



**FREEDOM**  
**P R E P   A C A D E M Y**

Middle School  
Course Catalog  
2024-2025



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## **Freedom Preparatory Academy Middle School Requirements**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Language Arts (Reading and Writing) – 2 credits

Mathematics – 2 credits

Science – 1 credit

Social Studies – 1 credit

Electives – 2 credits

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Language Arts – 1 or 2 credits

Mathematics – 2 credits

Science – 1 credit

College and Career Awareness – 1 credit

Utah Studies – .5 credit

Physical Education – .5 credit

Electives – 3-4 credits

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Language Arts – 1 credit

Mathematics – 1 or 2 credits

Science – 1 credit

United States History – 1 credit

Latin – 1 credit

Physical Education – .5 credit

Health – .5 credit

Electives – 3-4 credits



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses

### Language Arts

**Language Arts 6:** This content is broken down into two classes: Reading and Writing. These classes cultivate learning and discovering in four main language areas: grammar, vocabulary, writing, and reading. We encounter many new circumstances through reading, and we learn proper ways to analyze and write about each of them. We will work on improving informative and narrative writing skills as well as have an introduction to argumentative writing. Woven into our lessons, we discuss and use new vocabulary roots and words as well as targeted grammar topics. (2.0 credits)

### Mathematics

**Math 6:** This class uses a problem-based approach to mathematics in which students spend time making sense of problems, trying different approaches, evaluating the reasonableness of their answers, interpreting the significance of their answers, noticing patterns and making generalizations, explaining their reasoning verbally and in writing, listening to the reasoning of others, and building their understanding. This 6th Grade Math curriculum covers the concept of Area and Surface Area; Introducing Ratios; Unit Rates and Percentages; Dividing Fractions; Arithmetic in Base Ten; Expressions and Equations; Rational Numbers; and Data Sets and Distributions. (2.0 credits)

**Math 6 Honors:** *pre-requisite: Utah Rise 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics score of 400 or above or show mastery on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade comprehensive Mathematics test and teacher recommendation.*

This is a fast-paced class uses a problem-based approach to mathematics in which students spend time making sense of problems, trying different approaches, evaluating the reasonableness of their answers, interpreting the significance of their answers, noticing patterns and making generalizations, explaining their reasoning verbally and in writing, listening to the reasoning of others, and building their understanding. (2.0 credits)

**Math 7:** *pre-requisite: Math 6 and teacher recommendation*

This class uses a problem-based approach to mathematics in which students spend time making sense of problems, trying different approaches, evaluating the reasonableness of their answers, interpreting the significance of their answers, noticing patterns and making generalizations, explaining their reasoning verbally and in writing, listening to the reasoning of others, and building their understanding. This 7th Grade Math curriculum covers the concepts of Scale Drawings; Introducing Proportional Relationships; Measuring Circles; Proportional Relationships and Percentages; Rational Number Arithmetic; Expressions, Equations and Inequalities; Angles, Triangles and Prisms; and Probability and Sampling. (2.0 credits)

**Math 7 Honors:** *prerequisite: Math 6 Honors and teacher recommendation*

This is a fast-paced class uses a problem-based approach to mathematics in which students spend time making sense of problems, trying different approaches, evaluating the reasonableness of their answers, interpreting the significance of their answers, noticing patterns and making generalizations, explaining



their reasoning verbally and in writing, listening to the reasoning of others, and building their understanding. (2.0 credits)

## Science

**Science 6:** In this class, students learn about patterns, cause and effect, matter and energy, stability and change, scale, proportion, and quantity, systems, and structure and function through studies of the Solar System, Phases of the Moon, Atoms, Elements, Molecules, Density of Matter, Heat Transfer, The Water Cycle, Weather and Climate, Latitude and Longitude, and Ecosystems. (1.0 credit)

## Social Studies

**Social Studies 6:** In this class, we learn about world geography, Mesopotamia, ancient Greece, World Religions, the Renaissance, the French Revolution, Latin American revolutions and Greek Mythology. We compare these civilizations to current civilizations, the religion, language, culture and social interactions to help us understand our world today. (1.0 credit)

## Elective Courses

**Art 6:** Art allows students to communicate and exchange ideas visually. Using the elements of line, shape, color, space, value, texture, and form, students will learn how to create art that expresses their thoughts and emotions. These elements of design are the backbone of the Art 6 course. By practicing their technique, applying learned concepts, and having hands-on experience, students will gain confidence in their skills, learn art language, and find joy in creating. This course offers instruction and opportunity in the mediums of drawing, painting, clay, and printmaking. (.5 credit)

**Beginning Band:** No previous experience is required to play in beginning band. Students will learn foundational instrument technique, reading music and rhythms. Instrument options are: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Percussion, and Mallets (Piano players usually play Mallets when no Piano part is available). Instrument rental fees are \$100 per year. Renting instruments from local music stores is also an option. Some funds will be necessary to purchase accessories and needed equipment. Cost and equipment depend on what instrument you choose to play. Students will usually perform in 3 concerts throughout the school year. (1.0 credit)

**Beginning Orchestra:** No previous experience is required to play in beginning orchestra. Students will learn foundational instrument technique, reading music and rhythms. Instrument options are: Violin, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass (Piano players will need to learn one of the previously listed instruments and may play Piano when a part is available). Instrument rental fees are \$100 per year. Renting instruments from local music stores is also an option. Some funds will be necessary to purchase accessories and needed equipment. Cost and equipment depend on what instrument you choose to play. Students will usually perform in 3 concerts throughout the school year. (1.0 credit)

**Choir 6:** Choir is a performance group devoted to the study and performance of music from a wide spectrum of musical styles. This class includes an introduction to fundamental singing techniques, musical



reading skills, and part-singing, which are necessary to the foundation of developing musicianship. Choral rehearsals are centered on the national standards of music education. (1.0 credit)

**General Music:** This is a semester long course which explores music theory, rhythm, beat, genres of music, and the birth of American music from its roots in 1840s through the present day. Students will maintain a journal and document the names of songs, artists/bands including notes about why the songs matter. At the end of the semester, students will have completed a journal which includes music activities, songs with relevant context and/or a practice record if developing skills on a musical instrument. (.5 credit)

**Intro Theatre:** This is a class for students who are interested in developing basic skills in acting and theatre. Students will learn pantomime, monologues, scenes, and playwriting, as well as a brief overview of theatre history and technical theatre. Students may take the course both semesters if schedules allow. Students may take the course both semesters if schedules allow. (.5 credit)

**Physical Education:** In this class, students learn motor skills like kicking, throwing, aiming, dribbling, and other skills used in drills that enhance their ability to manipulate objects with their body movements. We work with all skill levels and abilities and encourage students to do their best. The principles of working as a team, pushing yourself as an individual, being part of the class culture, and being positive with self and others are a main focus of the class. We strive to help students set goals, reach their potential, and make fitness an enjoyable part of their day, so they can create healthy habits for their futures. (.5 credit)

**STEM:** This class fosters a learning environment in which students are guided to produce original ideas, objects, and structures according to certain specifications using concepts and skills from science, technology, engineering and math. (.5 credit)

**Social Dance:** This class focuses on the beginning level steps of Social Ballroom Dance. Students will work with, dance with, and get to know their classmates. Students will learn the Cha-cha, Swing, Waltz, Tango, and Foxtrot. Students will have the opportunity to showcase what they learn in class through group routines and competitions. Students who take this class will learn Level 1 skills in the fall semester and Level 2 skills in the spring semester. This is a good class for students to learn how to move their body, be social, and practice team building skills, as well as have fun. There is a class fee. (.5 credit)



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses

### Language Arts

**Language Arts 7:** In this course, students build on reading, writing, language, listening, and speaking skills learned in previous grades. Students read high quality texts in which they practice analyzing the language and ideas of the text while building a working vocabulary. Students study grammar, use mentor texts and other writing strategies to analyze genre, and then apply their learning to their own writing. Finally, students practice speaking and listening through classroom discussions and occasional presentations. Texts include: *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*, *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World*, *Wolf Hollow*, and more. (2.0 credits)

**Language Arts 7 Honors:** *prerequisite: B+ or higher in Language Arts 6 and teacher recommendation*  
This course covers more than a typical 7<sup>th</sup> grade language arts class at twice the pace. Learning is interactive and fast-paced. Students learn and practice strategies for writing, reading, speaking, and listening. Students will practice communicating accurately and persuasively. Students will read high quality texts (*The Watsons Go to Birmingham*, *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World*, *Wolf Hollow*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and more), write potent essays (explanative, argumentative, and narrative), practice speaking clearly and powerfully, and more. (1.0 credit)

### Mathematics

**Math 7:** *prerequisite: Math 6*

This class uses a problem-based approach to mathematics in which students spend time making sense of problems, trying different approaches, evaluating the reasonableness of their answers, interpreting the significance of their answers, noticing patterns and making generalizations, explaining their reasoning verbally and in writing, listening to the reasoning of others, and building their understanding. This 7th Grade Math curriculum covers the concepts of Scale Drawings; Introducing Proportional Relationships; Measuring Circles; Proportional Relationships and Percentages; Rational Number Arithmetic; Expressions, Equations and Inequalities; Angles, Triangles and Prisms; and Probability and Sampling. (2.0 credits)

**Math 7 Honors:** *prerequisite: Math 6 Honors and teacher recommendation*

This is a fast-paced class that uses a problem-based approach to mathematics in which students spend time making sense of problems, trying different approaches, evaluating the reasonableness of their answers, interpreting the significance of their answers, noticing patterns and making generalizations, explaining their reasoning verbally and in writing, listening to the reasoning of others, and building their understanding. (2.0 credits)

**Math 8:** *prerequisite: Math 7 and teacher recommendation*

This class uses a problem-based approach to mathematics in which students spend time making sense of problems, trying different approaches, evaluating the reasonableness of their answers, interpreting the significance of their answers, noticing patterns and making generalizations, explaining their reasoning



verbally and in writing, listening to the reasoning of others, and building their understanding. This 8th Grade Math curriculum covers the concepts of Rigid Transformations and Congruence; Dilations, Similarity, and Introducing Slope; Linear Relationships; Linear Equations and Linear Systems; Functions and Volume; Associations in Data; Exponents and Scientific Notation; Pythagorean Theorem and Irrational Numbers. (2.0 credits)

**Math 8 Honors:** *prerequisite: Math 7 Honors and teacher recommendation*

This is a fast-paced class that uses a problem-based approach to mathematics in which students spend time making sense of problems, trying different approaches, evaluating the reasonableness of their answers, interpreting the significance of their answers, noticing patterns and making generalizations, explaining their reasoning verbally and in writing, listening to the reasoning of others, and building their understanding. This 8th Grade Math curriculum covers the concepts of Rigid Transformations and Congruence; Dilations, Similarity, and Introducing Slope; Linear Relationships; Linear Equations and Linear Systems; Functions and Volume; Associations in Data; Exponents and Scientific Notation; Pythagorean Theorem and Irrational Numbers. (2.0 credits)

## Science

**Integrated Science 7:** This class explores how different forces interact with matter, geological processes, the structure and function of life, and inheritance and changes to species over time. (1.0 credit)

## Social Studies

**Utah Studies:** This class explores what makes Utah unique! We will talk about the geography of our state including: National Parks, State parks, landmarks, mountain ranges, and other important physical features. We will cover our state's history from ancient and modern Native Americans, to Mountain Men and Pioneers. We will talk about events that have shaped communities in Utah, including mines, railroads, and more recently the 2002 Olympics. We will also discuss economic, social, and political issues facing our communities, state, country, and nation. (.5 credit)

## Additional Required Courses

**College and Career Awareness:** Students in CCA will have 4 separate classroom experiences throughout the semester in which they learn about a variety of careers, including Agriculture, Marketing, Programming, Textile Construction, Woodworking, Culinary Arts, and more. Many other skills and topics will be learned and discussed. (1.0 credit)

**Physical Education:** In this class, students learn motor skills like kicking, throwing, aiming, dribbling, and other skills used in drills that enhance their ability to manipulate objects with their body movements. We work with all skill levels and abilities and encourage students to do their best. The principles of working as a team, pushing yourself as an individual, being part of the class culture, and being positive with self and others are a main focus of the class. We strive to help students set goals, reach their potential, and make fitness an enjoyable part of their day, so they can create healthy habits for their futures. (.5 credit)





## Elective Courses

**Art Foundations:** This course offers instruction and opportunity in the mediums of drawing, painting, ceramics, and printmaking. Composition is addressed in all mediums, as students are guided through a design process. Targeted skills include sharpening observation, building a drawing through layers, developing forms through shading, cross hatching with both value and color, color mixing, designing and creating three-dimensional objects in clay, and more. Throughout this course, students will learn and practice the foundational aspects of art so that they have a sturdy foundation of art skills moving forward. (.5 credit)

**Art Exploration:** In this class, students will develop an understanding of how generating ideas and planning can lead to expressive creations. Students will also have a better understanding of how color theory influences artists. Students will communicate meaning through the visual arts. This class builds on students' skills, independence, and confidence through conception, and creation of their work. From drawing and painting, to printmaking and ceramics, assignments are designed to maximize student development. By the end of this course, students will have a greater understanding of how to convey thoughts, emotion, and meaning in their artwork, and how to interpret and appreciate other artists' work. (.5 credit)

**Beginning Band:** No previous experience is required to play in beginning band. Students will learn foundational instrument technique, reading music and rhythms. Instrument options are: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Percussion, and Mallets (Piano players usually play Mallets when no Piano part is available). Instrument rental fees are \$100 per year. Renting instruments from local music stores is also an option. Some funds will be necessary to purchase accessories and needed equipment. Cost and equipment depend on what instrument you choose to play. Students will usually perform in 3 concerts throughout the school year. (1.0 credit)

**Intermediate Band:** *prerequisite: 1-3 years of previous band experience or teacher approval*  
Students will build on foundational musical concepts learned from the previous class or personal experience. Instrument options are: Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Percussion, and Mallets (Piano players usually play Mallets when no Piano part is available). Instrument rental fees are \$100 per year. Renting instruments from local music stores is also an option. Some funds will be necessary to purchase accessories and needed equipment. Cost and equipment depend on what instrument you choose to play. Students will usually perform in 4 concerts throughout the school year. (1.0 credit)

**Beginning Orchestra:** No previous experience is required to play in beginning orchestra. Students will learn foundational instrument technique, reading music and rhythms. Instrument options are: Violin, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass (Piano players will need to learn one of the previous listed instruments and may play Piano when a part is available). Instrument rental fees are \$100 per year. Renting instruments from local music stores is also an option. Some funds will be necessary to purchase accessories and needed equipment. Cost and equipment depend on what instrument you choose to play. Students will usually perform in 3 concerts throughout the school year. (1.0 credit)



**Intermediate Orchestra:** *prerequisite: 1-3 years of previous orchestra experience or teacher approval*  
Students will build on foundational musical concepts learned from the previous class or personal experience. Instrument options are: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. (Piano players will need to learn one of the previous listed instruments and may play Piano when a part is available). Instrument rental fees are \$100 per year. Renting instruments from local music stores is also an option. Some funds will be necessary to purchase accessories and needed equipment. Cost and equipment depend on what instrument you choose to play. Students will usually perform in 4 concerts throughout the school year. (1.0 credit)

**Intermediate Choir:** Choir is a performance group devoted to the study and performance of music from a wide spectrum of musical styles. Choir members will learn a wide range of quality repertoire ranging from classical and jazz to spirituals and multicultural music, spanning from the Medieval to Contemporary periods. Choral rehearsals are centered on the national standards of music education and include fundamental singing techniques, musical reading skills, and part-singing, which are necessary to the foundation of developing musicianship. (1.0 credit)

**General Music:** This is a semester long course which explores music theory, rhythm, beat, genres of music, and the birth of American music from its roots in 1840s through the present day. Students will maintain a journal and document the names of songs, artists/bands including notes about why the songs matter. At the end of the semester, students will have completed a journal which includes music activities, songs with relevant context and/or a practice record if developing skills on a musical instrument. (.5 credit)

**Social Dance:** This class focuses on the beginning level steps of Social Ballroom Dance. Students will work with, dance with, and get to know their classmates. Students will learn the Cha-cha, Swing, Waltz, Tango, and Foxtrot. Students will have the opportunity to showcase what they learn in class through group routines and competitions. Students who take this class will learn Level 1 skills in the fall semester and Level 2 skills in the spring semester. This is a good class for students to learn how to move their body, be social, and practice team building skills, as well as have fun. There is a class fee (.5 credit)

**Intro Theatre:** This is a class for students who are interested in developing basic skills in acting and theatre. Students will learn pantomime, monologues, scenes, and playwriting, as well as a brief overview of theatre history and technical theatre. Students may take the course both semesters if schedules allow. Students may take the course both semesters if schedules allow. (.5 credit)

**Intermediate Theatre:** *Prerequisite: Previous theatre course and/or instructor approval.* This course allows students to build on skills and knowledge developed in previous Theatre Foundations courses. The class is designed for students who wish to focus on performance, playwriting, and directing; this class offers a customized theatre experience depending on student interest and skill-level. Students may repeat the course as often as schedules allow. (.5 credit each)

**Musical Theatre:** *Prerequisite: Previous theatre/choir course and/or instructor approval.* This class is for students who are interested in applying other theatre and musical classes to create a mini-Broadway Review. Students will be exposed to and assess a number of musical theatre productions. We will then adapt a selection of musical theatre numbers and scenes into a performance. All rehearsals and



production design work will take place during class. Students may repeat the course as often as schedules allow. (.5 credit)

**Intro to Spanish:** This course, the first in a two-part sequence, provides students with the necessary foundation for the continued study of Spanish in High School. It presents basic structure and grammar of the Spanish language and encourages conversation with the introduction of basic vocabulary. Emphasis will be on the acquisition of four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Cultural activities introduce students to the customs and geography of the Spanish-speaking countries. (.5 credit)

**Intermediate Spanish:** *prerequisite: A grade of C- or higher in Intro to Spanish, or teacher recommendation*

This class builds upon knowledge gained in Intro to Spanish. This course continues to present basic structure and grammar of the Spanish language and encourages conversation with the introduction of basic vocabulary. Emphasis will be on the acquisition of four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will also focus on mastering the Present tense in verb conjugation. Cultural activities will expand students' awareness of the customs and geography of Spanish-speaking countries. This course completes the two-part sequence of Level I at the Middle School and prepares students for success at the High School level. (.5 credit)

**Study Skills:** This elective class is a pass/fail course. The course is tailored to the needs of the student. It can be used to develop study skills, provide time and help for homework, and help students stay organized. It is primarily a study hall. Weekly grade checks help students stay on top of assignments and manage their time in class. (.5 credit)



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses

### Language Arts

**Language Arts 8:** This class focuses on writing narrative, argumentative, and informational text structures; building vocabulary, identifying figurative language, and reading comprehension; making inferences, citing evidence and sources, according to MLA guidelines. Students build skills in time management, collaboration, and oral presentations. Texts used: "Flowers for Algernon", *Keeper*, *Animal Farm*, Anne Frank (play), and *Twelfth Night*, along with several short stories, poems, and informational texts. (1.0 credit)

**Language Arts 8 Honors:** *prerequisite: B+ or higher in Language Arts 7 and teacher recommendation*  
This class focuses on writing narrative, argumentative, and informational text structures; building vocabulary, identifying figurative language, and reading comprehension; making inferences, citing evidence and sources, according to MLA guidelines. Students complete an extensive research paper using 3 or more sources and MLA formatting. Students build skills in time management, collaboration, and oral presentations. Texts used: "Flowers for Algernon", *Keeper*, *Animal Farm*, Anne Frank (play), *Twelfth Night*, and *Lord of the Flies*, group novels of students' choice, several short stories, poems, and informational texts. (1.0 credit)

### Mathematics

**Math 8:** *prerequisite: Math 7*

This class uses a problem-based approach to mathematics in which students spend time making sense of problems, trying different approaches, evaluating the reasonableness of their answers, interpreting the significance of their answers, noticing patterns and making generalizations, explaining their reasoning verbally and in writing, listening to the reasoning of others, and building their understanding. This 8th Grade Math curriculum covers the concepts of Rigid Transformations and Congruence; Dilations, Similarity, and Introducing Slope; Linear Relationships; Linear Equations and Linear Systems; Functions and Volume; Associations in Data; Exponents and Scientific Notation; Pythagorean Theorem and Irrational Numbers. (2.0 credits)

**Math 8 Honors:** *prerequisite: Math 7 Honors and teacher recommendation*

This is a fast-paced class that uses a problem-based approach to mathematics in which students spend time making sense of problems, trying different approaches, evaluating the reasonableness of their answers, interpreting the significance of their answers, noticing patterns and making generalizations, explaining their reasoning verbally and in writing, listening to the reasoning of others, and building their understanding. This 8th Grade Math curriculum covers the concepts of Rigid Transformations and Congruence; Dilations, Similarity, and Introducing Slope; Linear Relationships; Linear Equations and Linear Systems; Functions and Volume; Associations in Data; Exponents and Scientific Notation; Pythagorean Theorem and Irrational Numbers. (2.0 credits)



**Secondary Math I:** *prerequisite: Math 8 or Math 8 Honors*

Students will learn to formalize and extend the mathematics that they learned in the middle grades. They will deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomena, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Secondary Mathematics I uses properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge from prior grades. The final unit in the course ties together the algebraic and geometric ideas studied. (1.0 credit)

**Secondary Math I PLUS:** *prerequisite: Math 8 Honors and teacher recommendation*

This class follows the curriculum of Secondary Math I, but also adds in standards from Pre-Calculus. (1.0 credit)

**Secondary Math II:** *prerequisite: Secondary Math I*

Students will focus on quadratic expressions, equations, and functions and on comparing their characteristics and behaviors to those of linear and exponential relationships from Secondary Mathematics I. The need for extending the set of rational numbers arises, and real and complex numbers are introduced so that all quadratic equations can be solved. The link between probability and data is explored through conditional probability and counting methods, including their use in making and evaluating decisions. The study of similarity leads to an understanding of right triangle trigonometry and connects to quadratics through Pythagorean relationships. Circles, with their quadratic algebraic representation, are also covered. (1.0 credit)

**Secondary Math II PLUS:** *prerequisite: Secondary Math I PLUS and teacher recommendation*

This class follows the curriculum of Secondary Math II, but also adds in standards from Pre-Calculus. (1.0 credit)

## Science

**Integrated Science 8:** This course looks at science across disciplines to examine the scientific practices and cross cutting concepts necessary to think and act like a scientist. Students will learn about Matter and Energy, Transfer and Storage of Energy, Energy in Life Systems, and World Resources and Energy. Each unit will build upon and integrate the understanding of the previous unit. (1.0 credit)

## Social Studies

**United States History:** This class focuses on the history of the U.S. from the age of exploration and colonization to the end of Reconstruction in 1877. Students will examine the full scope of Early American history, including the American Revolution and writing of the Constitution, the early Republic and the Age of Jackson, Westward Expansion, and the rise of sectionalism, before the course culminates with the Civil War and Reconstruction. We will also examine the Rights and Responsibilities as Citizens as laid out by the U.S. Constitution. (1.0 credit)



## Additional Required Courses

**Latin:** This class pursues a basic understanding of Classical Latin, as well as an appreciation for specific aspects of Roman history and culture and for the numerous Latin derivatives in English, Spanish, and other modern languages. This class is required, and it does not produce high school credit. (1.0 credit)

**Health 8:** In this class, students learn about the basics of being mentally, physically, emotionally, and socially healthy. Each unit helps the students to understand what it means to be healthy in each of these areas, how to apply skills to improve in these areas, and the importance of developing those healthy habits now as a teen. We look at how our habits and behaviors affect our lives now and later and evaluate what changes need to happen. Units about self-esteem, decision-making, drugs and alcohol, human sexuality, and nutrition are focused on helping students build a healthy lifestyle, so they can reach their goals and potential as they grow and develop mentally and physically. (.5 credit)

**Physical Education:** In this class, students learn motor skills like kicking, throwing, aiming, dribbling, and other skills used in drills that enhance their ability to manipulate objects with their body movements. We try to make practicing skills enjoyable for students of all skill levels and abilities and encourage them to do their best. The principles of working as a team, pushing yourself as an individual, being part of the class culture, and being positive with self and others are a main focus of the class. We strive to help students set goals, reach their potential, and make fitness an enjoyable part of their day, so they can create healthy habits for their futures. (.5 credit)

## Elective Courses

**Art Foundations:** This course offers instruction and opportunity in the mediums of drawing, painting, ceramics, and printmaking. Composition is addressed in all mediums, as students are guided through a design process. Targeted skills include sharpening observation, building a drawing through layers, developing forms through shading, cross hatching with both value and color, color mixing, designing and creating three-dimensional objects in clay, and more. Throughout this course, students will learn and practice the foundational aspects of art so that they have a sturdy foundation of art skills moving forward. (.5 credit)

**Art Exploration:** In this class, students will develop an understanding of how generating ideas and planning can lead to expressive creations. Students will also have a better understanding of how color theory influences artists. Students will communicate meaning through the visual arts. This class builds on students' skills, independence, and confidence through conception, and creation of their work. From drawing and painting, to printmaking and ceramics, assignments are designed to maximize student development. By the end of this course, students will have a greater understanding of how to convey thoughts, emotion, and meaning in their artwork, and how to interpret and appreciate other artists' work. (.5 credit)

**Advanced Art:** *prerequisite: Art Foundations and Art Exploration*

In this course, students will delve into advanced drawing, sculpture, and painting techniques using various mediums. Designed for motivated individuals, this advanced class involves long-term assignments aimed at refining previously acquired skills. The curriculum emphasizes art as a form of communication and





expression, the application of design principles, and the historical context of artists in society. Operating within a supportive environment, students are encouraged to take creative risks, engage in critical thinking, and solve visual challenges. By mastering new vocabulary and techniques, students will deepen their appreciation for the fine arts. (.5 credit)

**Beginning Band:** No previous experience is required to play in beginning band. Students will learn foundational instrument technique, reading music and rhythms. Instrument options are: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Percussion, and Mallets (Piano players usually play Mallets when no Piano part is available). Instrument rental fees are \$100 per year. Renting instruments from local music stores is also an option. Some funds will be necessary to purchase accessories and needed equipment. Cost and equipment depend on what instrument you choose to play. Students will usually perform in 3 concerts throughout the school year. (1.0 credit)

**Intermediate Band:** *prerequisite: 1-3 years of previous band experience or teacher approval*  
Students will build on foundational musical concepts learned from the previous class or personal experience. Instrument options are: Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Percussion, and Mallets (Piano players usually play Mallets when no Piano part is available). Instrument rental fees are \$100 per year. Renting instruments from local music stores is also an option. Some funds will be necessary to purchase accessories and needed equipment. Cost and equipment depend on what instrument you choose to play. Students will usually perform in 4 concerts throughout the school year. (1.0 credit)

**Advanced Band:** *prerequisite: 2+ years of previous band experience and teacher approval*  
Students continue to progress from instrumental skills learned in beginning and intermediate band. Members also have the option to participate in State Band festival and regional solo/ensemble festival. Along with 4 school concerts, the advanced band also plays at various other events in and out of school. Instrument options are: Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Percussion, and Mallets (Piano players usually play Mallets when no Piano part is available). Instrument rental fees are \$100 per year. Renting instruments from local music stores is also an option. Some funds will be necessary to purchase accessories and needed equipment. Cost and equipment depend on what instrument you choose to play. (1.0 credit)

**Beginning Orchestra:** No previous experience is required to play in beginning orchestra. Students will learn foundational instrument technique, reading music and rhythms. Instrument options are: Violin, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass (Piano players will need to learn one of the previous listed instruments and may play Piano when a part is available). Instrument rental fees are \$100 per year. Renting instruments from local music stores is also an option. Some funds will be necessary to purchase accessories and needed equipment. Cost and equipment depend on what instrument you choose to play. Students will usually perform in 3 concerts throughout the school year. (1.0 credit)

**Intermediate Orchestra:** *prerequisite: 1-3 years of previous orchestra experience or teacher approval*  
Students will build on foundational musical concepts learned from the previous class or personal experience. Instrument options are: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. (Piano players will need to learn one of the previous listed instruments and may play Piano when a part is available). Instrument rental fees are \$100 per year. Renting instruments from local music stores is also an option. Some funds will be



necessary to purchase accessories and needed equipment. Cost and equipment depend on what instrument you choose to play. Students will usually perform in 4 concerts throughout the school year. (1.0 credit)

**Advanced Orchestra:** *prerequisite: 2+ years of previous orchestra experience and teacher approval*

Students continue to progress from instrumental skills learned in beginning and intermediate orchestra. Members also have the option to participate in State Orchestra festival and regional solo/ensemble festival. Along with 4 school concerts, the advanced orchestra also plays at various other events in and out of school. Instrument options are: Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass (Piano players will need to learn one of the previous listed instruments and may play Piano when a part is available). Instrument rental fees are \$100 per year. Renting instruments from local music stores is also an option. Some funds will be necessary to purchase accessories and needed equipment. Cost and equipment depend on what instrument you choose to play. (1.0 credit)

**Intermediate Choir:** Choir is a performance group devoted to the study and performance of music from a wide spectrum of musical styles. Choir members will learn a wide range of quality repertoire ranging from classical and jazz to spirituals and multicultural music, spanning from the Medieval to Contemporary periods. Choral rehearsals are centered on the national standards of music education and include fundamental singing techniques, musical reading skills, and part-singing, which are necessary to the foundation of developing musicianship. (1.0 credit)

**General Music:** This is a semester long course which explores music theory, rhythm, beat, genres of music, and the birth of American music from its roots in 1840s through the present day. Students will maintain a journal and document the names of songs, artists/bands including notes about why the songs matter. At the end of the semester, students will have completed a journal which includes music activities, songs with relevant context and/or a practice record if developing skills on a musical instrument. (.5 credit)

**Social Dance:** This class focuses on the beginning level steps of Social Ballroom Dance. Students will work with, dance with, and get to know their classmates. Students will learn the Cha-cha, Swing, Waltz, Tango, and Foxtrot. Students will have the opportunity to showcase what they learn in class through group routines and competitions. Students who take this class will learn Level 1 skills in the fall semester and Level 2 skills in the spring semester. This is a good class for students to learn how to move their body, be social, and practice team building skills, as well as have fun. There is a \$70 fee to join the class. (1.0 credit)

**Ballroom Team Performance:** *prerequisite: Social Dance and audition required*

In this class, students will have the opportunity to learn the more advanced and competitive style of ballroom dance known as "International Style". The dances students learn will be of the following: Paso-Double, Samba, Rumba, Viennese Waltz, Jive, Int. Cha-cha, Int. Waltz, American Foxtrot, and American Waltz. The international style is more often used in competitions and performances. Students in this class will have multiple opportunities to perform their routines. This class has a fee. (1.0 credit)

**Creative Coding:** This class focuses on creative coding through games and apps to learn coding principles. Students will learn app design through paper prototypes and Figma. In addition, students will learn how to code in C# by working in a real software development environment (Unity) to design,





program and publish a mobile game as they learn the structure and logic of computer games, game flow, and project development. **This is an introductory course for the Computer Science Academy.** (.5 credit)

**Exploring Photo:** Learn the basics of photography in this class. (.5 credit)

**Exploring Photo and Graphic Design** (MS Yearbook): *prerequisite: Application and acceptance required.* This course allows students to apply theories about graphic design, layout and photography to create a physical printed book. This class includes instruction in software use, photography, design, digital imaging, and print preparation. This class can be taken semester- or year-long. You may drop/add midyear if your application has been accepted. This class is a prerequisite for Production Design I and 2 at the high school level. **This is an introductory course for the Digital Media Academy.** (.5/1.0 credit)

**Exploring Technology:** A foundational engineering design course that introduces basic problem-solving and documentation skills. Various aspects of engineering will be explored along with technology's environmental, societal, and economic impacts on our world. By utilizing problem-solving skills, students develop essential abilities and attitudes that will in turn expand their occupational opportunities in the world of engineering. **This is an introductory course for the Engineering & Product Design Academy.** (.5 credit)

**Family and Consumer Sciences Exploration:** This course provides students the opportunity to develop essential skills in the various career pathways related to Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS). Students will explore and cultivate skills in food and nutrition sciences, childcare, interior design, clothing and textile construction, fashion design and merchandising, consumerism, entrepreneurship, family relationships, personal responsibility, and career and job-related tasks. (.5 credit)

**Intro Theatre:** This is a class for students who are interested in developing basic skills in acting and theatre. Students will learn pantomime, monologues, scenes, and playwriting, as well as a brief overview of theatre history and technical theatre. Students may take the course both semesters if schedules allow. Students may take the course both semesters if schedules allow. (.5 credit)

**Intermediate Theatre:** *Prerequisite: Previous theatre course and/or instructor approval.* This course allows students to build on skills and knowledge developed in previous Theatre Foundations courses. The class is designed for students who wish to focus on performance, playwriting, and directing; this class offers a customized theatre experience depending on student interest and skill-level. Students may repeat the course as often as schedules allow. (.5 credit each)

**Musical Theatre:** *Prerequisite: Previous theatre/choir course and/or instructor approval.* This class is for students who are interested in applying other theatre and musical classes to create a mini-Broadway Review. Students will be exposed to and assess a number of musical theatre productions. We will then adapt a selection of musical theatre numbers and scenes into a performance. All rehearsals and production design work will take place during class. Students may repeat the course as often as schedules allow. (.5 credit)



**Intro to Spanish:** This elective course, the first in a two-part sequence, provides students with the necessary foundation for the continued study of Spanish in High School. It presents basic structure and grammar of the Spanish language and encourages conversation with the introduction of basic vocabulary. Emphasis will be on the acquisition of four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Cultural activities introduce the student to the customs and geography of the Spanish-speaking countries. (.5 credit)

**Intermediate Spanish:** *prerequisite: C- or higher in Intro to Spanish or teacher recommendation*

This class builds upon knowledge gained in Intro to Spanish. This elective course continues to present basic structure and grammar of the Spanish language and encourages conversation with the introduction of basic vocabulary. Emphasis will be on the acquisition of four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will also focus on mastering the Present tense in verb conjugation. Cultural activities will expand student awareness of the customs and geography of Spanish-speaking countries. This course completes the two-part sequence of Level I at the Middle School and prepares students for success at the High School level. (.5 credit)

**Study Skills:** This elective class is a pass/fail course. The course is tailored to the needs of the student. It can be used to develop study skills, provide time and help for homework, and help students stay organized. It is primarily a study hall. Weekly grade checks help students stay on top of assignments and manage their time in class. (.5 credit)