

Middle School Curriculum Guide

ABOUT OUR CURRICULUM

Our program centers on high standards of achievement which are engaging and challenging to all learners. Quality teaching and learning of academic and behavioral goals exist for each student in a caring, friendly, environment.

This guide will answer frequently asked questions about the **Middle School Program**. For greater detail, please contact your child's teacher or principal.

What programs are available for students at the Middle School?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts 6

- ✍ Students will complete narrative writings in multi-genres including adventure, fantasy, folktale, personal narrative, and historical fiction.
- ✍ Students will develop writing skills through completion of multi-paragraph informational writings including compare and contrast, personal and persuasive essays.
- ✍ Students will learn research strategies including computer literacy.
- ✍ Students will improve informational reading skills by studying readings such as essays, how-to-articles, and research reports.
- ✍ Students will improve narrative reading skills by analyzing story elements of action, adventure, fantasy, oral tradition, and historical fiction.

Language Arts 7

- ✍ Students will analyze plot elements in narrative readings in the genres of drama, legend, memoir, mystery, myth, and poetry.
- ✍ Students will develop writing skills by completing narrative writings in drama, legend, memoir, mystery, myth, and poetry.
- ✍ Students will use a variety of resources to locate information for completion of a research project with a thesis statement.
- ✍ Students will use a variety of nonfiction texts to improve informational reading skills by studying autobiographies, biographies, brochures, personal correspondence, persuasive essays, and research reports.



Language Arts 8

- ✍ Students will analyze narrative works in the categories of historical, realistic, poetry, and science fiction.
- ✍ Students will improve reading and comprehension skills of nonfiction texts by studying comparative essays, newspaper writing, persuasive essays, and technical writings of various authors.
- ✍ Students will improve on narrative writing skills by composing works in the genres of historical fiction, poetry, realistic fiction, and science fiction.
- ✍ Students will write for a specific purpose using a variety of techniques to create informational works – biographies, historical expository pieces, journals, and simulated memoir.
- ✍ Students will use a variety of prewriting, organization, drafting, and resource gathering skills to complete a research project.

ENGLISH PLUS

English Plus 6th/7th/8th Grades

English Plus is an extension of the core English class in order to provide an additional 60 minutes of language arts instruction for 12 weeks during the school year. Students continue to work on the same skills as in their core English class.

READING PLUS

Reading Plus 6th/7th/8th Grades

Reading Plus is a 12 week course that provided extensive assistance to students who are struggling with reading. Students are taught reading strategies appropriate to the middle level to improve their reading skills. Students are pre and post-tested to monitor students' success.

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MATH Units of Instruction

Math 6

- 📖 Integers, decimals, and fractions
 - √Add, subtract, multiply, and divide
 - √Relationships between fractions, decimals, and percentages
- 📖 Geometry and Measurement
 - √Find areas of geometric shapes using formulas
 - √Understand congruent and basic transformations
 - √Plot points on a coordinate plane
 - √Measure area, volume, and length in standard and metric units
 - √Know and convert within measurement units in a given system
- 📖 Percents and Ratios
 - √Add, subtract, multiply, and divide
 - √Relationships between fractions, decimals, and percentages
- 📖 Graphing and Probability
- 📖 Algebra

Math 7

- 📖 Numbers & Operations
 - √Add, subtract, multiply, and divide integers and rational numbers
 - √Order of operations
 - √Proportions
 - √Unit Analysis
 - √Weighed averages

Math 7 (continued)

- 📖 Geometry
 - √Characteristics of shapes
 - √Similar figures
 - √Scale factor
- 📖 Data Analysis and Statistics
 - √Read and construct various types of graphs and extrapolate the graphs
- 📖 Algebra
 - √Linear and nonlinear relationships
 - √Slope
 - √Solving multiple step equations with variables on both sides
 - √Properties of numbers

Advanced Math

This is an accelerated course that covers materials in 7th and 8th grade in preparation for Algebra in 8th grade.

Math 8

- 📖 Numbers and Operations
 - √Rational and irrational numbers
 - √Square roots, cube roots, and negative powers
 - √Multiple discounts
 - √Percent increase, percent decrease, and sales tax
 - √Simple and compound interest

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Math 8 (continued)

Geometry

- √The Pythagorean Theorem
- √Circumference and area of circles
- √Perimeter and area of two dimensional shapes
- √Apply formulas to solve problems
- √Dilations, translations, reflections, and rotations on the coordinate plane

Data Analysis and Statistics

- √Determine which type of statistic best represents a set of data
- √Recognize bias data
- √ Dependent and independent events
- √ Tree diagrams using the basic counting principle
- √Calculate theoretical and experimental probabilities and relative frequencies

Algebra

- √Identify and represent quadratic, cubic, square root, cube root, and exponential functions
- √Recognize and represent basic functions using tables, graphs, and formulas
- √Systems of equations
- √Linear inequalities
- √Multiply binomials
- √Factor and solve quadratics

Advanced 8th Grade Math Algebra

This is an accelerated 8th grade class that parallels the high school course. Students earn a high school credit for work that is passing. This GPA will be incorporated into the high school GPA once they begin their freshmen year.

SCIENCE

Science 6

- ⊗ Study of cells
- ⊗ Weather and atmosphere
- ⊗ Sound and light
- ⊗ Solar System
- ⊗ Electricity
- ⊗ Ecosystem
- ⊗ Careers



Science 7

- ⊗ Forces and Motion, Gravity, Friction, Speed, Velocity, Acceleration, Projectile Motion
- ⊗ Newton's Laws of Motion, Universal Law of Gravitation
- ⊗ Energy Transformations, Potential and Kinetic Energy, Types of Energy
- ⊗ Work and Energy
- ⊗ Temperature, Heat and Thermal Energy, (Conduction, Convection, Radiation)
- ⊗ Chemistry, Properties of Matter, Physical and Chemical Changes, Changes of State, Elements, Compounds, Mixtures, The Periodic Table, Atomic Structure, Atomic Theory
- ⊗ Heredity, Genetics, Traits, Basic Plants and Plant Structure

Science 8

- ⊗ "What is Science?"
 - ⌘ Scientific Method
 - ⌘ Science process skills
- ⊗ Cells
- ⊗ Evolution
- ⊗ Bacteria and Viruses/Human Disease
- ⊗ Earth Science
- ⊗ Hydrosphere/Water Cycle

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SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 6

- ☐ Western Hemisphere
 - 🌐 Mexico, Central America, Canada, South America, and the Caribbean
- ☐ Geography
 - 🌐 Landforms such as rivers, lakes, mountains, oceans
 - 🌐 Equator, Prime Meridian, latitude, and longitude
- ☐ Economics
 - 🌐 Management of Natural Resources



Social Studies 7

- ☐ Eastern Hemisphere
 - 🌐 Europe, Middle East, and Asia
 - 🌐 Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands
- ☐ Geography
 - 🌐 Economics, History, and Cultures of countries, and Natural Resources

Social Studies 8

- ☐ American History from Colonization, Establishing a Nation, Westward Expansion, and the Civil War and Reconstruction
 - 🌐 Government Formation – establishment of rule by the people
 - Civics and Economics
 - 🌐 Important Documents and their purpose
 - Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Amendments, Monroe Doctrine, and Articles of Confederation

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education 6

- ✔ Promotes lifelong wellness
- ✔ Combine sports skills
- ✔ Lead up games
- ✔ President's Physical Fitness Challenge
- ✔ Hoops for Heart community project
- ✔ Develop muscle strength, muscle endurance, flexibility, and cardiovascular endurance
- ✔ Personal best and sportsmanship
- ✔ Project Adventure – Ropes Course
- ✔ Cross-country skiing



Physical Education 7 & 8

- ✔ Promotes lifelong wellness
- ✔ President's Physical Fitness Challenge
- ✔ Develop muscle strength, muscle endurance, flexibility, and cardiovascular endurance
- ✔ Combine sports skills, rules, and strategies in game situation
- ✔ Individual and Team Sports
- ✔ Recreational Games
- ✔ Lifetime Sports
- ✔ Hoops for Heart community project
- ✔ Personal best and sportsmanship

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ART

Art 5 & 6

- ▣ Basic introductory studies in drawing, painting, and mixed media
- ▣ Clay projects focus on the pinch hand-building technique.
- ▣ Art 6 – also includes ceramics and clay coil hand technique

Art 7

- ▣ Intermediate studies in drawing, painting, mixed media, and ceramics
- ▣ Two dimensional projects focus on using artistic skills/techniques to develop creative problem solving skills and realism.
- ▣ Clay projects focus on the slab hand-building techniques.

Art 8

- ▣ Advanced study in drawing, painting, mixed media, and ceramics.
- ▣ Two dimensional projects build on skills/techniques learned at previous grade levels. Additional focus is placed on the development of creative self-expression and using art as a tool of communication.
- ▣ Clay projects focus on a combination of the pinch, coil, and slab hand-building techniques.

COMPUTERS

Computers 6, 7, & 8

- ▣ Computer usage basics
- ▣ Keyboarding skills
- ▣ Power point presentations
- ▣ Multimedia presentations
- ▣ Microsoft Office products

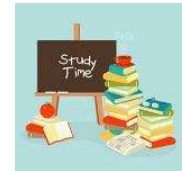
Each year in computers students extend on skills learned at the previous grade level.

TITLE I SERVICES

- ☺ Assist students in being successful in school
- ☺ Working with students in the classroom
- ☺ Offering additional time for students to work on assignments
- ☺ Read with students in small groups or one-on-one
- ☺ Mentor students
- ☺ Lunch time tutoring for all grades

TITLE I EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

- ☺ Before school tutoring 7:30-8:00AM
- ☺ After school tutoring 3:15-4:15PM



MUSIC

Band 6, 7, & 8

- ♪ Warm up routines that teach breathing techniques, and correct notes
- ♪ Key signatures
- ♪ Rhythm, counting, and sight reading
- ♪ Articulation, posture, and embouchure

- ♪ Teamwork with large group collaboration
- ♪ Concerts and Solo & Ensemble opportunities



Choir 7 & 8

- ♪ Development of singing voice
- ♪ Performance of music literature
- ♪ Music reading skills