



Middle School Course Catalog

2018–2019

Provided in partnership with StrongMind
strongmind.com

www.compasscharters.org



2018/2019 MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE LIST

English Language Arts

English 6 A/B
English 7 A/B
English 8 A/B

Mathematics

Math 6 A/B
Math 7 A/B
Math 8 A/B

Science

Science 6 A/B
Science 7 A/B
Science 8 A/B

Social Studies

Social Studies 6 A/B
Social Studies 7 A/B
Social Studies 8 A/B

Health

Health 7 (required 7th grade semester course)

Physical Education

Compass Physical Education 6 A/B
Compass Physical Education 7 A/B
Compass Physical Education 8 A/B

Electives/(S) = semester course

MS Character Education (S)
MS Computer Basics (S)
MS Gaming Unlocked (S)
MS Photography (S)
MS Study Skills (S)
*Spanish 7 A/B
*Spanish 8 A/B (pre-requisite Spanish 7A/B)

*The 7th and 8th grade yearlong Spanish elective courses will be eligible to meet the high school foreign language requirement of Spanish 1 if completed with a grade of B or higher each semester (5 credits for each academic school year). No partial credit will be awarded.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Table of Contents

English	4
Math	5
Science	6
Social Studies	7
Health	8
Physical Education	8
Elective Courses.....	8

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 6A

In this course, scholars will read and analyze informational texts. These texts take many different forms, including biographies, personal accounts of events, instructional documents, film reviews, and persuasive letters. The course's reading selections demonstrate ways to understand explicit and implicit information, central ideas and key details, and claims and arguments, among other ideas and concepts.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

ENGLISH 6B

In this course, scholars will focus on learning reading skills based on literary texts. The texts come from a number of genres and include a novel, excerpts from novels, short stories, poems, and plays. The course's reading selections demonstrate ways to understand explicit and implicit information, theme, characters, plot, poetic techniques, and figurative language, among other ideas and concepts. Additionally, scholars will read poems from famous poets, such as Robert Louis Stevenson, Robert Frost, and Carl Sandburg, to name a few.

PRE-REQUISITES: English 6A

ENGLISH 7A

In this course, scholars will improve their reading and writing skills, helping them become communicators that are more effective. Scholars will organize their ideas and prepare structured essays based on various topics such as personal experience and persuading others. Scholars will learn and practice effective research techniques as they prepare, complete and polish reports and essays. This course will also provide interactive activities, readings and PowerPoint presentations to extend learning beyond the textbook. Scholars participate in discussions that will include teacher feedback on a daily basis throughout the course.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

ENGLISH 7B

The purpose of this course is to build upon the basics of English 7A and enhance the ability of scholars to read literature of a wide variety. Scholars continue to develop their writing through unit projects and the application of the Six Traits of Writing to the processes of prewriting, organizing, drafting, revising, editing and publishing. Scholars will complete six units of varying topics, comprised of five lessons each.

PRE-REQUISITES: English 7A

ENGLISH 8A

Writing is an essential skill. In business and academics, effective writers are eagerly sought and rewarded. This class centers on writing effectively in a business setting, as scholars produce a brochure on an interesting place of their choosing. Interactive activities, readings and PowerPoint presentations provide a wealth of information. Scholars participate in discussions and teacher feedback is provided throughout the course.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

ENGLISH 8B

English 8B is the second semester of the 8th grade English Language Arts course. This course covers reading, writing, and analysis using both informational and literary texts. As you read the selections in this course, you will practice ways to use supporting evidence, identify central ideas, make inferences, analyze word choice, and identify figurative and connotative language in both literary and informational texts. You will also learn about basics in grammar, usage, and punctuation. In addition, you will learn the elements of informational and argument writing for your own informational and argument essays.

This course cultivates excitement and interest in ELA while preparing scholars for high school ELA courses and high-stakes testing.

PRE-REQUISITES: English 8A

MATH

MATH 6A

In this course, scholars will build on previously learned concepts like adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing. They will deepen their knowledge of arithmetic with fractions and work with decimals and negative numbers. They will apply these new skills to help solve real-world problems using statistics, ratios, unit conversions, and geometry, as well as expand their ability to write and evaluate expressions, including ones involving new concepts like variables and exponents. Scholars will also begin working with equations and learn what it means to solve them.

PRE-REQUISITES: 5th grade Math

MATH 6B

This course will help the scholar master the Common Core concepts required at the sixth grade level. Each concept is explained and problems are presented in a variety of ways. This allows scholars to learn in their own way. The scholar can use his or her current knowledge to learn the new concepts and develop mastery level skills.

PRE-REQUISITES: Math 6A

MATH 7A

In this course, scholars begin with adding and multiplying rational numbers by using number lines, rules, and properties. Then, they move their focus to proportional relationships given in tables, diagrams, graphs, equations, and verbal descriptions. They also learn how to solve problems by finding and comparing unit rates. Next, they rewrite expressions using properties, as well as write and solve simple linear equations by using different methods. The next area of study is probability and statistics, where they will interpret and calculate simple probabilities, as well as learn about populations and samples. Finally, they move on to geometry and learn how to solve problems about scale drawing, circles, and angle relationships and draw some geometric shapes.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

MATH 7B

This second half of Math Basics will continue to expand the scholar's math skills in preparation for algebra and geometry. All concepts are presented in multimedia presentations allowing the scholar to learn in their own style. This course provides multiple opportunities for the scholar to learn new concepts, as well as reaching mastery level of basic math skills.

PRE-REQUISITES: Math 7A

MATH 8A

Math 8A will help scholars move from the world of simple mathematics to the exciting world of Algebra and Geometry. They will develop skills that will be necessary throughout their life. Scholars will stretch their thinking by learning to solve real world problems.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

MATH 8B

Math 8B scholars continue building on the fundamentals and move from simple mathematics to the exciting worlds of algebra, geometry and statistics.

PRE-REQUISITES: Math 8A/Pre-Algebra

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 6A

Introduction to Science 6A is an introduction to the basics of scientific thinking and investigation. In this courses, scholars will learn how to make predictions, investigate and interpret data. These concepts will then carry over to the other parts of 6th grade science where they will practice and use the scientific process. Scholars will also explore the structure and function of living systems. This will include learning about the cell, different groups of living things, how living things are organized and how different structures work together to carry out certain functions.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

SCIENCE 6B

Introduction to Science 6B is a continuation to the basics of scientific thinking and investigation. In this course, scholars will continue to practice making predictions, investigating and interpreting data. Scholars will also explore the composition of Earth and how Earth interacts with the atmosphere. This will include learning about Earth's weather and climate. This course also covers how organisms interact with their environment and the various changes that can occur. Finally, scholars will learn how energy is transferred and stored.

PRE-REQUISITES: Science 6A

SCIENCE 7A

This course focuses on science concepts from the fields of chemistry, biology, and ecology. Science 7A begins by exploring the relationship between matter and energy. Next, the course dives into chemical reactions. You can then use your knowledge of matter, energy, and chemical reactions to tackle cellular respiration and photosynthesis. Lastly, you will uncover the world of synthetic materials to see how they are made and how they impact society.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

SCIENCE 7B

This is the second course for 7th grade science. One unit on Environmental Science is discussed, along with five units of Astronomy. These topics are tested and applied to the scholar's everyday life. The purpose of this course is to introduce scholars to basic science topics in preparation for a high school level General Science course.

PRE-REQUISITES: Science 7A

SCIENCE 8A

Science 8A is intended for general use by scholars in 8th grade. It is an integrated science course, including topics from the physical sciences (specifically, chemistry and physics) and the life sciences (specifically, biology and ecology), with engineering and technology practices threaded throughout the course.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

SCIENCE 8B

Science 8B focuses on physical science concepts, including topics from physics and space science. Science 8B begins by exploring the history of science and highlights influential scientists who laid the groundwork for the fields scholars are about to discover. This course begins with physics—one of the more interactive sciences that can be seen in action in the world. This course explores concepts of velocity and acceleration, then dives into forces and Newton's laws of motion. The course also explores space, including the solar system, planets, and the Moon.

PRE-REQUISITES: Science 8A

SOCIAL STUDIES

SOCIAL STUDIES 6A

Prepare to travel the world on a journey through the history of civilization. Scholars will study the influence of geography, culture and religion on the world. They will traverse the ancient cultures of Asia and Europe from Mesopotamia to ancient Rome. Scholars will discover how exploration, trade, scientific discoveries and new philosophies changed the course of human history. Finally, Scholars will assess these religious, scientific, philosophical and political breakthroughs. Through this course, scholars will begin to understand how concepts from the past continue to influence our society today.

PRE-REQUISITES: None 8

SOCIAL STUDIES 6B

Social Studies B covers the Islamic Empires through the Enlightenment period. A current events component is featured. Through this course, scholars will begin to understand how concepts and philosophies from the past continue to influence our society today.

PRE-REQUISITES: Social Studies 6A

SOCIAL STUDIES 7A

American History covers the history of our nation from pre-Civil War through the Roaring Twenties. Major topics include: pre-Civil War, the Civil War, Reconstruction, Immigration, the Industrial Revolution, the Progressive Era, Imperialism, World War I and the Roaring Twenties. In addition, the content areas of government, economics, science, art, literature and the humanities are interwoven throughout the class, creating an integrated learning experience.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

SOCIAL STUDIES 7B

Social Studies 7B will cover the history of our nation from the Great Depression to the 21st Century. Scholars will examine factors that lead to the Great Depression and World War II. The West's involvement in the Cold War, as well as the fall of the Soviet Union, will be covered in detail. The course also includes a study of contemporary issues in America, foreign and domestic policies and economics. In addition, the content areas of government, science, art, literature and the humanities are interwoven throughout the class, creating an integrated learning experience.

PRE-REQUISITES: Social Studies 7A

SOCIAL STUDIES 8A

This course covers the history of American Indian cultures before the arrival of Europeans through the presidency of Andrew Jackson. Major topics include the development of the British colonies, democracy, the American Revolution, the Constitution, social and political developments during the early period of the United States, and economic changes of the early Industrial Revolution.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

SOCIAL STUDIES 8B

In this Early American History course scholars will work with materials that show the problems and issues America experienced as a young nation and their solutions. scholars will explore the diverse challenges facing Americans from the 1800s to the early-1900s. The causes, events, and consequences of the Civil War and the abolition of slavery are a special focus of the class.

Throughout the course, scholars will study primary and secondary sources, textbook readings, biographies, period literature, and related materials that will paint a picture of American history.

PRE-REQUISITES: Social Studies 8A

HEALTH

HEALTH 7

This course will help scholars understand the importance of making decisions that will affect his or her physical, emotional, mental and social health. This course will provide scholars with the knowledge and resources they will need to make responsible, informed decisions about their health. Scholars will have an opportunity to evaluate their own values, opinions and attitudes about health.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

COMPASS PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6-8

This course will help the scholar understand the importance of developing and maintaining an active lifestyle. Scholars will engage in daily physical activities. They will maintain nutrition and activity logs, as well as learn how to make positive choices to improve their health and fitness.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

ELECTIVE COURSES

MS CHARACTER EDUCATION

Character Education is an overview of performance and ethical principles. The six units encourage and educate scholars to be lifelong learners, think through problems, be diligent and capable, interact positively in social settings, respect others, assume responsibility, act ethically, and live according to a noble purpose.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

MS COMPUTER BASICS

This course will help the scholar learn the basics of computer skills. The scholar will work with basic software programs such as word processing, spreadsheets and presentations. Scholars will also have the opportunity to improve their keyboarding speed and accuracy.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

MS GAMING UNLOCKED

Games have been played for thousands of years. Man has loved to find ways to entertain himself. In this course, the scholar becomes the game master! Scholars will learn the basics of gaming: from what makes a game fun to what makes a game work. Scholars will explore all types of games in this course, from mental games to board games to video games. The focus of the course is on developing a scholar's ability to recognize good game play mechanics as well as the steps necessary to produce a game.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

MS PHOTOGRAPHY

New course for Spring 2018/19. Course description not available at this time.

SPANISH 7A

In this introductory course, scholars will be introduced to the basics of the Spanish language through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Scholars will learn how to introduce themselves and others, talk about interests and hobbies, ask for directions, and more! In addition to learning the language, scholars will also learn about the cultures of some Spanish-speaking countries. They will learn about daily life in Mexico, the history of Spain, cultural traditions in Argentina, and more! Scholars will participate in discussion boards, speaking practice, a culture project, and a speaking project.

*The 7th grade and 8th grade Spanish courses will be eligible to meet the high school foreign language requirement of Spanish 1 if completed with a grade of B or higher **each semester** (5 credits for each year). No partial credit will be awarded.

SPANISH 7B

In this course, scholars will continue getting the skills needed for speaking and interpreting Spanish. You'll learn about activities you might enjoy with your friends, vocabulary associated with restaurants, traveling, vacations, and much more. You'll also start learning about Spanish, Argentinian and Peruvian culture by exploring their history, cultural products and traditions. Scholars will participate in discussion boards, speaking practice, a culture project and a speaking project.

*The 7th grade and 8th grade Spanish courses will be eligible to meet the high school foreign language requirement of Spanish 1 if completed with a grade of B or higher **each semester** (5 credits for each year). No partial credit will be awarded.

SPANISH 8 A & B

New course for Fall 2019/20. Course description not available at this time.

MS STUDY SKILLS

In this course, scholars will learn how to become a better-organized and more successful scholar. Study Skills will also strengthen scholars writing skills as well as learn other academic success skills. Everything scholars learn in this course can be applied to other online courses. This course asks a lot of the scholar. However, scholars will have fun and gain self-confidence in their newfound abilities as a scholar.

PRE-REQUISITES: None