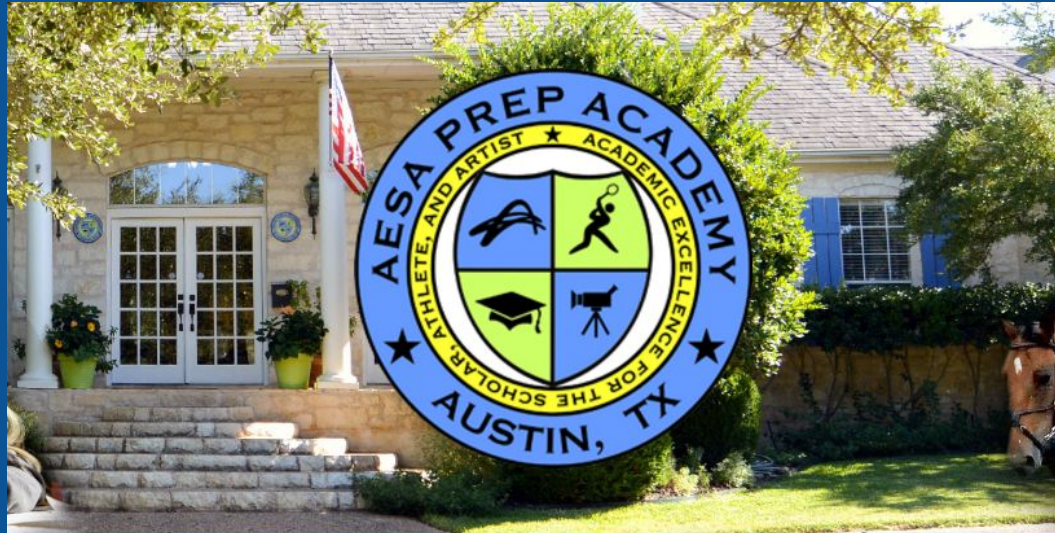


# AESA PREP ACADEMY

The Future of Education



Academic Excellence for the Scholar,  
Athlete and Artist



# Course Description Catalog

## Grades 6-8 and 9-12 2017 - 2018

AESA Prep Academy is a 4th-12th grade college preparatory school in Austin, TX offering both flexible and traditional schedules to accommodate the unique needs of our individual students. Accredited by SACS and NCAA approved, AESA provides students the support they need to fulfill their dreams while achieving academic excellence.

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# Alignment with National Standards

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**Mathematics:** Our mathematics curriculum satisfies the National Principles and Standards for Mathematics, developed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

**Science:** Our science curriculum satisfies the Next Generation Science Standards, developed by the National Science Teachers Association.

**English:** Our english curriculum satisfies the Standards for the English Language Arts, developed by the National Council of Teachers of English.

**Social Studies:** Our social studies curriculum satisfies the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies, developed by the National Council for the Social Studies.

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# High School Core Academics - Mathematics

## ALGEBRA 1 (1 credit)

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This one-year college preparatory course will help students to view algebra not only as a theoretical tool for analyzing and describing mathematical relationships, but they will also experience the power of algebraic thinking in a context of applications by studying the mathematical modeling of real world problems.

In the first semester of Algebra I, students are introduced to functions, using tables and graphs, multiple representations of functions, exploring linear functions, rate of change, the parent function, writing rules, connecting functions to equations and inequalities, using commutative, associative, and distributive properties to simplify expressions, solving simple equations with manipulatives and symbols, solving equations of the Form  $kx + c = b$  and  $kx + c = mx + b$ , looking closer at inequalities and comparing notations and methods.

The second semester of Algebra I introduces students to systems of linear equation, solving systems using graphs and tables, solving systems by symbolic methods, area and perimeter functions, the parent function multiplied by a constant, adding and subtracting a constant, multiple changes to the parent function, binomial operations, modeling with quadratic functions, solving quadratic equations, graphs of exponential functions, and modeling inverse variation data.

Algebra 1 is designed for 9th grade students but occasionally 7th and 8th grade students are prepared for this level of math course.

Textbook: Larson Algebra 1, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-64713-5

## GEOMETRY (1 credit)

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This is a one-year college preparatory Geometry course for the accelerated mathematics student. The course content will include a rigorous in-depth study of geometric concepts from an algebraic perspective. Included in this course is a study of both two and three dimensional shapes, congruence, similarity, transformations and the relationships between geometric shapes.

The first semester of Geometry introduces students to points, lines and planes, segments and distances, angles and angle measures, patterns, perpendicular bisectors and angle bisectors, points of concurrency in triangles, conditional statements, geometric systems, isometrics, parallel lines, slopes of lines, composite transfer, triangle properties, isosceles and equilateral triangles, proving triangles congruent, and constructing perpendiculars and parallels.

The second semester of Geometry covers similar polygons, right triangles, the Pythagorean Theorem, special right triangles, right triangle trigonometry, properties of quadrilaterals, properties of parallelograms, proving quadrilaterals and parallelograms, properties of special parallelograms, trapezoids and kites, circles in the coordinate plane, properties of tangents, areas of plane figures, circles: circumference and arc length, circles, areas, sectors and segments, representing 3-D figures, prisms and cylinders in the real world, pyramids and cones in the real world, sphere and plane sections, surface area of cylinders and prisms, surface area of pyramids and cones, volumes of cylinders, prisms, pyramids and cones, coordinates and dimensional change, and three-dimensional coordinates.

If a student expects to study Calculus as a 12th grader, this course should be taken in the 9th grade, with Algebra 1 taken in the 8th grade.

Textbook: Larson Geometry, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-64714-2

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Algebra 1.

## ALGEBRA 2 (1 credit)

---

This is a one-year college preparatory course that will help students view algebra not only as a theoretical tool for analyzing and describing mathematical relationships, they will also experience the power of algebraic thinking in the context of application by studying the mathematical modeling of real world problems.

Algebra 2 is usually the third math course that is taken in High School, with Geometry in between, and builds upon the information and skills students have acquired in Algebra 1 and aspects of Geometry. This course will focus on the concepts of functions and relations with emphasis on linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, radical, and rational functions.

Algebraic concepts are used in a variety of real-world situations than can be modeled mathematically. The students will learn about rational functions and their properties, investigate the effects of horizontal and vertical translations, solve rational equations and inequalities by graphing and by solving algebraically, compare direct and indirect relations, define the General Exponential Function using Carbon-14 dating, population and other models, discover the number  $e$ , use continuous compound interest, use logarithmic functions as the inverse of an exponential function with common and natural logarithmic functions, learn how to use the properties of logarithm and using properties of logarithms in applications, and define conics such as parabolas, ellipses, circles and hyperbolas using the General and Standard Forms of the Equations of a Conic.

Textbook: Larson Algebra 2, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-64715-9

Prerequisites: Algebra 1, Geometry

## PRE-CALCULUS (1 credit)

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Pre-Calculus is designed to prepare college-bound students for a first course in Calculus. It combines the topics of trigonometry, elementary analysis, and analytic geometry. Pre-Calculus builds on the concepts and skills learned in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. An intuitive base and some working tools for the study of more advanced mathematics are developed.

The students will use system of inequalities to solve linear and quadratic inequalities, solve polynomials and rational inequalities, use rational, exponential, and logarithmic function to prove properties of logarithms and to solve exponential growth and decay, graph polar equations in the form of complex numbers using products, quotients, powers and roots of complex numbers, use conics to solve equations of circles, ellipses, hyperbolas, and parabolas, solve problems using the basic operations of matrices and vectors, use sequence and series to identify arithmetic and geometric series, use limits of sequence, sums of infinite series and power series, and introduce students to Calculus using limits of a function of a real variable and limit theorems and find derivatives.

Textbook: Precalculus, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2007 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.  
ISBN: 10: 0-618-75171-8

Prerequisites: Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2



## CALCULUS (1 credit)

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This is a one-year course designed for the accelerated 12th grade mathematics student who is considering advanced placement in college or wishes to have maximum preparation for college calculus.

The course content will include a study the mathematics of change and motion, linear and quadratic functions, trigonometry, log functions, and determining area and volumes.

Recommendation: Satisfactory completion of Pre-Calculus.

Calculus is not required for the Distinguished Diploma: students may take Pre-Cal instead.

# High School Core Academics - Sciences

## BIOLOGY (1 credit)

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This course is equivalent to a college-level introductory biology course. Biology is the scientific study of living organisms and is considered to be the first science course in high school. This course teaches traditional biological concepts as students consider the interactions among the vast number of organisms that inhabit our planet.

Topics taught in class are the following: bio-molecules, enzymes, prokaryotic cells, eukaryotic cells, cellular organelles, plasma membrane and membrane transport, osmosis, diffusion, mitosis, DNA replication, protein synthesis, mutations, energy and ATP, leaf structure and leaf pigments, stages of photosynthesis, transport of materials in plants, cellular respiration, community ecology, biological communities, population dynamics, asexual and sexual reproduction, meiosis, plant reproduction, human reproduction, menstrual cycle, genetics, karyotypes, ethics of genetics, careers in biotechnology, sex-linked traits, genetic screening, evolution, diversity of life, natural selection, plant adaptations, human body systems, the immune system, and identifying diseases.

Textbook: Biology, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.  
ISBN: 978-0-547-58666-3

## CHEMISTRY (1 credit)

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Chemistry covers topics and information normally contained in a first-year college general chemistry course. Chemistry is the science of matter and the changes it undergoes.

This course examines Chemistry by introducing students to the following aspects: chemical reactions, the scientific method, characteristics of matter and its states, chromatography, physical and chemical changes, the law of conservation of mass, measurements in chemistry, accuracy, precision, significant digits, atomic theory, models of atoms, electron configurations, orbital notation, atomic mass, periodic table and its trends, nuclear chemistry, fission, fusion, half-lives of radioactive elements, nuclear reactors, oxidation numbers, polyvalent metals, polyatomic ions, chemical formulas, chemical names, naming binary molecular compounds, naming acids, organic compounds, molar mass, mole calculations, percent composition, empirical and molecular formulas, valence electrons, electronegativity, ionic bonds, covalent bonds, chemical reactions, Stoichiometry, limiting reagents, percent yield, aqueous systems, reaction rates and equilibrium, and chemical applications in the real world.

Textbook: Modern Chemistry, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-58663-2

Prerequisites: Biology

## PHYSICS (1 credit)

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This mathematically rigorous course is equivalent to an introductory college-level physics course. Physics is considered to be the third or fourth science course in high school.

Physics is the study of matter and energy and their interactions. It produces a systematic understanding of the fundamental laws that govern physical, chemical and biological processes.

Some of the topics students study are the following: kinetic energy and its relationship to heat, convection, conduction, and radiation; the first law of thermodynamics; the second law of thermodynamics; the third law of thermodynamics; the harmonic motion and waves; reflection, interference, standing waves, sound reasoning, characterizing sound, resonance and forced vibration; the Doppler effect; the behavior of light, the scattering of light, and bending light; elements of quantum physics; spectrographs; medical and industrial applications of light, electricity and magnetism, electric circuits, current, voltage, resistance, series and parallel circuits; electromagnetic induction; electric motors; electric generator; quantum optics; the photon; photoelectric effect; atomic models; dualism of matter; review of scientific techniques; scientific processes and measurement; models and graphs; position; speed; velocity; acceleration, motion, projectile motion, and uniform circular motion; Newton's Laws, gravity as a force, force as a vector quantity, centripetal force, momentum, impulse and impact, kinetic energy, and gravitational potential energy; Hooke's Law; elastic potential energy; the work-energy theorem; and conservation of energy and momentum.

Textbook: Physics, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.  
ISBN: 978-0-547-58669-4

Recommendation: Satisfactory completion of Algebra 2 or taking Algebra 2 concurrently

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (1 credit)

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This course is designed to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the many ecosystems that inhabit the earth, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

Environmental science is interdisciplinary; it embraces a wide variety of topics from different areas of study. There are several major unifying constructs, or themes, that cut across the many topics included in the study of environmental systems. Students are introduced to complex environmental issues that include environmental quality, plant systems, human resources, conservation, pollution, and ecosystems. This involves the study of biology, chemistry, and demography that deals with the interaction between man and nature.

Textbook: Environmental Science, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2013 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.

ISBN: 978-0-547-90401-6

Recommendation: Satisfactory completion of Biology 1 and Algebra 1

# High School Core Academics - Language Arts

## ENGLISH I (1 credit)

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English I will provide an in-depth study of English literature and poetry with an emphasis on critical thinking skills and analyzing and the use of literary devices (plot, theme, character development, etc.). There will also be a strong emphasis on writing (essays, research, persuasive, etc.) along with daily grammar exercises. This course is an introductory survey of literature, with an emphasis on reading, writing, and analytical skills. Students utilize critical thinking skills to analyze and interpret reading selections from specific time periods, diverse cultures and various genres of literature including fiction, non-fiction, short stories, novels, poetry and drama. Vocabulary skills are strengthened through weekly tests in preparation for the SAT and ACT. SAT and ACT Skills are woven throughout this course. Students will demonstrate proficiency of the writing process through narrative, persuasive, and expository writing with an introduction to research writing. Grammar and punctuation skills will be developed as well

There will be 5 novel studies which will encompass all aspects of literature and writing.

Textbooks: Literature, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.  
ISBN: 978-0-547-61839-5

The Institute for the Excellence in Writing Program

Wordly Wise

## ENGLISH II - SURVEY OF WORLD LITERATURE (1 credit)

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English II is a survey of world literature. This course emphasizes reading, writing, and analytical skills. Students utilize critical thinking skills to analyze and interpret reading selections from specific time periods, diverse cultures and various genres of American literature including fiction, non-fiction, short stories, novels, poetry and drama.

Vocabulary skills in preparation for the SAT and ACT are emphasized and tested regularly. In a weekly “Writer’s Workshop”, students will demonstrate proficiency of the writing process through narrative, persuasive, and expository writing. Students will learn to research and write a research paper in MLA format. Grammar and punctuation skills will be developed as well.

There will be 5 novel studies which will encompass all aspects of literature and writing.

Textbooks: Literature, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.  
ISBN: 978-0-547-61840-1

Prerequisites: English I

The Institute for the Excellence in Writing Program

Wordly Wise

## ENGLISH III - AMERICAN LITERATURE (1 credit)

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This course is a survey of American literature, spanning the early 1600's through contemporary literature. Students will encounter writing from the Native American period and the Colonial Period through contemporary literature. This course emphasizes reading, writing, and analytical skills. Students utilize critical thinking skills to analyze and interpret reading selections from specific time periods, diverse cultures and various genres of American literature including fiction, non-fiction, short stories, novels, poetry and drama.

Vocabulary skills in preparation for the SAT and ACT are emphasized and tested regularly. Students will demonstrate proficiency of the writing process through narrative, persuasive, and expository writing. Students will learn to research and write a research paper in MLA format. Grammar and punctuation skills will be developed as well.

There will be 5 novel studies which will encompass all aspects of literature and writing.

Textbook: Literature, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.  
ISBN: 9780547618418

The Institute for the Excellence in Writing Program

Wordly Wise

Prerequisites: English I and English II



## ENGLISH IV - BRITISH LITERATURE (1 credit)

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This course is a survey of British literature from the Renaissance period through Romanticism and Modernism. This course emphasizes reading, writing, and analytical skills. Students utilize critical thinking skills to analyze and interpret reading selections from specific time periods, diverse cultures and various genres of British literature including fiction, non-fiction, short stories, novels, poetry and drama.

Vocabulary skills in preparation for the SAT and ACT are emphasized and tested regularly. Students will demonstrate proficiency of the writing process through narrative, persuasive, and expository writing. Students will learn to research and write a research paper in MLA format. Grammar and punctuation skills will be developed as well.

There will be 5 novel studies which will encompass all aspects of literature and writing.

Textbook: Literature, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.  
ISBN: 978-0-547-61842-5

The Institute for the Excellence in Writing Program

Wordly Wise

Prerequisites: English I, English II and English III

# High School Core Academics - Social Studies

## WORLD GEOGRAPHY (1 credit)

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This course examines environmental factors such as climate, topography and natural resources throughout the world. It also explores population distribution and growth and their effect on the world's population. The study of varied customs and cultural characteristics of world societies, as well as productivity and consumption of natural resources on a global scale are also main aspects of this class. Regions covered are the United States, Canada, Middle, Central, and South America, Caribbean Islands, Caribbean South America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and Antarctica.

Textbook: Geography, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.  
ISBN: 978-0-547-49110-3

## WORLD HISTORY (1 credit)

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Students will examine and analyze historic, geographic, political and economic concepts and issues. The focus is on the United States in the second half of the 20th century through the present and its relationship to the rest of the world through four lenses: United States' perspective, international perspective, geography and economics.

Textbook: Geography, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.  
ISBN: 978-0-547-49110-3

Prerequisite: World Geography

## U.S. HISTORY (1 credit)

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The purpose of this course is to increase students' knowledge of the development of the United States as a democratic nation. The course is organized as a chronological survey of the American past from 1877 to World War II. Emphasis will be placed on major events, geography, individuals and ideas which comprise our American heritage.

Textbook: The Americans, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.

ISBN: 978-0-547-49115-8

Prerequisites: World Geography and World History

## U.S. GOVERNMENT (.5 credit)

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U.S. Government will focus on the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute United States politics. Students will gain an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States both by studying the general concepts used to interpret U. S. politics and by analyzing specific examples. Students will learn how to analyze and interpret basic data relevant to U. S. government and politics and will write extensively to perfect their essay writing and critical thinking skills.

In this course, students apply knowledge gained in previous years of study to pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American Government. In addition, they draw on their studies of world and American history and geography and other societies to compare differences and similarities in world governmental systems today.

This course is the culmination of history/social sciences classes to prepare students to solve society's problems, to understand and to participate in the governmental process, and to be a responsible citizen of the United States and the world.

Textbook: United States Government: Principles in Practice, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.

ISBN: 978-0-547-45138-1

Prerequisites: World Geography, World History, and US History

## PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS (0.5 credit)

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This course consists of an introductory examination into the study of Economics. The objective of the course is to provide an understanding of how individuals and societies function through economic practices. Topics include basic economic components, the organizational structure of the economy, money and banking, markets, governmental roles and economic indicators. This course introduces concepts and analysis, supply and demand analysis, theories of the firm and individual behavior, competition and monopoly, and welfare economics. Students will also be introduced to the use of microeconomic applications to address problems in current economic policy throughout the semester.

# High School Foreign Languages

## HS SPANISH 1 (1 credit)

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This is an introductory Spanish class designed for students that do not desire to take dual credit Spanish classes. Students will learn the basics of speaking and writing in Spanish. Students will also explore the cultures of Spanish speaking countries and the countries that primarily speak Spanish.

## HS SPANISH 2 (1 credit)

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This course continues to develop the oral skills with added emphasis on reading and writing skills. The focus is on expansion of vocabulary and grammatical structures. Contrast between English and Spanish strengthen the language learning process. Culturally related activities of selected Hispanic countries and regions will be explored.

## HS SPANISH 3 (1 credit)

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This course meets the requirements of Spanish collegiate studies. It stresses the development of fluency in oral skills, comprehension of Spanish literature and history, expository composition, and expanded use of grammar. It focuses on the development of accuracy and fluency. Utilizes high-level/critical thinking and focuses on the development of accuracy and fluency. This course is conducted predominantly in Spanish.

## HS SPANISH 4 (ADVANCED) (1 credit)

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This course is available upon request. It is designed for the highly advanced Spanish student and will be tailored for the individual needs of the students. Course work will focus on conversational Spanish at a high level as well as advanced writing skills.

## HS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 1 (1 credit)

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This course is an introductory course to Mandarin Chinese teaching the student basic verbal and written vocabulary and grammar. Students will learn how to use the pinyin to get the pronunciation and common conversational Mandarin. Students will also learn how to write Chinese characters and short sentences. For level1, the course will focus on self-information and basic noun. This course will introduce Chinese culture, students will have chance to experience it. Students will play a variety of games using Mandarin Chinese.

## HS FRENCH 1 (1 credit)

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An introduction to basic grammar, vocabulary, and development of communication skills in French. Students will use a variety of authentic text and media resources to acquire and enhance linguistic skills. The first semester is designed for students with no knowledge of, or with a weak background in French. The second semester is designed for students with limited previous exposure to French.

## HS FRENCH 2 (1 credit)

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An accelerated review of basic French grammar through speaking, reading, and writing. The introduction of more advanced grammatical structures and a variety of authentic text and multimedia resources will enhance the students' linguistic skills and sociocultural awareness of the French speaking world.

## HS FRENCH 3 (1 credit)

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This is a French course for students that speak French fluently and are able to read contemporary literature such as the Harry Potter books, in French.

## HS FRENCH 4 (ADVANCED) (1 credit)

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This course is available upon request. It is designed for the highly advanced French student and will be tailored for the individual needs of the students. Course work will focus on conversational French at a high level as well as advanced writing skills.



# High School Electives

## Communications

### HS DEBATE 1, 2 (1 credit each)

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Debate is a year long course that provides instruction in the art of public speaking, with an emphasis on specific debating techniques. Students will have the opportunity to develop critical thinking and analytic skills along with logic and impromptu speaking techniques to defend opposing sides of social issues. The course is designed to further students' research skills and promote an awareness and understanding of political and current-event issues.

Students will find themselves learning various formats of debate including: Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum (a type of team debate), and Extemporaneous Speaking (impromptu speeches analyzing current events). Most of the course focuses on the in-class debating of major political and ethical issues. Major concepts to be taught include, case-writing, rebuttals, cross-examination skills, analytical thinking, and political and moral philosophy.

## HS SPEECH 1, 2 (1 credit each)

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This elective course will teach students how to write, prepare, edit, and give a speech in a variety of situations. Areas of emphasis will include: knowing your audience, conquering stage fright, body language, stage presence, humor as a key component and developing the ability to relay informative or persuasive content. This will be a dynamic class where every student will be getting up and talking in front of the other students during each and every session! Through immersion, repetition, and fun classroom exercises, students will learn how to grab the audience's attention and how to hold it. They will simultaneously learn how to relax and be themselves in front of any size audience, therefore giving a much more effective speech. Students will also learn the process of writing a speech for a variety of settings or occasions. Appropriate videos of different speakers in different situations will be shown as examples. These will include motivational speeches, stand up comedy routines, informational speeches, and persuasive speeches. The course will conclude with the students giving a speech from a category of their choosing to assembled students and parents. Grades will be based on student participation during class, enthusiasm for the coursework, and on improvement from day one to the final speech.

At the end of the course, students will:

Know how to relax and be confident while addressing an audience.

Be able to prepare an effective speech for any situation.

Feel confident in their ability to address large and small groups of people.

Stand up straighter, be more confident, and feel empowered to get up and speak!

# English

## HS CREATIVE WRITING (1 credit)

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There's good writing, and then there's writing that sings. This course will push students' work toward the melodious. We will work on techniques to raise the level of the language—from creating strong word pictures to turning phrases to finding and highlighting the telling details—and ways to keep readers' interest, such as developing strong hooks and building a solid spine. The types of writing we work on will be determined partly by student interest, but could include essays, narrative non-fiction, short fiction and, at the end of the year, poetry (classic form as well as music lyrics). Guest writers will be brought to class to discuss their work and method, and students will have the opportunity for writing-related field trips, such as poetry slams. We will read and dissect published examples of specific genres to learn about construction and literary devices, and then students will try their own hand. Through classroom readings, peer comments and teacher editing, students will improve their work and leave the class with a strong sense of how to hit the high notes.

## LITERATURE STUDIES (1 credit)

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This course will study novels and short stories from a variety of genres, time periods, and authors. Students will analyze literature through independent study, Socratic discussion, and collaborative literature circles. Students will develop their literary analysis skills and receive detailed individual feedback to improve writing. \*\*\*Ideal students are avid and self-motivated readers.\*\*\*

## NOVEL WRITING (1 credit)

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Do you want to write a novel but you're not sure where to begin? Have you started a novel, only to find yourself feeling lost? Has your story hit a brick wall? Do you feel that you're missing some of the tools you need to write or finish a novel? Then this class is for you!

### **In this course, you'll learn:**

- how to write an opening chapter that hooks the reader and establishes the novel's ground rules
- how to create characters who live and breathe on the page
- how to choose the best point of view for your novel
- how to vividly depict the physical world of the story
- how to make every chapter buzz with suspense, no matter the genre

## JOURNALISM (1 credit)

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Students are introduced to the historical importance of journalism in America. They study the basic principles of print and online journalism as they examine the role of printed news media in our society. They learn investigative skills, responsible reporting, and journalistic writing techniques as they read, respond to, and write their own news and feature articles. Students conduct interviews, research, write, and design their own publications.

# Fine Arts

## HS ART EXPLORATION 1, 2 (1 credit each)

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Explore all types of mediums and techniques as you learn the Principles and Elements of Art - in a fun way! This exploration will take you through drawing, painting, clay, sculpture and mixed media projects. During this time you will meet some artists that have come before you as we learn techniques in their style. This will be a great exposure to all types of art and you will leave the class with a better understanding of art terms and techniques to allow you to specialize in a specific art class later at AESA Prep Academy.

## HS STUDIO ART 1 & STUDIO ART 2 (1 credit each)

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Studio Art is a course designed for the student who needs time to develop their art every day. Much as elite athletes need to practice daily, our artists are encouraged and supported in following a rigorous schedule to develop their creative ideas and skills. Studio Art is a small class that establishes fundamental skills in drawing, painting and digital arts while allowing students time and guidance to develop and produce their own creative ideas.

Individualized instruction and guidance will be provided to each student to help them produce concepts and refine skills. Students are encouraged to participate in Studio Art regardless of their interest. Current students are pursuing projects in drawing, painting, digital photography, video production, anime, graphic design and more.

## HS DRAMA 1, 2, 3, 4 (1 credit each)

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Theater is an immersive daily program that will be administered in a workshop format with an emphasis on acting, writing and directing for the stage. Improv will be a large part of the class, to encourage students to try different “voices” and become comfortable with thinking on their feet in a fast moving stage setting.

There will be two performances, one per semester. One will be a play and the other a selection of scenes that the students will be writing and directing themselves.

Students will be involved in all aspects of production. Grades are largely based on participation and enthusiasm.

## HS INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIGITAL MEDIA (1 credit)

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This elective course will help students understand the fundamentals of digital media, and will expose students to the worlds of: Digital Photography, Graphic Design Basics, Video Production

Areas of emphasis will include: How digital devices work: how to use your camera, how lighting works, how to compose and shoot a compelling image, how to print and share images, how to plan and produce a story through imagery.

Students will receive classroom instruction, field demonstration and see examples. They will be given opportunities to shoot images and receive personal instruction while in the field both in outdoor and indoor settings. Students will participate in constructive group critiques to review their work as we examine the fundamentals of photographic composition and visual impact. The course will conclude with a group exhibition featuring original work from each student. At the end of the course, students will know how to use the various features of their equipment, be able to decide what type of lighting to use in a given situation to produce optimum results, feel empowered to make deliberate creative choices, understand how to use editing software to produce images and videos, be able to publish and share their projects with others.

# Health

## HS HEALTH (1 credit)

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Health education prepares students to shape their behavior in health enhancing ways. Students will learn to access valid and reliable health information, analyze the influences in their lives, communicate effectively, and use real life scenarios to practice making decisions and set attainable goals. Students will also watch various documentaries that involve emotional, physical, and nutrition wellness. By the end of this course, students will understand advanced health principles. The goal of this course is for students to develop the skills necessary to manage stress healthfully and enhance the quality of their personal, family, and community life. 1 credit



# P.E.

## HS AESA FITNESS CAMP (1 credit)

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The goal of the fitness class is to develop physical fitness in students. This class is designed to give students an opportunity to workout using your whole body for total fitness experience and have fun. We will use this class to build your fitness through total body workouts along side fun games that work different aspects of fitness. Think boot camp with games.

## HS PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1, 2, 3 (1 credit each)

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High School students learn lifetime-activities skills, knowledge & values. Including but not limited to outdoor pursuits, selected-performance activities, net/wall and target games. In addition upper level physical education classes will focus on physical fitness, cardio endurance, muscular endurance.

The goal of physical education is to develop physically literate individuals who have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity. To pursue a lifetime of healthful physical activity, a physically literate individual has

1. Learned the skills necessary to participate in a variety of physical activities.
2. Knows the implications and the benefits of involvement in various types of physical activities.
3. Participates regularly in physical activity.
4. Is physically fit.
5. Values physical activity and its contributions to a healthful lifestyle.

# Professional Fields

## MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY (1 credit)

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This is an introductory course in immunology and microbiology. Students will gain familiarity with the biological characteristics of important microbial pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites.

The course will cover epidemiology, mechanisms and routes of transmission, pathogenesis and immunity, host response, control, and prevention. Laboratory activities will enhance understanding of course material. This course is designed primarily for those planning careers in medicine, pharmacy, nursing, dental hygiene, and related fields.

Pre-requisite: Biology and Chemistry

## INTRO TO LAW (1 credit)

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This course consists of an introductory examination into the study of Law. The objective of the course is to provide an understanding of the historical development of laws, basic legal principles and concepts, and the many areas of legal practice. Classes will be engaging, participative and thought provoking. 1 credit

## INTRO TO ENGINEERING (1 credit)

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This course consists of an introductory examination into the study of Engineering. The objective of the course is to provide an understanding of the historical development of engineering, the use of multiple subjects including mathematics, chemistry, physics, etc., and bringing together scientific understanding to real world problems. Classes will review basic engineering principles, an introduction to the many different engineering disciplines, and case study of engineering successes and failures. 1 credit

## INTRO TO BUSINESS (1 credit)

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**This course consists of an introductory examination into the study of Business Administration. The objective of the course is to provide an understanding of the historical steps in the development of modern business practices, cover in greater detail key disciplines within the study of business including: budgeting, scheduling, strategic planning, marketing (both products and services), organizational behavior, human resources and basic project management. The course will wrap up with a review of business case studies that highlight both successes and failures.**

# Science

## ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

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This course is an advanced study of the human body designed specifically for students with an interest in pursuing a career in a health-related field. The course covers the topics of human anatomical structure, physiological processes, homeostasis, anatomical and physiological disorders, medical diagnosis and treatment, biochemistry, cytology, and histology. Laboratory activities will reinforce concepts and principles presented in the course and will include several microscopic analyses of tissue specimens as well as dissections.

Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry

## CRIMINAL AND FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY (1 credit)

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This **course** compares legal and psychological approaches to human ... and **forensic psychology** and analyzes the roles of lawyers and of psychologists. Focuses on the paradigm differences in the mental health and legal systems and the challenges associated with integrating the two. Provides the students with an overview of the American legal system and the American mental health system. Discusses various areas of the intersection of the two systems in criminal, civil, juvenile, and family law settings. The role and ethics of the mental health professional in legal settings is addressed.

## INTEGRATIVE NUTRITION (1 credit)

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Discover the science behind nutrition. This class will discuss how current science explains, not only that “food is medicine” but is one of the most influential factors for preventing disease and providing a superior quality of life. This class will focus on how the interaction of food, nutrients, genes and the environment influence the body and brain’s ability to function at optimal levels. Research in the past 10 years has made many significant new findings. We will look at these in detail, discuss how they differ from past finding, as well as, how these new findings tell us our dietary habits are one of the most significant determining factors of one’s body and brain’s health. Science is learning how one’s intestinal flora (gut) and brain are connected and through this interaction what we put in our bodies affects the entire body’s ability to function.

In the second half of our class we will discuss sports nutrition, cooking, how to research nutrition on pubmed and applying lessons to real life. Explore if your current eating patterns are best for your body type or what changes would be best recommended for you and your specific body. 1 credit

## PSYCHOLOGY (1 credit)

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An introduction to psychological science -- the study of behavior and mental processes. This course surveys the major subdisciplines of the field, including such topics as the brain and neuroscience, behavioral genetics, cognitive and social development, perception, learning, memory, decision-making, language, consciousness, emotions, motivation, psychological disorders, social identity, interpersonal interactions and group and cultural processes.

# Technology

## COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (1 credit)

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This course will help students learn essential computer applications and Internet technology skills for personal, academic, and professional success. Students will effectively use a current Windows operating system and appropriate file management resources; develop and refine keyboarding skills on computers for speed and accuracy; apply word processing and desktop publishing functions to create, edit, manipulate, format, cite resources, print, and store common personal and business documents; apply spreadsheet functions to solve financial, mathematical, and statistical problems in business; create and edit charts and graphs to interpret spreadsheet data; design and create databases to extract, sort, calculate, and report business data; design, create, and execute an artistic and professional PowerPoint presentation which includes appropriate text formatting, graphics, animation, and public speaking skills, and use the Internet in an ethical manner to research, communicate, collaborate, and efficiently retrieve information. 1 credit, 2 semesters

## COMPUTER SCIENCE (1 credit)

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Computer Science introduces students to computer science concepts such as computer programs, computer apps, the internet, different networks, and the architecture of a computer. Students learn to operate various computer software programs, how to design their own software and produce finished software programs. This course is designed for students who plan on working in the computer software industry.

# Other

## HS COMPARATIVE RELIGION (1 credit)

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The study of world religions is an integral part of understanding individuals, countries, and nations. Many concepts in religion can be very abstract. Consequently, an effort has been made to create a course outline that simplifies the task at hand: teaching world religions in a manner that communicates abstract concepts in historical context with an understanding of diversity and sensitivity to individual beliefs.

This course outline relies upon a chronological and geographic approach. For units IA and IB a sequential approach is employed. Beginning with IC, a geographic approach is added. At this point the study of world religions is divided into eastern and western with Mesopotamia being the dividing line. Under the development of western religions a study of Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are included. Under the development of the eastern religions a study of Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Sikhism, Shinto, and religions of Korea and Japan are included. Although this is only one approach, by taking a geographic perspective, religions with similar history and features are automatically grouped. Additionally, the study of religions benefits from an approach that considers the three fundamental features of religions: theoretical, practical, and sociological. Finally, the study of religions is not limited to those included in this course outline. The included religions are those that have been historically studied as part of religious studies. The instructor should integrate other religions where appropriate.

## INTRO TO LOGIC (1 credit)

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In this course, we will learn the basics of symbolic logic -- a method of reasoning that converts logical propositions and arguments to a system of symbols (variables, connectives, and operators), in order to make the critical analysis of arguments easier and less ambiguous. We will also take a close look at common logical fallacies, or mistakes commonly made in argumentative discourse. We will look at and analyze some famous arguments, as well as some arguments plucked from today's headlines. We will also construct our own, and analyze each other's, arguments. In this course, students can expect to engage in both algebra-like work with symbols, as well as in English-Composition-like writing -- so, familiarity and comfort with both should be considered a prerequisite.



## MYTHOLOGY (1 credit)

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World Mythology explores the beliefs, cultures, and history of ancient societies from around the world in order to gain knowledge beneficial to the academic disciplines of literature, philosophy, art, comparative religion, science, anthropology, archeology, and psychology.

In this course students will: Interpret myths for their sociological, philosophical, and historical significance. Identify various universal archetypes, themes, symbols, and motifs found in myths. Analyze the cultural significance and relevance of important ancient stories (including The Iliad, The Odyssey, The Aenied, The Epic of Gilgamesh, and Sigurd the Volsung). Develop a greater knowledge of the world cultures (including Greco-Roman, Norse, Judeo-Christian, Celtic, Mesoamerican, Native American, and Babylonian).

Students will improve their communication skills through many classroom discussions, multimedia presentations, and speeches.

## PRACTICE OF STATISTICS (1 credit)

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Practice of Statistics introduces probability and statistical concepts with applications to various disciplines using technological tools such as the TI 83+ graphing calculator and excel.

Topics include descriptive statistics such as measures of central tendency, variation, and positions; probability, conditional probability and probability distributions; inferential statistics include, estimation, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, chi-square test and regression and correlation.

## WILDLIFE PROGRAM (1 credit)

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In our Wildlife Program we use indoor and outdoor activities – including field trips to wilderness areas and other local resources – to explore such topics as biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems, interdependence, adaptation, wildlife populations, human impacts, wildlife management, and other current issues. We will also look for responsible actions that we can take, to benefit one or more causes that we identify and explore. Our program largely will be based on the award-winning “Project Wild” curriculum, which has been developed by a consortium of state, national, and international environmental educators.

This program is designed for the Elementary and Middle School students. High School Students may receive credit for taking this course performing the duties of a TA; a Teaching Assistant. There is room for two TA’s for this course.

## FILM HISTORY (Not offered 2017-2018 school year for HS. Offered again in the 2018-2019 school year.)

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Cinema has become the most powerful and influential art form of our time, but it is still very new. This course will trace the history of film from its beginnings in the silent era to modern day classics.

We will start with some of the great trailblazing silent films such as *Battleship Potemkin* (1925), *The General* (1926) and *Metropolis* (1927). (We'll also see some great silent comedians such as Harold Lloyd). We'll then look at the dawn of the "talkies," starting with *The Jazz Singer* (1927).

Then I'll choose films from the '30s and '40s that best capture the artistry and tenor of the times. You can be assured that my all-time favorite film, *The Third Man* (1949), will be included. We will look at various genres such as film noir and look at how Hollywood represented (and aided) the war effort in such movies as *Mrs. Miniver* (1942).

The '50s have come to be known as Hollywood's Golden Age. We'll look at the studio system, the introduction of color, the vibrant musicals of this era. We'll note how directors begin to push out into the world, making films in exotic locales such as *The African Queen* (1951) and *Bridge Over the River Kwai* (1957).

We'll follow films as they became grittier and edgier in the '60s, starting with movies like *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962). We will see how the '70s was the decade when many of the most successful directors in Hollywood today got their start, with films such as *American Graffiti* (1973) and *The Godfather* (1972).

We will watch a film in each class and afterward discuss, among other things, its themes, the cinematography and the contribution it made to the evolution of the art. Grading will be based on participation in class discussion and one paper for each semester that analyzes either one particular film, or a particular era or genre.

# Middle School Core Academics - Mathematics

## MATH 6 (1 credit)

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This two semester one credit course covers addition and subtraction of whole numbers and decimals, as well as the multiplication and division of whole numbers. Teaches perimeter, area, circumference, and introduces fractions.

## MATH 7 (1 credit)

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This two semester one credit course teaches mathematics as a step-by-step process, including adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals and fractions. Also covers pre-algebraic expressions and equations, number theory, and geometry.

## MATH 8 (1 credit)

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An introductory course covering basic concepts in preparation for Algebra I. Includes adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing whole numbers, decimals, fractions, mixed numbers, and integers. Also, manipulating place value and powers of 10; estimating sums, differences, products, and quotients. Teaches identification of angles and triangles, and use of scientific notation.

## 8th Grade ALGEBRA I for High School Credit (1 credit)

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This one-year college preparatory course will help students to view algebra not only as a theoretical tool for analyzing and describing mathematical relationships, but they will also experience the power of algebraic thinking in a context of applications by studying the mathematical modeling of real world problems.

In the first semester of Algebra I, students are introduced to functions, using tables and graphs, multiple representations of functions, exploring linear functions, rate of change, the parent function, writing rules, connecting functions to equations and inequalities, using commutative, associative, and distributive properties to simplify expressions, solving simple equations with manipulatives and symbols, solving equations of the Form  $kx + c = b$  and  $kx + c = mx + b$ , looking closer at inequalities and comparing notations and methods.

The second semester of Algebra I introduces students to systems of linear equation, solving systems using graphs and tables, solving systems by symbolic methods, area and perimeter functions, the parent function multiplied by a constant, adding and subtracting a constant, multiple changes to the parent function, binomial operations, modeling with quadratic functions, solving quadratic equations, graphs of exponential functions, and modeling inverse variation data.

Algebra 1 is designed for 9th grade students but occasionally 7th and 8th grade students are prepared for this level of math course.

Textbook: Larson Algebra 1, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-64713-5

# Middle School Core Academics - Sciences

## SCIENCE 6 (1 credit)

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This two semester one credit course teaches physical science, Earth science, and life science. As an activity-based course, students are required to perform a variety of scientific experiments and to report their findings. Students discover the thrill of scientific investigation while learning to hypothesize, perform experiments and report, chart and graph data. Includes activities and resources to help students understand aspects of physical science, Earth science, and life science. Teaches the solar system, living systems and ecosystems, body systems, cells and DNA, the rock cycle, ground water and watersheds, and water investigations. Also, students will use the scientific method to investigate and experiment.

## SCIENCE 7 (1 credit)

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This two semester one credit course teaches the interactions between the Earth, sun, and moon, and instructs students how to identify and locate features of planet Earth. Emphasizes how we interact with our surroundings through sight and sound. Students learn to describe the physical world by describing matter, physical and chemical changes, and solutions. Covers how to classify and describe living things, from the simplest organisms to the most complex plants and animals. Each lesson provides a hands on experiment and teaches the scientific process. Students create their own experiments as well and perform curriculum based experiments. Students will research and build a solar cooker and test its functionality.

## SCIENCE 8 (1 credit)

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An introductory course covering basic concepts in preparation for Algebra I. Includes adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing whole numbers, decimals, fractions, mixed numbers, and integers. Also, manipulating place value and powers of 10; estimating sums, differences, products, and quotients. Teaches identification of angles and triangles, and use of scientific notation.



# Middle School Core Academics - Language Arts

## ENGLISH 6 (1 credit)

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This two semester one credit course emphasizes clear, coherent writing for a variety of purposes. Students will write personal narratives, compare and contrast essays, conduct an interview with a person of significance as well as write several research papers. In all of these topics students will learn the process of webbing/ outlining, rough drafts, editing and a final composition. This course also teaches principles of grammar as they relate to writing, spelling patterns and strategies, and listening. Students will also write a variety of styles of poetry.

The required combination of Reading and English for 6th graders introduces students to a range of essential skills. The course emphasizes clear, coherent writing for a variety of purposes. It also teaches principles of grammar as they relate to writing, spelling patterns and strategies, and listening and speaking skills. Students read both silently and aloud, for clarity and comprehension. They also gain practice in paraphrasing, summarizing, determining main ideas, drawing conclusions, predicting outcomes, and generalizing. In addition to the required text and featuring Anne of Greene Gables, Maniac Magee, The Phantom Tollbooth, the course also requires self-selected reading material. There will be 5 novel studies which will encompass all aspects of literature and writing.

Textbooks: Literature 6, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.

The Institute for the Excellence in Writing Program

Wordly Wise

## ENGLISH 7 (1 credit)

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This two semester one credit course teaches literature, writing, grammar, and vocabulary. Students learn to identify basic literary devices, understand and analyze readings, write for a variety of audiences and purposes, use appropriate grammar and usage in writing, improve speaking and listening skills, and expand vocabulary. The course includes introductions to the genres of Fantasy, Science Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Young Adult Novels, Poetry, Adventure Novels, Greek Epics, Folk Literature, Nonfiction, and Drama. Students will read *The Outsiders*, *The Odyssey* and *Kavik the Wolf Dog*, as well as Fables. There will be 5 novel studies which will encompass all aspects of literature and writing.

Textbooks: Literature 7, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.

The Institute for the Excellence in Writing Program; Wordly Wise

## ENGLISH 8 (1 credit)

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The course covers reading strategies, literature studies, vocabulary development, spelling review, writing for a variety of purposes and modes, speaking and listening skills, and principles of grammar and punctuation as they relate to writing, with a special emphasis throughout upon nonfiction. There will be 5 novel studies which will encompass all aspects of literature and writing.

Textbooks: Literature 8, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.

The Institute for the Excellence in Writing Program; Wordly Wise

# Middle School Core Academics - Social Studies

## HISTORY 6 - ANCIENT & MODERN WORLD CIVILIZATIONS (1 credit)

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Ancient and modern world civilizations are very important studies for our students to participate in. While examining civilizations such as the ancient Egyptian civilization, students will also study the climate, topography and natural resources of the land in which they lived. This course examines environmental factors such as climate, topography and natural resources throughout the world. It also explores population distribution and growth and their effect on the world's population. The study of varied customs and cultural characteristics of world societies, as well as productivity and consumption of natural resources on a global scale are also main aspects of this class. Regions covered are the United States, Canada, Middle, Central, and South America, Caribbean Islands, Caribbean South America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and Antarctica.

Students will examine and analyze historic, geographic, political and economic concepts and issues. The focus is on the United States in the second half of the 20th century through the present and its relationship to the rest of the world through four lenses: United States' perspective, international perspective, geography and economics.

This course has three textbooks.

## HISTORY 7 - TEXAS HISTORY (1 credit)

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In this two semester one credit course Students learn to see history through the eyes of the people who lived it because, when we understand how people shared the past, we better understand how we can shape the future. Students will learn about Texas History; how the past affects the future. They will learn about Anglo American settlements, the fight for Texas Independence, annexation, statehood, and the involvement of Texas in the Civil War. This course will also encompass the men and women who helped shape Texas.

## HISTORY 8 - U.S. HISTORY (1 credit)

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This course provides an in-depth study of American history from 1530 to 1877, beginning with the Colonial Period and continuing through the American Revolution, the creation of the Republic through the writing and ratification of the Constitution, the Jefferson and Jackson eras, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. Also covered are colonization, relationships between ethnic and cultural groups, cause and effect, significant individuals and events, nineteenth century reformation efforts, Supreme Court decisions, and geographical factors.

# Middle School Foreign Languages

## MS SPANISH 1 (1 credit)

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This fun, interactive course for middle school students is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices that reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

## MS SPANISH 2 (1 credit)

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Students continue their language learning adventure by progressing to the next level of middle school Spanish. Throughout the course students focus on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

## MS FRENCH 1 (1 credit)

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This fun, interactive course for middle school students is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. Students begin their introduction to French by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various French-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

## MS FRENCH 2 (1 credit)

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Students continue their introduction to French by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various French-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).



## MS CHINESE 1 (1 credit)

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Students begin their introduction to Chinese by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Both Chinese characters and pinyin are presented together throughout the course and specific character practices are introduced after the first quarter. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Chinese speaking regions, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

## MS CHINESE 2 (1 credit)

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Chinese 2 is the second year of Chinese 1 and will be a continuation of Chinese 1 at an advanced level.

# Middle School Electives

## MS ART EXPLORATION I AND II (1 credit each)

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Explore all types of mediums and techniques as you learn the Principles and Elements of Art - in a fun way! This exploration will take you through drawing, painting, clay, sculpture and mixed media projects. During this time you will meet some artists that have come before you as we learn techniques in their style. This will be a great exposure to all types of art and you will leave the class with a better understanding of art terms and techniques to allow you to specialize in a specific art class later at AESA Prep Academy.

## MS ADVANCED STUDIO ART (1 credit)

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This course is designed for the serious, passionate art student. In this course the student will work on short and long term art projects of their own design. The student will collaborate with the Art Teacher to select what projects the student will complete. Art Teacher approval is needed for this course. Please have the Art Teacher sign their name, Mrs. Dory, next to the class on your course selection sheet.

## MS AESA FITNESS CAMP (1 credit)

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The goal of the fitness class is to develop physical fitness in students. This class is designed to give students an opportunity to workout using your whole body for total fitness experience and have fun. We will use this class to build your fitness through total body workouts along side fun games that work different aspects of fitness. Think boot camp with games.

The class will start with water aerobics in the pool while the weather is still warm. A variety of fitness activities will be introduced throughout the class.

## MS COMPARATIVE RELIGION (1 credit)

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The study of world religions is an integral part of understanding individuals, countries, and nations. Many concepts in religion can be very abstract. Consequently, an effort has been made to create a course outline that simplifies the task at hand: teaching world religions in a manner that communicates abstract concepts in historical context with an understanding of diversity and sensitivity to individual beliefs.

This course outline relies upon a chronological and geographic approach. For units IA and IB a sequential approach is employed. Beginning with IC, a geographic approach is added. At this point the study of world religions is divided into eastern and western with Mesopotamia being the dividing line. Under the development of western religions a study of Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are included. Under the development of the eastern religions a study of Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Sikhism, Shinto, and religions of Korea and Japan are included. Although this is only one approach, by taking a geographic perspective, religions with similar history and features are automatically grouped. Additionally, the study of religions benefits from an approach that considers the three fundamental features of religions: theoretical, practical, and sociological. Finally, the study of religions is not limited to those included in this course outline. The included religions are those that have been historically studied as part of religious studies. The instructor should integrate other religions where appropriate.

## MS COMPUTER APPLICATIONS 1, 2 (1 credit each)

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Students will learn the basics of computer usage and the basic computer applications that involve almost every software tool on the network, such as powerpoint. Students will begin to learn what MLA formatting is and will work on their typing skills. Students will also learn how to evaluate research materials.

## MS COMPUTER SCIENCE 1, 2 (1 credit each)

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Computer Science I will foster students' creativity and innovation by presenting opportunities to design, implement, and present meaningful programs through a variety of media. Students will collaborate with one another, their instructor, and various electronic communities to solve the problems presented throughout the course. Through data analysis, students will identify task requirements, plan search strategies, and use computer science concepts to access, analyze, and evaluate information needed to solve problems. By using computer science knowledge and skills that support the work of individuals and groups in solving problems, students will select the technology appropriate for the task, synthesize knowledge, create solutions, and evaluate the results. Students will learn digital citizenship by researching current laws and regulations and by practicing integrity and respect. Students will gain an understanding of the principles of computer science through the study of technology operations, systems, and concepts.

## MS CREATIVE WRITING 1 (1 credit)

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This course is designed for the student that loves to write, tell a great story, wants to improve their writing skills and make their writing sing!! Writers from the Austin area will be invited to speak with our students and impart their wisdom. Students will have input on the types of writing they will do in class.

So, if you have ever thought about being a writer, join this class, and enjoy being creative!! If you have ever thought of creating a book, this is the class for you and you might enjoy including the artwork as well.

## MS CREATIVE WRITING 2 (1 credit)

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This course is a continuation of MS Creative Writing 1, at a more advanced level.

## MS DEBATE 1, 2 (1 credit each)

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These courses provide instruction and practice in the art of public speaking, with an emphasis on debate. Most of the course focuses on the in-class debating of major political and ethical issues. Students are taught case-writing, rebuttals, cross-examination skills, analytical thinking, and political and moral philosophy. Students will utilize instruction by their teacher, in-class notes, handouts, and websites as well as conduct their own independent research in libraries and on the internet to advance their study of debate.

## MS DRAMA 1, 2, 3 (1 credit each)

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Drama is an immersive daily program that will be administered in a workshop format with an emphasis on acting, writing and directing for the stage.

Out of class assignments will be to watch and come to class prepared to discuss a variety of performances, accessible on YouTube or Netflix.

Improv will be a large part of the class, to encourage students to try different “voices” and become comfortable with thinking on their feet in a fast moving stage setting.

There will be two main performances: The Improv Showcase; and A Series of Short Plays and Performances

**PARTICIPATION IN BOTH SHOWCASES IS MANDATORY**

**AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS FOR THE SECOND PRODUCTION ARE MANDATORY**

Performance in front of a live audience is a key component to this class. Participation and effort in preparing, attending rehearsals and performing on the day of the showcase will be treated as final exam grades for each semester, 20% of final grade. If you are unable to attend rehearsals or a showcase performance, you need to inform your instructor right away. Inability to participate in showcase performances (i.e. out of town trips, etc that are planned in advance) may preclude you from being in the class.



## MS FILM HISTORY (1 credit)

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Cinema has become the most powerful and influential art form of our time, but it is still very new. This course will trace the history of film from its beginnings in the silent era to modern day classics, will examine many of your favorite genres of film, and will inspire you!! If you love movies and talking about them, please join this class.

We will watch a film in each class and afterward discuss, among other things, its themes, the cinematography and the contribution it made to the evolution of the art. Grading will be based on participation in class discussion, 4 essays per semester that analyzes either one particular film, or a particular era or genre.

Let's go to the movies!!!

## MS HEALTH (1 credit)

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MS Health will education students on how to shape their behavior in ways that will keep them healthy and happy. Students will learn appropriate and positive social and behavioral skills that will enhance their lives in a positive way.

Students will be introduced to the body systems, first aid, CPR, family dynamics, social issues, and age appropriate issues.

Students will also watch various documentaries that involve emotional, physical, and nutrition wellness. By the end of this course, students will understand basic health principles. The goal of this course is for students to develop the skills necessary to manage stress healthfully and enhance the quality of their personal, family, and community life. 1 credit

## MS JOURNALISM (1 credit)

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Did you ever want to write a newspaper article? Well, here is your chance. Students are introduced to the historical importance of journalism in America. They study the basic principles of print and online journalism as they examine the role of printed news media in our society. They learn investigative skills, responsible reporting, and journalistic writing techniques as they read, respond to, and write their own news and feature articles. Students conduct interviews, research, write, and design their own publications.

## MS Literature Studies (1 credit)

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MS Literature Studies is code for book club! Do you love to read? If you are an avid reader, and if you have been caught reading your favorite book in class, then this is probably a class that you would love!!! Students with the guidance of their teacher get to vote on books that they would like to read in class and then discuss the book as the class is reading it. There will be some written summaries of books and other thought provoking assignments in this class but it mainly involves reading.

## MS NOVEL WRITING (1 credit)

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Do you want to write a novel but you're not sure where to begin? Have you started a novel, only to find yourself feeling lost? Has your story hit a brick wall? Do you feel that you're missing some of the tools you need to write or finish a novel? Then this class is for you!

### **In this course, you'll learn:**

- how to write an opening chapter that hooks the reader and establishes the novel's ground rules
- how to create characters who live and breathe on the page
- how to choose the best point of view for your novel
- how to vividly depict the physical world of the story
- how to make every chapter buzz with suspense, no matter the genre

## MS PHOTOGRAPHY (1 credit)

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This elective course will help students understand the fundamentals of Photography. Students will learn how to use their cameras, aperture size and shutter speed, lighting, composition and more.

Areas of emphasis will include: How to use your camera, how lighting works, how to compose and shoot a compelling image, how to print and share images, how to plan and produce a story through imagery.

Students will receive classroom instruction, field demonstration and see examples. They will be given opportunities to shoot images and receive personal instruction while in the field both in outdoor and indoor settings. Students will participate in constructive group critiques to review their work as we examine the fundamentals of photographic composition and visual impact. The course will conclude with a group exhibition featuring original work from each student. At the end of the course, students will know how to use the various features of their equipment, be able to decide what type of lighting to use in a given situation to produce optimum results, feel empowered to make deliberate creative choices, understand how to use editing software to produce images and videos, be able to publish and share their projects with others.

## MS PROJECT LEARNING

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Are you ever interested in something but you just don't have the time to get into it? This is the class for you. In this class with the guidance of your teacher, you will select areas of study and projects that you will be able to research, explore and create aspects of.

Picture creating a project that you are truly interested in. This could be amazing for you!

You will work on short term and long term projects throughout this course.

## MYSTERIES OF SCIENCE (1 credit)

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**Science Sleuths:** Wherever he steps, whatever he touches, whatever he leaves, even unconsciously, will serve as a silent witness against him. Not only his fingerprints or his footprints, but his hair, the fibers from his clothes, the glass he breaks, the tool mark he leaves, the paint he scratches, the blood he sheds or collects. A basic principle of forensic science is that every contact leaves a trace. The goal of this course, as well as that of a forensic chemist, is to isolate microscopic trace materials to identify their chemical make-up and origin. This lab-heavy, mystery-driven course explores the techniques and topics of forensic science. We characterize the "evidence" left behind at mock crime scenes, which includes fingerprints, hair fiber, fabrics, skin cells, blood, fire accelerants, drugs, food, poisons, and much more. Organic macromolecules (DNA, fats, proteins, and sugars) extracted from biological specimens (blood, urine, saliva, bacterial cadavers) are subjected to molecular analysis. Contemporary and historical crimes, dating back to 1900, illustrate the advances of forensic science and keep us amused with their intrigue, insights, and ethics.

Above is an example of some of the interesting units we will study in this class. There are many scientific mysteries and in this class you will be exploring many of them.



## MS PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1, 2, 3 (1 credit each)

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High School students learn lifetime-activities skills, knowledge & values. Including but not limited to outdoor pursuits, selected-performance activities, net/wall and target games. In addition upper level physical education classes will focus on physical fitness, cardio endurance, muscular endurance.

The goal of physical education is to develop physically literate individuals who have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity. To pursue a lifetime of healthful physical activity, a physically literate individual has

1. Learned the skills necessary to participate in a variety of physical activities.
2. Knows the implications and the benefits of involvement in various types of physical activities.
3. Participates regularly in physical activity.
4. Is physically fit.
5. Values physical activity and its contributions to a healthful lifestyle.

## MS SPEECH 1, 2 (1 credit each)

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Students will examine the communication process, interpersonal communication, group communication, and public speaking. Students will identify, analyze, develop and evaluate communication skills needed for professional and social success in interpersonal situations, group interactions, and personal and service component to this course. Students will be required to give oral presentations.

## 6th GRADE TECHNOLOGY (Occurs throughout the core academic courses.)

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Six graders use their own laptops in their writing projects. They use a variety of software programs, the web, do online research, use library resources as well as the Internet, and presentation skills. The student's use of technology complements coursework, including a unit on the Harlem Renaissance, family history projects, and Ancient World Civilizations. They will also use the internet to find and evaluate materials as well as for research on social studies topics such as Islam and the history of the Middle East, Africa, and medieval Europe. Sixth graders participate in weekly "tech time" where they explore relevant issues such as cyberbullying, internet safety, technology ethics and information security.

## 7th GRADE TECHNOLOGY (Occurs throughout the core academic courses.)

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Seventh grade students utilize technology in all of their classes including their core academic classes; History, Science, English and Global Languages. In the 7th grade students utilize technology in a way that is fully integrated into their classes. At this grade level, students use almost every software tool on the Internet. Students use technology in their global languages as well as audio recording technology, science simulations, learn to develop spreadsheets, conduct a science simulation, and research social studies topics and current events.

## 8th GRADE TECHNOLOGY (Occurs throughout the core academic courses.)

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Eighth grade students will conduct research using online databases and internet resources in their English, Science and History classes. In the Foreign Languages and art classes students use online programming, audio recording technology, PowerPoint and other online programs. English classes make extensive use of online resources to supplement assigned readings. In History, students learn selection and design strategies involved in creating visual aids to enhance presentations.

## Yearbook 1, 2 (1 credit each)

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To be on the MS Yearbook staff you will need to speak with Mrs. Rachel Dory. You will assist in putting together the yearbook.