



AESA Prep Academy

Middle School Course Catalog



2025-2026

AESA Prep Academy

Private College Prep School
K-12



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AESA MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

The AESA Middle School Course Catalog is designed to guide students and families as they explore academic and elective opportunities offered in grades 6–8. Our goal is to provide a well-rounded, engaging, and flexible curriculum that supports the development of foundational skills, intellectual curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning.

At AESA Prep Academy, we recognize that middle school is a pivotal time in a student’s academic and personal growth. Our courses are thoughtfully designed to balance rigor with exploration, ensuring that students are challenged appropriately while also discovering new interests. In addition to core academic subjects, students have access to a diverse range of electives in the arts, technology, languages, physical education, and more—allowing them to build confidence, creativity, and a strong sense of self.

This catalog includes course descriptions, grade-level eligibility, and credit information to help students and families make informed decisions. Teachers, advisors, and staff are here to support each student’s path and to ensure that they are prepared not only for high school, but for a bright and meaningful future.

We encourage students to explore widely, challenge themselves, and take ownership of their learning. The middle school years are an opportunity to build a strong academic foundation while developing the independence and skills necessary for long-term success.

EARNING HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

At AESA Prep Academy, we believe in recognizing and rewarding academic achievement at every level. It is possible for middle school students to earn high school credits.

For example, students who successfully complete two consecutive years of middle school Spanish in the 7th and 8th grades will receive credit for **High School Spanish I**, allowing them to advance to higher-level courses in high school. This opportunity applies to select courses where content, rigor, and performance standards align with our high school curriculum.

Earning high school credit in middle school gives students the opportunity to pursue more advanced coursework or explore additional electives once they enter high school. Families are encouraged to plan thoughtfully and consult with academic advisors to ensure students are placed appropriately and positioned for long-term success.

Please note: While high school credit may be earned, grades from middle school courses will not be calculated into the high school GPA.

ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS:

MATHEMATICS: Our mathematics curriculum aligns with the Principles and Standards for School Mathematics established by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), promoting critical thinking, problem-solving, and mathematical reasoning skills.

SCIENCE: Our science courses adhere to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), developed collaboratively by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). This alignment ensures students engage deeply in scientific inquiry, cross-disciplinary concepts, and real-world applications of scientific principles.

ENGLISH: Our English curriculum satisfies Standards for the English Language Arts, formulated by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). This emphasizes proficiency in reading, writing, analytical thinking, communication, and literacy essential for college readiness.

SOCIAL STUDIES: Our social studies curriculum aligns with the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies from the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS). This framework develops informed, responsible citizens through comprehensive study of history, geography, government, economics, and cultural studies.

GLOBAL LANGUAGES: The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages: The council is the only national organization dedicated to the improvement and expansion of the teaching and learning of all languages at all levels of instruction throughout the United States.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH: Our Physical Education and Health curriculum is grade-level aligned and meets the National Physical Education and Health Standards, supported by the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE America). The program emphasizes physical literacy, lifelong fitness habits, and health education relevant to today's youth.

ART & MUSIC: Our Art and Music curriculum aligns with the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS) and is supported by the National Coalition for Arts Standards. Instruction emphasizes artistic literacy, creativity, cultural understanding, and personal expression through sequential, standards-based learning.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CORE ACADEMIC COURSES

MATHEMATICS

MATH 6

Grade Level(s): 6

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

This course builds essential math skills and introduces students to algebraic thinking through hands-on learning, collaboration, and real-world problem-solving.

- Develops fluency in operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, mixed numbers, and integers
- Introduces pre-algebra concepts including equations with unknowns and algebraic reasoning
- Explores ratios, proportions, and percents through real-world applications
- Covers geometric concepts such as area, perimeter, and surface area of 2D and 3D figures
- Strengthens graphing skills using coordinate planes and data interpretation
- Emphasizes problem-solving, collaboration, and critical thinking
- Includes a variety of assessments such as projects, quizzes, and performance tasks
- Prepares students for Pre-Algebra and future success in advanced math
- Builds habits of mind and foundational skills essential for academic and real-life readiness

Prerequisite: None

MATH 7

Grade Level(s): 7

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

This course deepens students' understanding of mathematical concepts through structured problem-solving and a strong focus on pre-algebra readiness.

- Reinforces operations with decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers through multi-step problems
- Introduces and develops understanding of pre-algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities
- Explores number theory concepts such as factors, multiples, primes, and exponents
- Strengthens foundational geometry skills including angles, shapes, and measurement
- Emphasizes step-by-step reasoning and mathematical precision
- Builds confidence through real-world applications and collaborative learning opportunities
- Includes assessments such as skill checks, projects, and performance tasks

- Prepares students for success in Pre-Algebra or Algebra I, depending on progression
- Supports academic independence, critical thinking, and life-long learning habits

Prerequisite: Completion of Math 6 or equivalent mastery

ADVANCED MATH 7

Grade Level(s): 7

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

Math 7 Advanced is an accelerated math course designed for students with strong mathematical skills, curiosity, and a desire for challenge. This course bridges foundational math knowledge with early algebraic thinking and prepares students for Algebra I by 8th grade. Emphasizing precision, step-by-step reasoning, and structured problem-solving, the curriculum blends pre-algebra concepts with real-world applications in a fast-paced, supportive environment.

- Reinforces multi-step problem-solving with whole numbers, decimals, fractions, mixed numbers, and integers
- Deepens understanding of pre-algebraic expressions, equations, inequalities, and number properties
- Explores number theory including factors, multiples, primes, exponents, and powers of 10
- Strengthens estimation strategies and scientific notation fluency
- Introduces key geometry concepts such as angle relationships, triangle classification, and measurement
- Develops analytical thinking and collaborative problem-solving skills
- Applies mathematical reasoning to real-world contexts
- Includes diverse assessments such as skill checks, quizzes, projects, and performance tasks

Prerequisite: Instructor approval based on academic performance, assessment data, and teacher recommendation

MATH 8

Grade Level(s): 8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

This course bridges foundational math skills and early algebraic concepts, preparing students for the rigor of Algebra I through problem-solving, reasoning, and applied practice.

- Strengthens operations with whole numbers, decimals, fractions, mixed numbers, and integers
- Introduces powers of 10, place value manipulation, and scientific notation
- Builds estimation strategies for sums, differences, products, and quotients
- Reinforces pre-algebra concepts through expressions, equations, and number properties
- Covers key geometry topics including angle relationships and triangle classification
- Encourages analytical thinking, precision, and collaborative exploration

- Uses a variety of assessment methods including projects, quizzes, and performance tasks
- Prepares students for success in Algebra I and future STEM coursework
- Fosters mathematical habits of mind and real-world application skills

Prerequisite: Completion of Math 7 or equivalent mastery

8TH GRADE ALGEBRA 1 FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

Grade Level(s): 8 (advanced 7th grade by placement)

Credit: 1 (Full Year, High School Credit)

This rigorous, college-preparatory course introduces students to algebra as both a theoretical framework and a practical tool for modeling real-world problems. Through problem-solving, graphing, and symbolic manipulation, students develop a deep understanding of mathematical relationships and functions.

- Introduces linear functions, equations, and inequalities using tables, graphs, and multiple representations
- Emphasizes key algebraic concepts such as rate of change, parent functions, and function rules
- Builds fluency with simplifying expressions using the commutative, associative, and distributive properties
- Solves linear equations and inequalities using manipulatives, tables, and symbolic methods
- Explores systems of equations using graphical and algebraic approaches
- Applies algebraic reasoning to geometry topics including area and perimeter functions
- Extends learning into quadratic and exponential functions, binomial operations, and inverse variation
- Encourages real-world mathematical modeling and analytical thinking
- Provides a strong foundation for success in future math courses, including Geometry and Algebra II

This course prepares students for advanced high school math and allows for the opportunity to take Calculus or higher down the road.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and successful completion of Math 7/Advanced Math 7 or Math 8

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 6

Grade Level(s): 6

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

This engaging, hands-on science course introduces students to foundational concepts across life, physical, and earth sciences. Through inquiry-based learning, labs, and real-world applications, students will build scientific thinking and problem-solving skills while exploring key systems of life and the planet.

- Investigates cells, body systems, and levels of biological organization
- Explores reproduction, heredity, and growth in plants and animals
- Examines states of matter, particles in motion, and thermal energy transfer
- Analyzes weather patterns, water cycles, and Earth's climates
- Studies human impact on the environment, including land, water, air, and climate
- Builds core scientific practices such as observation, modeling, and data analysis
- Connects science concepts to real-world environmental and biological phenomena
- Encourages curiosity, collaboration, and critical thinking through project-based learning
- Prepares students for advanced middle school science and high school readiness

No prerequisites required—just curiosity and a willingness to explore the world scientifically!

SCIENCE 7

Grade Level(s): 7

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

This course builds on concepts from Science 6 and introduces more advanced topics in chemistry, Earth science, and ecology through inquiry-based learning and hands-on investigation.

- Investigates the classification, properties, and changes in matter, including states, molecular structure, and energy transformations
- Explores physical and chemical reactions, focusing on temperature, pressure, and indicators of change
- Examines Earth's structure and processes, including plate tectonics, erosion, and the rock cycle
- Analyzes the causes and effects of natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and severe weather
- Studies the distribution and use of Earth's natural resources and the impact of synthetic materials
- Explores the flow of energy and cycling of matter within ecosystems
- Investigates photosynthesis, cellular respiration, food webs, and resource interactions in dynamic ecosystems
- Evaluates human impact on biodiversity and the importance of preserving ecological balance
- Strengthens critical thinking and data analysis skills through labs, simulations, and collaborative projects

- Emphasizes cross-curricular connections, real-world applications, and scientific habits of mind

Prerequisite: Completion of Science 6 or equivalent coursework

SCIENCE 8

Grade Level(s): 8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

This rigorous and engaging course introduces students to advanced concepts in life, physical, and Earth sciences. Students explore change over time, energy and motion, wave phenomena, and the Earth's place in the universe through hands-on learning and inquiry-based projects.

- Students analyze Earth's history through geologic time, fossil records, and evolutionary biology
- Examine natural and artificial selection, adaptation, and biological evidence for evolution
- Apply Newton's Laws to explore motion, force, energy, and momentum
- Investigate electromagnetic forces, simple circuits, and energy conservation
- Study wave properties, sound, light behavior, reflection, refraction, and color theory
- Understand how digital signals and wave-based technologies enable modern communication
- Explore the Sun-Earth-Moon system including lunar phases, eclipses, and seasons
- Analyze human population growth, environmental impact, and Earth's sustainability
- Investigate our solar system and broader universe, including gravity's role in celestial motion

Prerequisite: Completion of Science 7 or equivalent coursework

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 6

Grade Level(s): 6

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

English 6 introduces students to key academic and organizational skills while developing strong foundations in reading, writing, vocabulary, and grammar. Through guided practice and purposeful instruction, students build confidence as readers, writers, and communicators.

- Strengthens vocabulary through weekly study and assessments
- Develops grammar and punctuation skills with direct instruction and regular practice
- Introduces structured writing through narrative, persuasive, and expository paragraphs
- Guides students through the writing process to produce complete five-paragraph essays
- Enhances sentence fluency, word choice, and writing mechanics
- Reinforces study habits, time management, and classroom organization skills
- Fosters clear communication, idea development, and revision strategies
- Prepares students for advanced middle school English through consistent scaffolding and feedback

Prerequisite: None.

READING 6

Grade Level(s): 6

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

Reading 6 serves as a bridge from elementary to middle school literacy, helping students become confident, thoughtful readers through structured, evidence-based instruction. The course emphasizes fluency, comprehension, and critical thinking across a variety of texts and genres.

- Engages students in reading novels, short stories, nonfiction, poetry, and expository texts
- Builds fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension through systematic, explicit instruction
- Follows a structured literacy model grounded in the Science of Reading
- Strengthens skills in inference, interpretation, drawing conclusions, and summarizing
- Introduces literary analysis tools to explore theme, structure, and author's purpose
- Reinforces the reading/writing connection in partnership with English 6
- Supports students in developing strategies for reading across all content areas
- Encourages independent reading habits and lifelong literacy appreciation

Prerequisite: None

ENGLISH 7

Grade Level(s): 7

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

English 7 reinforces foundational literacy skills while advancing students' ability to write with clarity, purpose, and structure. Through focused vocabulary study, grammar instruction, and multi-genre writing, students strengthen their command of language and academic expression.

- Expands vocabulary through weekly lessons and assessments
- Develops narrative, persuasive, and expository writing through structured five-paragraph essays
- Encourages the integration of vocabulary into written work to enhance word choice and precision
- Strengthens grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure through weekly lessons and application
- Reinforces the writing process, including planning, drafting, revising, and editing
- Builds fluency in writing with attention to voice, organization, and clarity of ideas
- Supports communication, critical thinking, and readiness for higher-level English coursework

Prerequisite: Completion of English 6 or equivalent coursework

READING 7

Grade Level(s): 7

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

Reading 7 refines students' reading comprehension, fluency, and analytical skills through a variety of literary and informational texts. Using a structured literacy model grounded in the Science of Reading, students engage with increasingly complex texts and sharpen their ability to think critically and communicate effectively.

- Engages students in reading novels, short stories, poetry, nonfiction, and expository texts
- Builds reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension through explicit, systematic instruction
- Strengthens skills in inference, analysis, interpretation, and summarization
- Introduces literary analysis strategies to evaluate theme, structure, and author's purpose
- Supports the reading/writing connection in collaboration with English 7
- Prepares students for high-level content reading across subjects and the transition to English 8
- Encourages independent reading habits and deeper literary appreciation

Prerequisite: Completion of Reading 6 or equivalent coursework

ENGLISH 8

Grade Level(s): 8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

English 8 serves as an introductory survey of literature while preparing students for the demands of high school English. The course strengthens reading comprehension, writing proficiency, and analytical thinking through a deep exploration of diverse literary works and genres.

- Analyzes literature from a variety of genres including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, short stories, and novels
- Explores works from multiple cultures and historical periods, with attention to author background and literary context
- Strengthens vocabulary through weekly study
- Reinforces grammar, punctuation, and writing mechanics through direct instruction and practice
- Develops narrative, persuasive, and expository essays with an introduction to research-based writing
- Builds critical thinking and interpretive skills through text analysis and discussion
- Encourages connections between literature, personal reflection, and contemporary issues
- Prepares students for high school English with a focus on communication, reasoning, and academic writing

Prerequisite: Completion of English 7 or equivalent coursework

HISTORY

HISTORY 6 - WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Grade Level(s): 6

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

World Geography introduces students to the core concepts of geography through an inquiry-based approach that emphasizes exploration, analysis, and real-world connections. This course lays the foundation for future study in world history and global cultures.

- Introduces and applies the Five Themes of Geography: location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region
- Teaches students to identify and describe absolute and relative location
- Explores landforms, bodies of water, migration patterns, and cultural diffusion
- Investigates human-environment interactions and their impact on historical and modern societies
- Engages students in asking meaningful questions about real-world social and geographic issues
- Promotes the use of primary and secondary sources to support research and inquiry
- Develops mapping skills, spatial awareness, and the ability to interpret geographic data
- Strengthens critical and creative thinking through collaborative projects and analysis
- Prepares students for advanced coursework in world history and civics

Prerequisite: None

HISTORY 7 – TEXAS HISTORY & WORLD HISTORY

Grade Level(s): 7

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

This course explores the rich and complex story of Texas while connecting its development to key global events and movements. Students will examine the people, events, and cultural forces that have shaped Texas from its Indigenous roots through colonization, independence, and its role in the modern United States—while situating Texas within the broader framework of world history.

- Investigates the history and contributions of diverse peoples who have lived in Texas, including Indigenous tribes, Spanish colonists, and immigrant communities
- Analyzes key historical periods including early exploration, the Republic of Texas, annexation, Civil War, Reconstruction, and modern development
- Connects Texas events to broader global trends such as European imperialism, migration, revolution, and industrialization
- Uses inquiry-based learning to explore political, economic, and social change through the lens of geography, culture, and identity
- Incorporates world history themes like colonization, trade, and conflict to highlight the interconnectedness of historical events
- Engages students in evaluating primary and secondary sources to develop evidence-based arguments
- Encourages creativity and personal reflection through student-led research projects and multimedia presentations
- Builds foundational historical thinking skills and prepares students for advanced coursework in U.S. and world history

Prerequisite: Completion of World Geography or equivalent coursework.

HISTORY 8 – U.S. HISTORY

Grade Level(s): 8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

U.S. History explores the origins and development of the United States from early indigenous civilizations through the Reconstruction era. Students engage in inquiry-based learning to draw connections between historical events and contemporary issues.

- Begins with the study of indigenous people groups and theories of early migration to the Americas
- Examines European exploration and colonization, including push/pull factors and cultural encounters
- Investigates the causes and consequences of the American Revolution and the founding of the U.S. Constitution
- Explores westward expansion, sectionalism, slavery, and the causes of the Civil War
- Analyzes the Reconstruction period and its lasting social and political impacts
- Encourages students to evaluate and interpret history through primary and secondary sources
- Promotes the development of research, analysis, and argumentation skills
- Provides opportunities for students to express their understanding through creative, reflective projects
- Connects historical understanding to present-day issues and civic engagement

Prerequisite: Completion of Texas History or equivalent coursework

GLOBAL LANGUAGES

MS SPANISH 1

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

Middle School Spanish I is an interactive, engaging introduction to the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. This course supports student growth in the four foundational language domains—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—through multimedia-rich, student-centered instruction.

- Introduces essential vocabulary and grammar through thematic units
- Builds comprehension and communication skills through reading, listening, speaking, and writing activities
- Emphasizes real-life context and conversational usage for language acquisition
- Integrates interactive cultural presentations to explore practices and perspectives from various Spanish-speaking countries
- Encourages student participation in basic conversations and appropriate response to common prompts
- Develops grammatical understanding to support sentence construction and conversational fluency
- Promotes cultural awareness through analysis and comparison of traditions, values, and global viewpoints
- Includes frequent formative assessments to monitor language development and support personalized growth
- Aligned with ACTFL national standards for foreign language education

Students will actively engage in their own learning journey, gaining confidence in using Spanish for communication while developing a deeper appreciation for global cultures and diverse perspectives.

Prerequisite: None

MS SPANISH 2

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

Middle School Spanish II builds upon the foundational skills developed in Spanish I, guiding students toward greater fluency and cultural competence. Through a dynamic mix of multimedia lessons, interactive practice, and real-world conversation, students deepen their abilities across all four language domains: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

- Expands vocabulary and grammar through thematic units and contextual examples
- Strengthens comprehension through reading passages, audio prompts, and multimedia materials
- Develops conversational skills with structured speaking and writing activities
- Encourages appropriate responses to increasingly complex conversational prompts
- Reinforces grammatical accuracy and sentence fluency through targeted practice
- Engages students in analyzing cultural practices, products, and perspectives of Spanish-speaking communities
- Incorporates cultural presentations and comparisons to promote global understanding

- Includes frequent formative assessments to track progress and personalize instruction
- Aligned with ACTFL national standards for intermediate-level language learners

Students will grow in their ability to communicate clearly and confidently in Spanish, while deepening their appreciation for global cultures and preparing for high school-level Spanish coursework.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of MS Spanish I or equivalent proficiency

MS SPANISH 3

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

Middle School Spanish III offers an immersive and challenging experience for students ready to deepen their Spanish proficiency. Building on the skills developed in Spanish II, this course emphasizes communication, fluency, and cultural understanding through dynamic, multimedia-based instruction.

- Introduces advanced vocabulary themes and more complex grammar structures
- Builds fluency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing through real-world contexts
- Reinforces language learning through interactive activities, speaking tasks, and writing prompts
- Strengthens students' ability to participate in extended conversations and respond to prompts with confidence and clarity
- Expands cultural literacy through in-depth multimedia presentations on Spanish-speaking countries
- Encourages critical thinking by analyzing and comparing cultural practices, perspectives, and global issues
- Offers frequent assessments and reflection opportunities to monitor language growth and mastery
- Supports readiness for high school Spanish and real-world communication in academic and travel settings
- Aligned with ACTFL national standards for intermediate-level learners

Students completing Spanish III will demonstrate increasing independence in using Spanish to express ideas, exchange information, and engage with diverse cultures.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of MS Spanish II or equivalent proficiency

MS FRENCH 1

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

This fun and interactive course introduces middle school students to the French language through engaging multimedia activities. Students will develop skills in the four key areas of language learning: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

- Each unit features a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept
- Students complete listening and reading comprehension exercises to build fluency
- Speaking and writing practice reinforces vocabulary and grammar in meaningful ways
- Cultural presentations highlight French-speaking countries and global Francophone traditions
- Emphasizes real-world context and conversational use to build student confidence
- Students participate in simple conversations and respond to basic prompts
- Encourages exploration of cultural practices and perspectives across the Francophone world
- Regular assessments are used to track student progress and skill development

This course is aligned with national standards set by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) and prepares students for success in high school language studies.

Prerequisite: None

MS FRENCH 2

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

French II builds upon the foundational vocabulary, grammar, and cultural understanding introduced in French I. Students continue to develop their communication skills across listening, speaking, reading, and writing, while expanding their ability to express themselves with more fluency and accuracy.

- Units focus on more complex vocabulary and grammar structures including verb conjugations in multiple tenses
- Students engage in extended conversations and write paragraphs and short compositions
- Emphasizes comprehension through authentic materials such as songs, articles, and videos
- Introduces practical themes like travel, shopping, school life, and daily routines
- Explores cultural customs, holidays, and traditions of various Francophone regions
- Develops spontaneous speaking skills through structured discussions, role-play, and presentations
- Reinforces grammar and vocabulary through interactive activities and projects
- Strengthens reading fluency and builds confidence in understanding longer texts

This course continues alignment with ACTFL standards and supports students in becoming independent, culturally aware language learners.

Prerequisite: French I

MS FRENCH 3

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

French III challenges students to refine their language proficiency and expand their cultural literacy through advanced communication and interpretation. Students will develop the ability to discuss abstract topics and engage in more sophisticated conversation and writing.

- Deepens grammar knowledge with a focus on compound tenses, subjunctive mood, and relative pronouns
- Students analyze and interpret longer written texts, poems, and excerpts from French literature
- Emphasizes advanced writing tasks such as essays, narratives, and opinion pieces
- Increases listening comprehension through podcasts, films, and interviews in French
- Encourages critical thinking and discussion on contemporary issues in Francophone societies
- Fosters independent reading and vocabulary acquisition through leveled novels and news articles
- Cultural study includes art, history, and the influence of the French language globally
- Students collaborate on capstone projects that demonstrate mastery of language skills and cultural insight

This course serves as a bridge to high school French IV or DC French and supports a globally-minded, language-competent student.

Prerequisite: French II

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

FINE ARTS

VISUAL ARTS

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: .5 (per Semester)

This one-semester course introduces middle school students to the fundamentals of visual arts through hands-on creative exploration. Students will engage in a variety of artistic disciplines while building technical skills and discovering art as a powerful form of personal expression.

- Explores key areas of visual art including drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and photography
- Introduces foundational skills in composition, technique, and media
- Encourages creativity and critical thinking through individual and group projects
- Promotes visual literacy through discussions, critiques, and reflection on student and historical artworks
- Highlights the role of art in culture, history, and self-expression
- Offers opportunities for students (age 13+) to submit work to the Scholastic Arts Competition in the fall
- Develops confidence, craftsmanship, and creative problem-solving

This course provides a solid foundation for continued study in the visual arts while encouraging students to explore and express their unique perspectives.

Prerequisite: None

PERFORMANCE ARTS

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: .5 (per Semester)

Performance Arts introduces students to a wide range of theatrical and performance-based disciplines through active, creative exploration. This course encourages students to develop confidence, expression, and collaboration as they engage with the elements of live and recorded performance.

- Explores key areas such as theater, film, stagecraft, musical theater, comedy, puppetry, and spoken word
- Encourages creativity and self-expression through original and collaborative performances
- Introduces the history and context of performance arts through dialogue and critique
- Builds performance skills through exercises in voice, movement, character, and storytelling
- Offers opportunities to attend live performances and reflect on professional productions
- Supports the creation and potential performance of student work for a school audience
- Fosters an appreciation for the performing arts as both a personal and cultural form of expression

This course empowers students to step into the spotlight—on stage or behind the scenes—while building communication, collaboration, and creative thinking skills.

Prerequisite: None

TEXTILE ARTS

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: .5 (per Semester)

Textile Arts introduces students to the creative world of fiber-based design and craftsmanship. This hands-on course explores a variety of techniques and materials while building skills in creativity, problem-solving, and design thinking.

- Covers key textile techniques including sewing, weaving, embroidery, quilting, knitting, and crocheting
- Encourages creativity and personal expression through individual and collaborative projects
- Builds fine motor skills, spatial awareness, and numeracy through pattern-based design
- Promotes critical and creative thinking in both traditional and modern textile art forms
- Explores the cultural history and evolution of textile arts, including notable artists and designers
- Fosters appreciation for the artistic and functional value of textile and fiber arts
- Offers opportunities for students (age 13+) to submit textile-based work to the Scholastic Arts Competition in the fall

This course provides a unique outlet for self-expression, craftsmanship, and the exploration of art as a tactile and purposeful medium.

Prerequisite: None

DESIGN ARTS

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: .5 (per Semester)

Design Arts introduces students to the world of applied design through a creative exploration of fashion, architecture, interiors, floral design, and graphic media. This course blends hands-on creation with foundational design theory, encouraging students to think like artists and problem-solvers.

- Explores key design areas including fashion, architectural, interior, floral, and graphic design
- Teaches the elements and principles of design across both functional and artistic mediums
- Encourages creativity and personal expression through student-driven projects
- Introduces the history of design arts and the work of notable professional designers
- Emphasizes the relationship between “high art” principles and “low art” design forms
- Adapts course emphasis based on student interests and creative goals
- Fosters an understanding of design as both an artistic discipline and a tool for innovation

Students will leave this course with a stronger appreciation for design in everyday life and a portfolio of original works that reflect their creativity and evolving aesthetic.

Prerequisite: None

MS INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC THEORY

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: .5 (per Semester)

This course provides students with a foundational understanding of music theory, structure, and expression through active listening and hands-on learning. Students will explore music as both an art form and a tool for communication across cultures and time periods.

- Develops music literacy through an introduction to rhythm, melody, harmony, and notation
- Builds critical listening skills by analyzing a variety of musical genres and styles
- Reinforces theoretical concepts through singing, composing, and playing basic melodies
- Explores historical and cultural contexts of music from around the world
- Encourages creativity through original composition and performance-based activities
- Highlights music's role as a universal language connecting diverse cultures
- Includes multimedia resources and group activities to support engagement and collaboration
- Aligns with the National Core Arts Standards and supported by the National Coalition for Arts Standards (NCAS)

Prerequisite: None

MS MEDIA ARTS

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: .5 (per Semester)

This creative and hands-on course introduces students to the exciting world of media arts, blending technology with artistic expression. Students will explore a range of digital tools to design and produce multimedia projects.

- Introduces digital photography, video production, animation, graphic design, and audio editing
- Teaches core principles of visual communication, storytelling, and design
- Builds creative problem-solving and digital literacy through real-world projects
- Encourages collaboration and constructive critique in a studio-style environment
- Fosters artistic voice while exploring technology's role in modern media
- Includes project-based assessments, digital portfolios, and peer feedback
- No prior experience required—ideal for curious and creative students

Prerequisite: None

HEALTH | SCIENCE | P.E.

MS HEALTH

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: .5 (per Semester)

MS Health empowers students with the knowledge and skills to make informed, healthy choices that enhance their physical, emotional, and social well-being. This course focuses on developing habits that promote long-term wellness and positive lifestyle behaviors.

- Covers foundational health topics including body systems, nutrition, mental wellness, and substance awareness
- Introduces First Aid and CPR concepts to promote safety and emergency preparedness
- Explores social-emotional skills, family dynamics, and age-appropriate personal development topics
- Encourages positive decision-making and strategies for managing stress in healthy ways
- Promotes self-awareness, empathy, and respectful communication
- Includes the use of documentaries and multimedia to enhance understanding of real-world wellness topics
- Supports students in building lifelong skills that contribute to personal, family, and community health

By the end of this course, students will understand key health principles and develop the tools to lead balanced, fulfilling lives.

Prerequisite: None

MS MARINE BIOLOGY

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

MS Marine Biology immerses students in the study of ocean ecosystems, marine life, and the dynamic relationship between humans and the sea. Through hands-on labs, projects, and investigations, students explore marine environments and the organisms that inhabit them.

- Examines the physical structure of the ocean including zones, shorelines, and the ocean floor
- Investigates marine biodiversity and ecological systems across species and habitats
- Explores major topics such as:
 - Marine mammals, reptiles, birds, and invertebrates
 - Marine algae, plant life, and microbial life
 - Ocean currents, climate influence, and the global role of oceans
 - Fishing, fisheries, and sustainability
 - Human impact and conservation efforts
- Develops scientific research and critical thinking skills through experiments and long-term projects
- Encourages environmental awareness and ocean stewardship

This course combines scientific inquiry with real-world application, inspiring students to better understand—and care for—Earth’s most vast and vital ecosystem.

Prerequisite: None

MS ENGINEERING

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

MS Engineering introduces students to core engineering concepts through hands-on projects, design challenges, and problem-solving tasks. This course encourages students to think critically, work collaboratively, and explore how science, math, and technology intersect in the real world.

- Covers essential engineering topics including:
 - Energy forms and transfer
 - Newton’s Laws of Motion
 - Simple machines and mechanical advantage
 - Bridge design and structural principles
 - Material properties and tool safety
 - Introduction to technical drawing (isometric and orthographic views)
- Builds foundational design and drafting skills used in engineering and architecture
- Promotes creativity, innovation, and persistence through project-based learning
- Incorporates multimedia resources to enhance understanding and application
- Prepares students for future study in engineering, robotics, or STEM fields

Students will complete a variety of design challenges and applied projects that bring engineering principles to life while encouraging teamwork, iteration, and real-world problem solving.

Prerequisite: None

MS ROBOTICS AND BUILDING

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: .5 (per Semester)

MS Robotics introduces students to the fundamentals of robotics, engineering, and programming. Students in this class are also eligible to be a part of the AESA Robotics Competitive Team. Through hands-on building and coding challenges, students bring mechanical systems to life and gain valuable experience in real-world technology applications.

- Teaches basic robotics, electronics, and coding
- Explores the use of motors, sensors, and circuits in robotics systems
- Guides students in assembling and coding functional robots including:
 - Line-following robots

- Trucks and bug bots
- Sumo bots and other challenge-based builds
- Develops problem-solving, design, and debugging skills through iterative learning
- Promotes teamwork, critical thinking, and technical creativity
- Provides a foundation for future exploration in robotics, coding, and engineering design

This course offers a fun, interactive entry point into the world of robotics and building—empowering students to invent, build, and code with confidence.

Prerequisite: None

MS LEGO MECHANISMS

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: .5 (per Semester)

MS LEGO Mechanisms introduces students to foundational concepts in mechanical engineering through hands-on exploration using LEGO construction systems. This course emphasizes the design and function of real-world mechanical systems while building problem-solving and engineering skills.

- Explores principles of simple machines, speed, torque, power, friction, and efficiency
- Covers vehicular mechanics including drivetrains, driveshafts, steering, and weight distribution
- Teaches custom mechanical solutions and structural reinforcement strategies
- Encourages creative design, iteration, and critical thinking
- Strengthens skills in spatial reasoning, mechanical logic, and system design
- Serves as an engaging foundation for robotics and engineering-focused coursework

Students will gain practical experience in designing, building, and analyzing mechanical systems—skills that apply to both LEGO-based projects and real-world engineering challenges.

Prerequisite: None

MS PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1, 2, & 3 (1 CREDIT EACH)

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: 1 (Full Year per Level)

MS Physical Education provides students with a structured and engaging experience focused on developing physical fitness, fundamental motor skills, and personal and social responsibility through movement. Each year builds on prior knowledge, allowing students to improve technique, apply strategies, and deepen their appreciation for active living.

- Aligned with SHAPE America’s National Standards and Grade-Level Outcomes for K–12 Physical Education
- Develops competency in lifelong recreational and outdoor pursuits such as tennis, frisbee golf, and fitness circuits
- Teaches foundational skills and game strategies in sports including:
 - Volleyball, basketball, soccer, flag football, team handball, ultimate frisbee, and pickleball

- Rhythmic movement, innovative games, and traditional playground activities
- Fosters psychological and social skills through cooperative play, leadership, and group dynamics
- Promotes self-responsibility, sportsmanship, and respect for diverse abilities and backgrounds
- Encourages goal-setting, effort, and positive personal health habits

Students may take PE for multiple years, with content adapted to support individual growth, increased challenge, and ongoing fitness development.

Prerequisite: None

MS YOGA 1, 2, & 3 (1 CREDIT EACH)

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: 1 (Full Year per Level)

MS Yoga offers students the opportunity to develop physical strength, flexibility, and inner calm through guided movement, breathwork, and mindfulness practices. Each class provides a supportive environment where students can improve both physical wellness and emotional balance.

- Introduces foundational yoga poses and flow sequences appropriate for middle school students
- Enhances balance, flexibility, breath control, and core strength through consistent practice
- Encourages mindfulness and focus through intentional movement and guided meditation
- Fosters body awareness, stress management, and emotional regulation
- Includes a calm, reflective closing for each class to promote a centered reentry into the school day
- Emphasizes self-respect, patience, and personal progress rather than competition
- Welcomes students to use school-provided yoga mats or bring their own

Students may take Yoga for multiple years, with increasing challenge, depth, and refinement of skills in each level.

Prerequisite: None

MS SPORTS & ATHLETICS

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

This course is designed for students participating in AESA team sports such as flag football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, and track. Students engage in a variety of athletic activities that promote physical fitness, coordination, and sportsmanship through both individual and team-based instruction.

- Focuses on sport-specific training and skill development across multiple disciplines
- Incorporates drills, practice sessions, and fitness conditioning to build strength, agility, and endurance
- Emphasizes teamwork, communication, leadership, and respectful competition
- Reinforces healthy lifestyle habits, personal responsibility, and positive attitude
- Encourages goal setting and perseverance through structured athletic challenges
- Promotes lifelong appreciation for physical activity and recreational sports

Participation in AESA athletics fosters confidence, resilience, and a sense of community—on and off the field.

Prerequisite: None

MS CULINARY FARM-TO-TABLE PROGRAM

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: .5 (per Semester)

This immersive course combines gardening, seasonal cooking, and nutrition education to help students connect with food from the ground up. Through hands-on learning, students explore the journey from seed to plate while developing essential life and wellness skills.

- Teaches gardening techniques, sustainable practices, and seasonal harvesting
- Engages students in planning and preparing balanced meals using fresh ingredients
- Explores global cuisines and culinary traditions with a focus on health and creativity
- Emphasizes collaboration through student-led menu planning and meal preparation
- Highlights the use of high-quality ingredients like grass-fed meats, pasture-raised eggs, and pesticide-free produce
- Builds knowledge of food systems, environmental stewardship, and nutrition
- Encourages teamwork, culinary confidence, and mindful eating habits

Prerequisite: None

COMMUNICATION & LITERATURE

MS DEBATE 1 & 2 (1 CREDIT EACH)

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

MS Debate introduces students to the foundational skills of public speaking and formal debate. Students will learn two nationally recognized formats—**Middle School Public Debate Program (MSPDP)** and a **modified Lincoln-Douglas Style**—while developing confidence, clarity, and critical thinking in a supportive environment.

- Builds foundational speaking, argumentation, and rebuttal skills
- Teaches case writing, evidence organization, and ethical persuasion
- Introduces cross-examination techniques and respectful discourse
- Focuses on weekly research assignments using credible sources
- Develops students' understanding of logic, structure, and basic philosophy in debate
- Encourages independent research using books, databases, and online sources
- Builds confidence in both individual and team-based speaking formats

Prerequisite: None

MS DEBATE TEAM

Grade Level(s): 7-8 (by invitation or application)

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

MS Debate Team is an advanced course for students passionate about competitive debate and public speaking. Students will prepare for and participate in **local, regional, or online competitions** while sharpening their skills in research, delivery, teamwork, and critical thinking.

- Focuses on in-depth preparation of current event and philosophical topics
- Trains students in time management, argument mapping, and high-level rebuttals
- Simulates competitive environments with structured mock debates
- Includes leadership and peer-coaching opportunities
- Provides frequent feedback and skill-specific practice sessions
- Represents AESA at public speaking events or competitions when applicable

Prerequisite: Completion of MS Debate 2 and instructor invitation or approval

MS SPEECH 1 & 2 (1 CREDIT EACH)

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

MS Speech introduces students to the fundamentals of communication and public speaking. Students will explore interpersonal, small group, and public communication through a variety of speaking and listening activities designed to build confidence and effectiveness in real-world settings.

- Teaches the communication process and key elements of effective speech
- Develops listening, speaking, and non-verbal communication skills
- Introduces basic techniques for organizing and delivering short speeches
- Encourages collaboration through small group discussions and presentations
- Builds self-awareness, empathy, and clarity in interpersonal communication
- Requires students to deliver prepared and impromptu oral presentations
- Supports personal growth in confidence, presence, and message delivery

Prerequisite: None

MYTHOLOGY

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: .5 (One Semester)

Mythology explores the ancient stories that have shaped civilizations, belief systems, and world cultures. Through engaging texts and discussions, students will analyze myths from around the globe while uncovering universal archetypes, symbols, and themes that still influence modern literature and thought.

- Studies myths from Greco-Roman, Norse, Celtic, Judeo-Christian, Mesoamerican, Native American, Babylonian, and other traditions
- Analyzes key texts such as *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, and the *Eddas*
- Interprets myths for their historical, sociological, and philosophical significance
- Identifies recurring archetypes, symbols, and motifs across cultures
- Encourages students to connect mythology to disciplines such as art, religion, literature, and psychology
- Promotes discussion, multimedia presentations, and oral communication through student-led inquiry

This course provides an interesting lens into world cultures and encourages students to think deeply about the stories that define humanity.

Prerequisite: None

MS TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

MS COMPUTER SCIENCE

Grade Level(s): 6-8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

MS Computer Science I introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science through hands-on projects, problem-solving activities, and collaborative challenges. Students will explore programming, data analysis, and digital ethics while learning how technology can be used to solve meaningful, real-world problems.

- Encourages creativity and innovation through the design and development of original programs
- Teaches foundational programming concepts using text-based and/or visual coding platforms
- Explores data collection, search strategies, and evaluation of digital resources
- Fosters collaboration through group work, instructor feedback, and participation in online coding communities
- Builds critical thinking and logical reasoning through real-world computational challenges
- Reinforces digital citizenship, online safety, and understanding of laws and ethical use of technology
- Introduces core concepts in technology operations, systems, and the role of computing in society

This course equips students with essential computer science skills and mindsets, preparing them for continued exploration in technology and innovation.

Prerequisite: None

MS ESPORTS AND DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Grade Level(s): 7-8

Credit: 1 (Full Year)

This course combines competitive gaming with essential digital citizenship skills. Students will sharpen their gameplay by training for after-school eSports competitions in the PlayVS Texas League while also learning to navigate the digital world responsibly and safely.

- Prepares students for competitive games like *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate* and *Splatoon 3* through in-class practice, match analysis, and strategy review
- Builds teamwork, communication, and sportsmanship through collaborative gameplay and scrimmages
- Covers digital citizenship topics such as media balance, privacy, digital identity, cyberbullying, and online safety
- Encourages reflection on current tech trends, screen time habits, and responsible use of social media
- Promotes informed, ethical decision-making in gaming and online interactions
- Provides opportunities to analyze professional gameplay and develop critical thinking and strategic skills

Note: League participation requires a separate after-school commitment and additional fee

Prerequisite: None

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