ARMADA
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Course Handbook

All of the listed courses can also be taken virtually, on-line, or in a blended capacity.

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Earning High School Credit in Middle School

Middle school students can earn a high school credit by passing Spanish and Algebra I courses taught at the middle school. The middle school courses are taught by high school certified teachers and the curriculum is identical. Students can, therefore, earn their high school credit at the middle school by satisfying the same requirements as a student taking these courses at the high school. Students will earn a CR (credit) for courses that they pass. This CR (credit) will appear on students' high school transcripts. Please consult the course syllabi or speak with the teacher and/or counselor should you have any questions.

6th Grade
Core Course Descriptions

Language Arts (Grade 6)

Language Arts courses build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. These courses may emphasize the use of language for different effects, in different contexts, and for different purposes. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 6.

Academy Mathematics (Grade 6)

Academy Mathematics is a challenging academic course that provides students with learning experiences that go into deeper and more complex analysis of course curriculum. Mathematics courses typically emphasize skills in numerical operations (including basic operations and their proper order); measurement; patterns; simple functions; geometry; and concepts of data analysis, including statistics and probability. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 6.

Mathematics (Grade 6)

Mathematics courses typically emphasize skills in numerical operations (including basic operations and their proper order); measurement; patterns; simple functions; geometry; and concepts of data analysis, including statistics and probability. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 6.

Academy Science (Grade 6)

Academy Science is a challenging academic course that provides students with learning experiences that go into deeper and more complex analysis of course curriculum. Science courses typically include subject matter from several strands of science, including earth/space sciences, physical sciences, and life or environmental sciences, and may organize material around thematic units. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 6.

Science (Grade 6)

Science courses typically include subject matter from several strands of science, including earth/space sciences, physical sciences, and life or environmental sciences, and may organize material around thematic units. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 6.

Social Studies (Grade 6)

Social Studies courses provide a greater understanding of social studies disciplines, including history, geography, civics and government, and economics. These courses often focus on the history, culture, and government of various specific world societies. Typically, students develop skills used in the social studies disciplines. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 6.

6th Grade
Elective Course Descriptions

Beginning Choir

This course is designed for first year Choir students and focuses on proper vocal technique, basic music theory, and how to read a choral score. Students will begin to learn the basics of sight reading and singing. Students also explore musical literature from a variety of genres and will perform live at selected concerts.

Band

This is a beginning instrumental music course. Students will learn to play one of six band instruments (flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, trombone, percussion). The class is taught from the very first notes, assuming that the students have never played the instrument. They will rehearse and perform for two concerts.

Orchestra

6th grade Orchestra is designed for students with at least one full year of orchestra experience. Some exceptions to this requirement could be made with teacher's permission. This class is designed for the serious music students who wants to learn the fundamentals of playing an instrument and is interested in developing good musicianship skills. Practice at home and attendance at concerts are required.

Physical Education

Students will participate in a variety of sports and fitness activities. Strength (weight room), cardiovascular endurance and speed (track), flexibility and coordination (calisthenics and fitness testing) will be explored. Also, students will learn how to play as part of a team while competing in sports like basketball, flag football, softball, soccer, volleyball, etc. Some leisure sports will be explored as well, including badminton, tennis, and golf.

STEM

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. Stem curriculum blends those subjects in order to teach the skills and tools students need to have if they wish to succeed in the workplace of the "future". Students need to be able to solve problems, find and use evidence, collaborate on projects, and think critically.

Some projects that have been done in the past are building a catapult, hydraulic lifts, earthquake proof buildings, 3D printing, crime scene investigation and many more.

Social Science

This course is designed to help students build proficiencies necessary to succeed in life and work. Students will work through the following skills throughout this course: social & communication skills, career readiness skills, job/vocational skills, cooking, accounting, money skills, science skills, and social studies skills.

Math Enhancement 6

Math Enhancement is a course focusing on building students' math skills in their current grade level curriculum. The course is designed to build student confidence in mathematics by focusing on students' mindsets, building in productive struggle, focusing on numeracy skills and building positive relationships.

Reading Enhancement

Reading Enhancement is a course focused on academic literacy designed to bring students to grade level quickly. The curriculum focuses on critical thinking with expository text to help students access content from texts. It emphasizes daily small group instruction that meets students where they are and accelerates their reading through instruction built around: Text-Based Inferencing Text Structure Analysis Critical Thinking Text-Talk Questioning the Author Diagnostic Assessment.

7th Grade
Core Course Descriptions

Language Arts (Grade 7)

Language Arts courses build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Beyond emphasizing different uses for language, these courses may also include using language (particularly written text) to construct meaning and connections. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 7.

Honors Language Arts (Grade 7)

Honors Language Arts is a challenging academic course that provides students with learning experiences that go into deeper and more complex analysis of course curriculum. Students will engage in critical thinking, and in depth inquiry to participate in group discussions led by teachers and peers. All course work is built upon language usage, reading, writing, speaking and listening but is modified by depth, complexity, and acceleration.

Academy Mathematics (Grade 7)

Academy Mathematics is a challenging academic course that provides students with learning experiences that go into deeper and more complex analysis of course curriculum. Mathematics courses typically emphasize proficiency in skills involving number and operations; measurement; patterns; functions; algebraic formulas; geometry; and concepts of data analysis, including statistics and probability. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 7.

Mathematics (Grade 7)

Mathematics courses typically emphasize proficiency in skills involving number and operations; measurement; patters; functions; algebraic formulas; geometry; and concepts of data analysis, including statistics and probability. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 7.

Academy Science (Grade 7)

Academy Science is a challenging academic course that provides students with learning experiences that go into deeper and more complex analysis of course curriculum. Science courses build on previous years of scientific inquiry and typically include subject matter from several strands of science, including earth sciences, physical sciences, and life or environmental sciences, and may organize material around thematic units. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 7.

Science (Grade 7)

Science courses build on previous years of scientific inquiry and typically include subject matter from several strands of science, including earth sciences, physical sciences, and life or environmental sciences, and may organize material around thematic units. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 7.

Social Studies (Grade 7)

Social Studies courses provide continued development of understanding and skills in the social studies disciplines: history, geography, civics and government, and economics. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 7.

7th Grade
Elective Course Descriptions

Physical Education

Students will participate in a variety of sports and fitness activities. Strength (weight room), cardiovascular endurance and speed (track), flexibility and coordination (calisthenics and fitness testing) will be explored. Also, students will learn how to play as part of a team while competing in sports like basketball, flag football, softball, soccer, volleyball, etc. Some leisure sports will be explored as well, including badminton, tennis, and golf. If you have taken PE as a 7th grade student, you may still request the class again as an 8th grade student.

Beginning Choir

This course is designed for first year Choir students and focuses on proper vocal technique, basic music theory, and how to read a choral score. Students will begin to learn the basics of sight reading and singing. Students also explore musical literature from a variety of genres and will perform live at selected concerts.

Choir

The Choir course focuses on proper vocal technique and basic music theory. Students will develop the ability to sight read and sight sing. Students also explore musical literature from a variety of genres and will perform live at selected concerts. If you have taken Choir as a 6th or 7th grade student, you may still request the class again as an 8th grade student.

Band

Concert Band is designed for 7th and 8th grade students with at least one full year of band experience (some exceptions made with teacher's permission). This class is designed for the serious music student who wants to learn the fundamentals of playing an instrument and interested in developing good musicianship skills. Practice at home and attendance at concerts are required. If you have taken Band as a 6th or 7th grade student, you may still request the class again as an 8th grade student.

Orchestra

String Orchestra is designed for 7th and 8th grade students with at least two-three full years of orchestra experience (some exceptions made with teacher's permission). This class is designed for the serious music student who wants to further develop the skill of playing a string instrument and interested in gaining a deeper knowledge of musical concepts. Practice at home and attendance at concerts are required. If you have taken Orchestra as a 6th or 7th grade student, you may still request the class again as an 8th grade student.

Art

Art students will be introduced to a variety of media (drawing, painting, sculpting, collage, etc.) and basic concepts, elements, and strategies for creating works of art. Topics such as color, line, texture, shapes, balance, repetition, contrast, pattern, etc. will be explored. The main goal of this course is for students to have fun while experiencing many different aspects of art. If you have taken Art as a 7th grade student, you may still request the class again as an 8th grade student.

Spanish I

The Spanish I course focuses on the acquisition of a basic vocabulary and elementary language structures. Students will develop the ability to listen to, understand, speak, read, and write the Spanish language in simple form. The customs and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries will be explored. Usages of the language at this level will focus on basic information of day to day life. Topics of study include: greeting and describing people, discussing school, foods and restaurants, shopping, family, and sporting events. Verbs in the present tense are the major grammatical concept and equip the students to talk about what happens in the here and now. Culture will be introduced through the use of authentic media including song, food, video, etc. Students will have the opportunity to earn high school credit for this course.

DMAT

The Digital Media Arts and Technology (DMAT) course will empower students to use technology to create a wide range of visual and audio products. Units include live studio television broadcasting, digital video production, journalism, graphic design and desktop publishing. Students will acquire the skills and learn to effectively use the equipment and software necessary for careers in any media or communications field. If you have taken DMAT as a 7th grade student, you may still request the class again as an 8th grade student with permission from your current DMAT instructor.

MCE

The Medical Careers Exploration course will allow students to examine a wide variety of areas in the medical field. Students will explore Dentistry, Physician and Nursing Careers and Services, Veterinary Medicine, Surgical Services, Physical and Occupational Therapy, and Health Information Technology. Students will learn basic anatomy associated with each occupation and the educational requirements for different levels throughout the profession. Students will acquire basic health care skills related to infection control, confidentiality, vital signs, and hands only CPR. Students will also have an opportunity to examine a health career of their choosing in depth and begin to plan their education for their future! If you have taken MCE as a 7th grade student, you may not request the class again as an 8th grade student.

Introduction to Dance

This introductory course will emphasize the general technique of the following styles of dance: jazz, tap, ballet, hip-hop and musical theater. Students will also be instructed in the academic qualities of dance, including terminology, history, music and performance. This course is an opportunity for the students to not only develop basic dance technique, but improve upon their physical fitness. Introduction to Dance is highly suggested for any student interested in dance, but does not have prior experience. Students will be expected to participate in dance department productions. If you have taken Introduction to Dance as a 7th grade student, you may not request the class again as an 8th grade student.

Introduction to Theatre Arts

This course is designed to emphasize communication by means of dramatic performance. Analysis of play structure and composition, as well as focus on the student's own voice and body, enables students to recognize their own abilities as performers. Additional activities include extensive reading of dramatic literature, critical listening, study of dramatic production, and theatre history. If you have taken Introduction to Theatre Arts as a 7th grade student, you may still request the class again as an 8th grade student.

Introduction to Renewable Energy

Introduction to Renewable Energy I is a hands-on course introducing students to alternative energy resources. Students will learn about real life problems, technology, and careers using research, experiments, and real life experience. The course will cover the following topics: Wind Energy, Solar Energy, Basic Electricity, Fuel Cells, Bio Fuels, and Geothermal Energy. Students will learn how these renewable energy systems work as well as the pros and cons to using them.

Introduction to Culinary Arts

The program is designed to help students who have an interest in pursuing a career in food service gain an understanding of the industry through education as well as direct exposure. In the kitchen, students create their own food products from scratch. Culinary Arts prepares students for jobs as personal chefs, catering operations, line chefs, bakers, servers, and managers. The course is designed to teach students all the fundamentals needed to work and succeed in any area of the food service operation such as restaurants, catering, kitchen, or industrial kitchen. Students may also take the fundamental skills they have learned onto culinary school for more advanced instruction.

Introduction to Computers

Computer Science Discoveries is an introductory computer science course for 6 - 10th grade students. Mapped to CSTA standards, the course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, animations, games, and physical computing systems.

STEM II

STEM II will place an emphasis on experimental design and the communication of scientific findings. Students will learn how to conduct background research on a problem, develop research proposals, design experiments, collect data, analyze their results, and communicate their findings through writing and presentations. This course will help students learn how to apply the scientific method, improve reading, problem solve, and improve their communication skills.

Social Science

This course is designed to help students build proficiencies necessary to succeed in life and work. Students will work through the following skills throughout this course: social & communication skills, career readiness skills, job/vocational skills, cooking, accounting, money skills, science skills, and social studies skills.

Foundations of America

Foundations of America provides each student the knowledge and skills to comprehend and translate the past, present and future from the foundation of the rights & responsibilities of citizenship laid out in our Constitution and apply that to personal relevance. Each student will be equipped with a strong sense of both skill and content mastery in the foundation of the many benefits, rights, and privileges that are provided to American citizens and will analyze how citizens work as, with, and in conjunction with the government to ensure our constitutional rights.

Math Enhancement 7

Math Enhancement is a course focusing on building students' math skills in their current grade level curriculum. The course is designed to build student confidence in mathematics by focusing on students' mindsets, building in productive struggle, focusing on numeracy skills and building positive relationships.

Reading Enhancement

Reading Enhancement is a course focused on academic literacy designed to bring students to grade level quickly. The curriculum focuses on critical thinking with expository text to help students access content from texts. It emphasizes daily small group instruction that meets students where they are and accelerates their reading through instruction built around: Text-Based Inferencing Text Structure Analysis Critical Thinking Text-Talk Questioning the Author Diagnostic Assessment.

8th Grade
Core Course Descriptions

Language Arts (Grade 8)

Language Arts courses build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage and the mechanics of writing, and include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Typically, these courses use various genres of literature to improve reading skills, and they link writing exercises for different purposes to those reading selections. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 8.

Honors Language Arts (Grade 8)

Honors Language Arts is a challenging academic course that provides students with learning experiences that go into deeper and more complex analysis of course curriculum. Students will engage in critical thinking, and in depth inquiry to participate in group discussions led by teachers and peers. All course work is built upon language usage, reading, writing, speaking and listening but is modified by depth, complexity, and acceleration.

Algebra I (Grade 8)

Algebra I aims to deepen and extend student understanding built in previous courses by focusing on developing fluency with solving linear equations and inequalities and systems; extending these skills to solving quadratic and exponential functions; exploring functions, including sequences, graphically, numerically, symbolically, and verbally; and using regression techniques to analyze the fit of models to distributions of data.

Mathematics (Grade 8)

Mathematics courses typically emphasize proficiency in skills involving numbers and operations, measurement, patterns, simple functions, algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 8.

Academy Science (Grade 8)

Academy Science is a challenging academic course that provides students with learning experiences that go into deeper and more complex analysis of course curriculum. Science courses typically include subject matter from several strands of science, including earth sciences, physical sciences, and life or environmental sciences, and may organize material around thematic units. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 8.

Science (Grade 8)

Science courses typically include subject matter from several strands of science, including earth sciences, physical sciences, and life or environmental sciences, and may organize material around thematic units. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 8.

Social Studies (Grade 8)

Social Studies courses provide continued development of understanding and skills in the social studies disciplines: history, geography, civics and government, and economics. Typically, these courses focus on single disciplines at a time (e.g., state-specific history and government, U.S. history, world history, or civics) to develop discipline-related skills. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 8.

8th Grade
Elective Course Descriptions

Physical Education

Students will participate in a variety of sports and fitness activities. Strength (weight room), cardiovascular endurance and speed (track), flexibility and coordination (calisthenics and fitness testing) will be explored. Also, students will learn how to play as part of a team while competing in sports like basketball, flag football, softball, soccer, volleyball, etc. Some leisure sports will be explored as well, including badminton, tennis, and golf. If you have taken PE as a 7th grade student, you may still request the class again as an 8th grade student.

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Spanish II

The Spanish II course is a continuation of Spanish I, aimed at increasing knowledge of the language and culture, and improving all communication skills. Emphasis will be placed on acquiring more complex language structures and on building vocabulary. As mentioned above, students will be introduced to several new grammatical concepts which will give them the power to use the language in a more powerful and expressive way. Students will learn to use the past tense, present progressive (the "I am doing..." tense in English), and talk about their daily routine. Students will learn vocabulary related to traveling by plane and train, taking vacations, taking care of themselves, leisure activities, and foods/restaurant. Students will have the opportunity to earn high school credit for this course. Prerequisite: Successfully earned credit for Spanish I.

DMAT

The Digital Media Arts and Technology (DMAT) course will empower students to use technology to create a wide range of visual and audio products. Units include live studio television broadcasting, digital video production, journalism, graphic design and desktop publishing. Students will acquire the skills and learn to effectively use the equipment and software necessary for careers in any media or communications field. If you have taken DMAT as a 7th grade student, you may still request the class again as an 8th grade student with permission from your current DMAT instructor.

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