre-Requisites:

- 6th Grade
- Teacher recommendation

NATURAL SCIENCE

LIFE SCIENCE

SCI 2000, SCI 2005

Course Length: Year

Brief Course Overview:

Life Science provides students with a foundational understanding of living systems, guiding them through the study of how organisms grow, function, and interact with one another and their environment. Students explore topics such as genetics, heredity, evolution, and biological diversity while developing a systems-thinking approach to understanding life.

Building on the scientific skills developed in 6th Grade Earth Science, students deepen their understanding of the relationships between living (biotic) and nonliving (abiotic) components of Earth's systems. They also begin to develop new skills specific to the study of life—such as classification, microscopic observation, and biological modeling.

Throughout the course, students will engage with major branches of life science, including anatomy and physiology, microbiology, botany, zoology, genetics, and biochemistry. These disciplines are unified by the central science of biology—from the Greek bios meaning “life” and -logia meaning “study of”—the study of life itself.

Through hands-on investigations, data collection, and collaborative inquiry, students will gain both a broad and detailed understanding of living systems. This course not only prepares students for more advanced biology coursework but also fosters curiosity and responsibility toward the living world around them.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Scientific inquiry
- Structure and function
- Growth and development of organisms
- Organization for matter and energy flow
- Interdependent relationships in ecosystems
- Matter and energy transfer in ecosystems
- Ecosystem dynamics
- Biodiversity and humans
- Inheritance and Variation of Traits
- Common Ancestry and diversity
- Natural Selection
- Adaptation

Pre-Requisites:

7th Grade

LIFE SCIENCE HONORS

SCI 2100

Course Length:	Year
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Brief Course Overview:

Honors Life Science challenges students to explore living systems with greater depth, independence, and scientific rigor. Students investigate how organisms grow, function, and interact with their environments while delving into genetics, heredity, evolution, and the factors that drive biological diversity. Emphasis is placed on systems thinking, structure-function relationships, and the interdependence of life.

Building on the foundational skills developed in 6th Grade Earth Science, Honors students not only explore biotic and abiotic relationships but also take on more advanced investigations and develop stronger analytical and reasoning skills specific to life science.

This course examines key areas of biology—including anatomy and physiology, microbiology, botany, zoology, genetics, and biochemistry—through a more rigorous lens. Students engage in:

- **Independent Inquiry:** Designing and conducting complex experiments and investigations
- **Critical Analysis:** Interpreting data, identifying patterns, and drawing evidence-based conclusions
- **Scientific Literacy:** Evaluating scientific texts and research related to biological systems
- **Modeling & Communication:** Building models of biological processes and clearly communicating findings

Rooted in the Greek *bios* (life) and *-logia* (study of), biology forms the core of this course. Through hands-on labs, collaborative challenges, and real-world connections, Honors Life Science equips students with the skills to think like scientists—preparing them for high school coursework and inspiring a deeper curiosity about the living world.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Scientific Inquiry
- Structure and function
- Growth and development of organisms
- Organization for matter and energy flow
- Interdependent relationships in ecosystems
- Matter and energy transfer in ecosystems
- Ecosystem dynamics
- Biodiversity and humans
- Inheritance and Variation of Traits
- Common Ancestry and diversity
- Natural Selection
- Adaptation

Pre-Requisites:

7th Grade
Teacher recommendation

NATURAL SCIENCE

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

SCI 3000, SCI 3005

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

8th Grade Physical Science invites students to explore the building blocks of the physical world—matter, energy, forces, and motion. Through hands-on experiments, inquiry-based learning, and collaborative projects, students uncover the fundamental laws of chemistry and physics and how they apply to everyday phenomena.

What Is Physical Science?

In this course, students investigate core concepts in chemistry and physics using real-world applications and authentic scientific practices. Aligned with the NGSS three-dimensional learning model, students engage in dynamic investigations, design challenges, and evidence-based reasoning to build a deep, connected understanding of the physical universe.

Students Will:

- Develop and use models to visualize and explain scientific concepts
- Design and conduct experiments to explore physical science phenomena
- Analyze data and interpret results using scientific reasoning
- Apply engineering design principles to real-world challenges
- Communicate findings clearly using evidence from investigations and simulations
- Build scientific literacy and critical thinking skills for informed decision-making in a complex world

By the end of this course, students won't just know scientific facts—they'll understand how we uncover them. Physical Science equips students with the habits of mind, inquiry skills, and analytical tools needed to think and act like scientists and engineers.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Structure and properties of matter
 - Atomic structure and the periodic table
 - States of matter
- Chemical Reactions
- Forces and motion
 - Newton's third law
- Types of interactions
 - Electric, magnetic, and gravitational forces

Pre-Requisites:

8th Grade

PHYSICAL SCIENCE HONORS

SCI 3100

Course Length:	Year
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Brief Course Overview:

Honors Physical Science challenges 8th grade students to dive deeper into the forces, matter, and energy that shape the universe. With an emphasis on scientific inquiry, problem-solving, and real-world application, students explore core principles of chemistry and physics through hands-on investigations, critical analysis, and engineering design.

What Is Honors Physical Science?

Building on the foundations of middle school science, Honors Physical Science follows the NGSS three-dimensional learning model, inviting students to engage with real-world phenomena through advanced experimentation and collaborative exploration. While covering the same major topics as the standard course, students in Honors will work with increased depth, independence, and analytical rigor.

In Our Honors Course, Students Will:

- Conduct advanced investigations with multi-variable experimentation
- Use quantitative analysis and modeling to explain physical phenomena
- Interpret and synthesize complex data sets to identify patterns and draw conclusions
- Apply engineering design principles to develop innovative solutions
- Evaluate scientific claims using evidence from primary and secondary sources
- Communicate scientific ideas clearly and persuasively through written, verbal, and visual formats

By the end of the course, students will not only master key physical science concepts—they will build the critical thinking, collaboration, and inquiry skills needed for success in high school science and beyond. Honors Physical Science empowers students to think like scientists and engineers as they explore the world and their role in shaping it.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Structure and properties of matter
 - Atomic structure and the periodic table
 - States of matter
- Chemical Reactions
- Forces and motion
 - Newton's third law
- Types of interactions
 - Electric, magnetic, and gravitational forces

Pre-Requisites:

8th Grade
Teacher recommendation

Department Overview:

Our Middle School Social Science curriculum is designed to build students' understanding of human experiences, societal development, and global interdependence. Rooted in key instructional strands—**time, continuity, and change; connections and conflict; geography; culture, society, and identity; government; production, distribution, and consumption; and science, technology, and society**—the program encourages inquiry, critical thinking, and civic engagement.

Through analysis of historical and contemporary sources, investigation of enduring questions, and exploration of diverse perspectives, students make meaningful connections between past and present. They learn to evaluate cause and effect, recognize patterns, and develop an informed worldview that supports active, empathetic participation in local and global communities.

Under these instructional strands are the following enduring understandings, which frame student learning from foundational to advanced levels:

- **Time, Continuity, and Change**
Students understand patterns of change and continuity, relationships between people and events over time, and various interpretations of these relationships.
- **Connections and Conflict**
Students examine the causes and consequences of interaction among societies, including trade, systems of international exchange, conflict, and diplomacy.
- **Geography**
Students explore how physical environments shape and are shaped by human activity, recognizing the dynamic relationship between people and place.
- **Culture, Society, and Identity**
Students investigate social systems and cultural frameworks, understanding how these influence individual identity, societal norms, and intercultural relations.
- **Government**
Students learn how and why societies create systems of governance, examining how these structures meet human needs, define rights and responsibilities, and shape civic life.
- **Production, Distribution, and Consumption**
Students analyze fundamental economic concepts and explore how economies are influenced by geographic conditions and human decisions.
- **Science, Technology, and Society**
Students consider the reciprocal influence between societies and scientific or technological advancements, evaluating innovation's role in shaping human progress.

The curriculum empowers students to think historically, analyze sources with a critical eye, and engage with complex issues through collaborative discussion, debate, and project-based learning. As they progress through middle school, students develop increasing independence and sophistication in their ability to ask questions, evaluate evidence, and draw reasoned conclusions—skills essential for success in social studies and beyond.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

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WORLD CIVILIZATIONS & CULTURES

SOC 1000, SOC 1005

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

This course explores the history and culture of the Maya and ancient river valley civilizations, including Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome, through the Renaissance. Students will examine how geography, belief systems, government, economies, and social structures shaped these civilizations and influenced the modern world.

Through inquiry-based learning, students will develop critical thinking, research, and map analysis skills while engaging with primary and secondary sources. They will practice writing structured responses, analyzing cause-and-effect relationships, and making connections between historical events and contemporary issues. By the end of the course, students will gain a deeper understanding of how cultures evolve and interact over time, preparing them for further studies in history and social sciences.

Skills/Units of Study:

- **Origins of Humanity & Society**
Study early humans, the development of tools, and how hunter-gatherers formed the first communities.
- **Development of Civilization**
Explore the rise of cities, writing, and government in early civilizations like Mesopotamia.
- **Power, Belief & Cultural Expression**
Examine how religion, leadership, and culture shaped societies like Ancient Egypt.
- **Innovation & Exchange**
Learn how inventions, trade, and ideas spread across civilizations like the Maya.
- **Geography & Human Development**
Understand how geography affects where and how people live, using examples like the Nile and Indus Valleys.
- **Governance & Civic Life**
Compare how societies governed themselves, from Chinese dynasties to Greek democracy and Roman law.
- **Social Structures & Identity**
Explore class systems, gender roles, and cultural traditions in societies like India and Medieval Europe.
- **Conflict & Connection**
Study war, trade, and diplomacy to see how ancient societies interacted, such as Roman expansion or Chinese empire-building.
- **Legacy & Historical Interpretation**
Analyze what past civilizations left behind and how history is remembered and interpreted today.
- **Inquiry, Evidence & Perspective**
Build research skills using sources to ask questions, make arguments, and understand multiple points of view.

Pre-Requisites:

6th Grade

SOCIAL SCIENCE

WORLD CIVILIZATIONS & CULTURES HONORS

SOC 1100

Course Length:

Year

Brief Course Overview:

This course offers a rigorous exploration of ancient civilizations, including the Maya, Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, Rome, and the Medieval period through the Renaissance. Students will analyze how geography, belief systems, governments, economies, and social structures shaped these societies and left a lasting influence on the modern world.

Emphasizing independent inquiry and critical analysis, students will engage deeply with primary and secondary sources, refine research and map skills, and construct well-supported arguments in writing. With a focus on evaluating diverse historical perspectives and recognizing patterns across cultures, students will make meaningful connections between the past and present. This course cultivates intellectual curiosity and global awareness and prepares students for future advanced studies in the humanities.

Skills/Units of Study:

- **Origins of Humanity & Society**
Study early humans, the development of tools, and how hunter-gatherers formed the first communities.
- **Development of Civilization**
Explore the rise of cities, writing, and government in early civilizations like Mesopotamia.
- **Power, Belief & Cultural Expression**
Examine how religion, leadership, and culture shaped societies like Ancient Egypt.
- **Innovation & Exchange**
Learn how inventions, trade, and ideas spread across civilizations like the Maya.
- **Geography & Human Development**
Understand how geography affects where and how people live, using examples like the Nile and Indus Valleys.
- **Governance & Civic Life**
Compare how societies governed themselves, from Chinese dynasties to Greek democracy and Roman law.
- **Social Structures & Identity**
Explore class systems, gender roles, and cultural traditions in societies like India and Medieval Europe.
- **Conflict & Connection**
Study war, trade, and diplomacy to see how ancient societies interacted, such as Roman expansion or Chinese empire-building.
- **Legacy & Historical Interpretation**
Analyze what past civilizations left behind and how history is remembered and interpreted today.
- **Inquiry, Evidence & Perspective**
Build research skills using sources to ask questions, make arguments, and understand multiple points of view.

Pre-Requisites:

6th Grade

Teacher Recommendation

EARLY U.S. HISTORY

SOC 2000, SOC 2005

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

This course traces the development of the United States from the American Revolution through the Cold War. Students explore key political, social, and economic events—examining how founding principles, westward expansion, the Civil War, industrialization, global conflicts, and civil rights shaped the nation.

Through primary and secondary sources, students build critical thinking and research skills, analyze diverse perspectives, and connect past events to present-day issues. Emphasis is placed on historical inquiry, interpretation, and understanding of the lasting impact of history on today's world.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Colonization & American Revolution
- Constitution & Bill of Rights
- Civil War & Reconstruction
- Industrialization & Global Conflict
- Civil Rights Movement & Cold War
- Historical Perspectives
- Primary & Secondary Source Analysis
- Research & Inquiry Skills

Pre-Requisites:

7th grade

SOCIAL SCIENCE

EARLY U.S. HISTORY HONORS

SOC 2100

Course Length:	Year
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Brief Course Overview:

This course challenges students to critically analyze the development of the United States from the American Revolution through the Cold War. Students examine the political, social, and economic forces that shaped the nation—from founding ideals and westward expansion to the Civil War, global conflicts, and civil rights movements.

Through independent inquiry and deeper engagement with primary and secondary sources, students evaluate historical perspectives, build advanced research skills, and craft well-supported arguments. With a strong emphasis on analytical writing and historical interpretation, this course prepares students for future honors and AP-level coursework in the social sciences.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Colonization & American Revolution
- Constitution & Bill of Rights
- Civil War & Reconstruction
- Industrialization & Global Conflict
- Civil Rights Movement & Cold War
- Historical Perspectives
- Primary & Secondary Source Analysis
- Research, Argumentation & Inquiry Skills

Pre-Requisites:

- 7th Grade
- Teacher recommendation

MODERN HISTORY & CIVICS

SOC 3000, SOC 3005

Course Length:	Year
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Brief Course Overview:

In this dynamic Civics course, students explore how government works—from neighborhood councils to national leadership—while discovering their own role in shaping civic life. Through real-world connections, discussions, and interactive learning, they examine the foundations of democracy, the Constitution, civic responsibilities, and how citizens influence change.

Students will move from local action to global awareness through three key lenses:

- *From Neighborhood to Nation: The Power of Local and State Civic Engagement*
- *From the Constitution to Citizen Action: Exploring National Government and Your Rights*
- *Global Connections: Understanding the World Beyond Borders*

With an emphasis on critical thinking, research, and civic dialogue, students will analyze current events, develop public speaking and leadership skills, and collaborate across subjects to deepen their understanding. By the end of the course, students will be prepared to participate meaningfully in civic life as informed, empowered global citizens.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Types of Governments & Economies
- Citizenship & Diversity
- Civic Engagement & Participation
- Local & State Policy Making
- The U.S. Constitution & Balance of Power
- Lawmaking & Political Systems
- Civil Rights & Constitutional Amendments
- Conflict, War & Global Perspectives
- Current Events & Civic Skill Building

Pre-Requisites:

8th Grade

SOCIAL SCIENCE

MODERN HISTORY & CIVICS HONORS

SOC 3100

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

This course challenges students to explore the structures and functions of government from the local to the national level through independent inquiry and critical analysis. With a focus on civic responsibility, students will engage deeply with primary and secondary sources, analyze policies, and participate in thoughtful discussions and debates about real-world issues.

The course emphasizes research, public speaking, and data-driven decision-making, encouraging students to evaluate laws and policies through historical, mathematical, and scientific lenses. Cross-curricular connections deepen their understanding of how government impacts diverse aspects of society—from civil rights and climate change to economic systems and public health.

Through the following thematic lenses, students will gain the tools and confidence to become informed, empowered, and engaged citizens:

- *From Neighborhood to Nation: The Power of Local and State Civic Engagement*
- *From the Constitution to Citizen Action: Exploring National Government and Your Rights*
- *Global Connections: Understanding the World Beyond Borders*

By year's end, students will be equipped to navigate complex political landscapes, advocate for change, and lead with purpose in civic life.

Skills/Units of Study:

- Types of Governments & Economies
- Citizenship & Diversity
- Civic Engagement & Participation
- Local & State Policy Making
- The U.S. Constitution & Balance of Power
- Lawmaking & Political Systems
- Civil Rights & Constitutional Amendments
- Conflict, War & Global Perspectives
- Current Events & Civic Skill Building

Pre-Requisites:

- 8th Grade
- Teacher recommendation

WORLD LANGUAGES

Department Overview:

Our Middle School World Languages and Cultures (WLC) program is designed to foster meaningful communication, cultural understanding, and global awareness through the study of language. Students develop interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational communication skills while exploring the diverse practices, products, and perspectives of world cultures.

The curriculum is structured around key strands that guide students to use language purposefully, think critically, and connect authentically with the world around them:

- **Interpersonal Communication:** Students interact and negotiate meaning in conversations to share information, reactions, feelings, and opinions.
- **Interpretive Communication:** Students understand, interpret, and analyze what is heard, read, or viewed on a variety of topics.
- **Presentational Communication:** Students present information, concepts, and ideas to inform, explain, persuade, and narrate using appropriate media and adjusting to their audience.
- **Cultural Practices and Perspectives:** Students explore the relationship between cultural practices and the perspectives that shape them.
- **Cultural Products and Perspectives:** Students examine how cultural products reflect and influence cultural perspectives.
- **Making Connections:** Students use the target language to build and expand their knowledge across disciplines, developing critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills.
- **Acquiring Information and Diverse Perspectives:** Students access, evaluate, and synthesize information and viewpoints from authentic sources.
- **Language Comparisons:** Students reflect on the nature of the language being studied in comparison with their own.
- **Cultural Comparisons:** Students investigate and reflect on cultural similarities and differences.
- **School and Global Communities:** Students apply their language skills in real-world contexts, participating in their communities and the globalized world.
- **Lifelong Learning:** Students set goals and reflect on their progress as they use language for enjoyment, enrichment, and personal growth.

The WLC curriculum is intentionally designed to build communication skills within these cultural and cognitive frameworks. Students engage in meaningful, real-world language experiences that encourage exploration of identity, connection, and global citizenship.

As students move through middle school, they encounter increasing depth, independence, and sophistication in their language learning. By the end of eighth grade, students are well-prepared for continued study in high school and empowered to engage confidently and empathetically in our interconnected world.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Spanish

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French

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WORLD LANGUAGES

SPANISH INTRO

Course Number: WLC 1000

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

Spanish Intro is designed to introduce Middle School students to the dynamics of a new language. The curriculum of Intro to Spanish enables students to improve proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach with an emphasis on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students will be exposed to culture using authentic materials. Successful completion of Intro to Spanish enables the student to move on to Spanish 1A. The Spanish 1A/1B series is equivalent to one year of high school Spanish I. The course is conducted primarily in Spanish.

Skills/Units of Study:

Foundational Spanish Topics:

- Alphabet, Calendar, Weather, and Seasons
- Greetings and Basic Conversation
- Classroom Objects & Body Parts
- Food & Telling Time

Grammar and Language Structures:

- Infinitive Verbs (-AR, -ER, -IR) & Gustar
- Ser and Estar
- Articles, Adjectives, & Sentence Structure

Pre-Requisites:

None

SPANISH 1A

Course Number: WLC 2000

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

Spanish 1A is designed to continue introducing Middle School students to the dynamics of a modern language. The curriculum of Spanish 1A enables students to improve proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach, with an emphasis on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students will read articles on culture and conduct Internet searches in the target language. Successful completion of Spanish 1A enables the student to move on to Spanish 1B. The course is conducted primarily in Spanish.

Skills/Units of Study:

Unit Themes & Language Concepts:

- **Going Places**
 - Vocabulary: Places
 - Verb *Ir*
 - Question Words
- **Making Plans**
 - Vocabulary: Sports & Conditions
 - Verbs: *Querer, Gustar, Poder*
 - Time Expressions & “Going to” Constructions
 - Verb *Jugar*
- **Celebrations & Family**
 - Vocabulary: Family & Birthdays
 - Verb *Tener*
 - Possessive Adjectives
- **Dining Out**
 - Vocabulary: Restaurants & Descriptions
 - Verbs: *Ser, Estar, Venir*
- **My Room**
 - Vocabulary: Bedroom Items
 - Comparatives & Superlatives
 - Verbs: *Poder, Dormir*

Pre-Requisites:

Successful completion of Spanish Intro

WORLD LANGUAGES

SPANISH 1B

Course Number: WLC 3000

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

Spanish 1B is designed to enable Middle School students to improve proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach, emphasizing developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Successful completion of Spanish 1B enables the student to move on to Spanish II. The Spanish 1A/1B series equals one year of high school Spanish I. The course is conducted primarily in Spanish.

Skills/Units of Study:

Unit Themes & Language Concepts:

- **Home & Chores**
 - Vocabulary: House & Chores
 - *Tú* Commands
 - Present Progressive
- **Shopping & Clothing**
 - Vocabulary: Clothing & Stores
 - *Botar* Verbs
 - Demonstrative Adjectives
- **Gifts & Celebrations**
 - Vocabulary: Shopping Locations
 - Direct Object Pronouns (DOPs)
 - *-AR* Preterite & Time Expressions
 - *CAR-GAR-ZAR* Verbs
- **Travel & Vacation**
 - Vocabulary: City & Transportation
 - *-ER/-IR* Preterite
 - Preterite of *Ir*
- **Community & Volunteering**
 - Vocabulary: Community Service & Places
 - Preterite of *Decir, Dar, Hacer*
 - Indirect Object Pronouns (IOPs)

Pre-Requisites:

Successful completion of Spanish 1A

SPANISH 1

Course Number: WLC 3020

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

The Spanish 1 for Middle School language course is a one-year introduction to the language of Spanish. All four language skills are emphasized. Students in Spanish 1 for MS will be able to create simple sentences in writing and orally. Students will read short, authentic texts in the target language. This course includes a significant cultural component in which students learn about the richness and variety of other countries and worlds within the scope of the target language. Students are required to perform a broad array of oral and written activities, individually and in small groups, to develop their language skills. Spanish 1 is taught in English and Spanish.

Skills/Units of Study:

Basics & Foundations

- Alphabet, Greetings, Calendar, Weather, Seasons
- Classroom Objects & Body Parts
- Sentence Structure & Articles
- Infinitive Verbs (-AR, -ER, -IR), Gustar
- Verbs *Ser* and *Estar*
- Adjectives, Telling Time, Food

Where Are You Going?

- Vocabulary: Places
- Verb *Ir*
- Question Words

Invitations & Activities

- Vocabulary: Sports & Conditions
- Verbs: *Querer, Gustar, Poder, Jugar*
- Time & Future Intentions (*Ir a + infinitive*)

Birthday Celebrations

- Vocabulary: Family & Party Terms
- Verb *Tener*
- Possessive Adjectives

Pre-Requisites:

Exploring Spanish, 8th Grade or Placement Test

WORLD LANGUAGES

EXPLORING SPANISH

Course Number: WLC 3010

Course Length: **Year**

Course overview

The class will expose students to the basics of Spanish language and culture through a dynamic communicative approach. The goal is to make the students feel comfortable and natural with the language immediately in a class where they will be able to practice the skills in a very authentic environment. This class will prepare them for the demands of the more advanced classes in middle school or to join the Spanish 1 high school class as a freshman.

Skills/Units of Study:

Personal & Social Concepts

- Emotions & Conditions
- Family, Nationalities, Professions
- Personal Questions, Greetings & Farewells

Grammar & Structure

- Verbs *Ser* and *Estar*
- Pronouns, Adjectives, Plurals
- Sentence Writing Basics

Everyday Vocabulary

- Places, Classroom Objects, Colors
- Weather & Seasons, Calendar
- Numbers (Cardinal & Ordinal), Alphabet

Pre-Requisites:

7th Grade

FRENCH INTRO

Course Number: WLC 1100

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

Exploring French for 6th graders introduces the French language and Francophone cultures. In the first unit, students research French-speaking countries, explore Paris, learn about French regions, and connect with Francophone penpals, fostering global awareness and open-mindedness. The second unit covers French basics, including the alphabet, accents, and phonetic rules, with activities like teaching the alphabet and encouraging students to be knowledgeable communicators. The third unit focuses on daily life and basic conversations, using role-playing and dialogues to practice common scenarios, promoting risk-taking and reflective thinking. The fourth unit covers family and friends, where students create family trees and play descriptive adjective games, enhancing their understanding and caring attributes. The final units of the course will include Chapters 1-4 of the “French is Fun” textbook, covering topics such as cognates, classroom vocabulary, counting, and telling time, ending with a final exam to assess their comprehensive learning.

Skills/Units of Study:

Language Basics

- French-English Similarities
- Definite & Indefinite Articles (le, la, un, une, des)
- Making Nouns Plural

Numbers & Time

- Counting (Un, deux, trois...)
- Telling Time (*Quelle heure est-il ?*)

School & Daily Life

- Classroom Vocabulary
- Common Actions & ER Verbs
- Asking Questions & Saying No

Family & Identity

- Family Vocabulary
- Possessive Adjectives (*ma, mon, mes*)
- Professions
- Verb *Être* (Je suis...)

Style & Description

- Adjectives
- Clothing Vocabulary

Pre-Requisites:

None

WORLD LANGUAGES

FRENCH 1A

Course Number: WLC 2100

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

French 1A is designed to introduce Middle School students to the dynamics of a new language. The curriculum of French 1A enables students to develop proficiency in French through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach with an emphasis on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Successful completion of French 1A enables the student to move on to French 1B. The French 1A/1B series is equivalent to one year of high school French I. The course is conducted primarily in French.

Skills/Units of Study:

Describing & Expressing

- Adjectives
- Clothing
- Body Parts
- Expressions with *avoir*

Dates & Weather

- Days & Months
- Dates (*Quelle est la date ?*)
- Weather & Seasons (*Quel temps fait-il ?*)
- Verb *faire*

Activities & Hobbies

- Sports Vocabulary (*On fait du sport !*)
- Music Vocabulary (*On joue de la musique*)
- Animals (*J'adore les animaux*)

Grammar & Verbs

- Verbs: *avoir, faire, aller*
- *IR* and *RE* Verbs
- Futur Proche
- Commands
- Inversion & Question Words

Town & Shopping

- Town Vocabulary (*On va en ville*)
- Shopping Vocabulary (*On va magasiner*)
- Prepositions (*de & à contractions*)

Pre-Requisites:

Successful completion of French Intro

FRENCH 1B

Course Number: WLC 3100

Course Length:

Year

Brief Course Overview:

French 1B is designed to enable students to improve proficiency in French through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach with an emphasis on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Successful completion of French 1B enables the student to move on to French II or French II Honors. The French 1A/1B series is equivalent to one year of high school French I. The course is conducted primarily in French.

Skills/Units of Study:

Home & Everyday Life

- House & Furniture Vocabulary (*Chez moi*)
- Locations & Prepositions
- Technology Vocabulary (*Je suis branché*)
- Demonstratives (*this, that, these, those*)

Food & Mealtimes

- Food Vocabulary (*J'ai faim, Faisons un pique-nique*)
- Partitive Articles
- Verbs: *vouloir, pouvoir, tout*

Global Connections

- Countries, Nationalities, Languages (*Le monde est petit*)

Getting Around

- Transportation & prendre (*Prenons un taxi !*)

Leisure & Travel

- Fun Activities (*Que faire ?*)
- Verbs: *voir, recevoir*
- Stress Pronouns
- *Passé Composé*
- Vacation Vocabulary (*Enfin les vacances !*)

Pre-Requisites:

Successful Completion of 1A or Placement Test

WORLD LANGUAGES

EXPLORING FRENCH

Course Number: WLC 3110

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

The class will expose students to the basics of the French language and Francophone culture through a dynamic communicative approach. Students will research French-speaking countries, explore Paris, learn about French regions, and connect with Francophone penpals, fostering global awareness and open-mindedness. French basics such as the alphabet, accents, and phonetic rules will encourage students to be knowledgeable communicators. The goal is to make the students feel comfortable and natural with the language in a class where they are practicing authentically. The class will prepare students for French 1 class.

Skills/Units of Study:

Foundations

- **Je parle français !** – Cognates, articles, plurals
- **Basics** – Alphabet, accents, phonics, key vocab
- **Allons en classe !** – Classroom items, “a/some”
- **Paris Unit** – Monuments, *Un Chat à Paris*, arrondissement project
- **Un, deux, trois... / Quelle heure est-il ?** – Numbers & time
- **Penpal Exchange** – Yearlong letter writing
- **Mes activités** – ER verbs, actions, questions, negation

People & Culture

- **Ma famille** – Family vocab, possessives, family tree
- **Francophone Cultures** – DOM-TOM, country projects
- **Au travail !** – Professions, *être*
- **Film Study** – *Le Petit Prince*
- **Je suis chic !** – Adjectives, clothing
- **Qu’est-ce que tu as ?** – Body parts, *avoir*, expressions
- **Dates & Weather** – Days, months, seasons, *faire*, weather project

Expression

- **Manie Musicale** – Francophone music bracket
- **On fait du sport !** – IR verbs, questions, sports
- **On joue de la musique** – Music vocab, RE verbs
- **Les animaux** – Commands, animals, project
- **Film Study** – *Avril et le monde truqué*

Pre-Requisites:

7th

WORLD LANGUAGES

FRENCH 1

Course Number: WLC 3120

Course Length: **Year**

Brief Course Overview:

This is a one-year introductory language course. Language skills emphasized are reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will be able to create simple sentences, both orally and in writing. Students will read short, authentic texts in the target language. All courses include a significant cultural component. This course is taught primarily in the target language. Questions that will guide this course will include: How do I properly structure statements and questions in the target language? How do I express likes and dislikes? How do I describe myself and others? Students will leave French 1 with an understanding of French pronunciation, study French and francophone culture, and study all chapters in the Bien Dit 1 textbook.

Main Topics of Study:

-SALUT LES COPAINS!

- Greetings & Basic Pronunciation
- Alphabet and accent review
- Numbers 1-100
- Classroom objects and expressions
- Avoir and être verbs

-QU'EST-CE QUI TE PLAÎT ?

- Likes and Dislikes
- ER Verbs
- Les arrondissements de Paris
- Faire

-LE PROVINCE DE QUÉBEC

- What is the francophone world?
- Quebec City
- IR and RE Verbs

-COMMENT EST TA FAMILLE ?

- Family, Friends and Pets
- Possessive adjectives
- Adjective agreement
- Aller

-LE TEMPS LIBRE

- Sports and activities
- Places in town
- Intro to futur proche and passé récent
- Weather report videos
- Preferences project

-BON APPETIT

- Foods and drinks
- Irregular verbs boire, vouloir
- My Foods Project

-ON FAIT LES MAGASINS?

- Clothing and accessories
- Demonstrative and interrogative adjectives
- Mettre
- Passé composé introduction
- Project on francophone countries
- Watch film Binta and the Great Idea

-À LA MAISON

- Irregular verbs: pouvoir, devoir, dormir, sortir, partir
- Chores
- House and furniture
- Dream House Project
- Passé composé with être

-ALLONS EN VILLE

- Irregular verbs: voir, savoir, connaître
- Places in the city
- Partitive and imperative
- Transportation

-ENFIN LES VACANCES

- Travel items
- Idioms with faire
- Train station and airport
- Petit Nicolas en Vacances film

Pre-Requisites:

8th grade



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