



# Middle School Course Catalog

2018–2019

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## 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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

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# 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. Over the course of English 6A, scholars will read the novel *The Road* by Jack London. They will also examine informational texts to better their understanding of the science behind sunsets, the lives of several important historical figures, the history of the Olympics, and the process of flotation used by archaeologists, among other topics.

**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. scholars will read the entire novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* in almost every lesson throughout the course. They will read excerpts from the novels *Little Women* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and stories and plays about challenging situations, getting caught doing something wrong, finding something unexpected, and why the crocodile has a wide mouth. Additionally, scholars will read poems from famous poets, such as Robert Louis Stevenson, Robert Frost, and Carl Sandburg, to name a few. You will also watch several videos of famous poems being read aloud.

**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

In this course, scholars will build on previously learned concepts, like positive and negative integers and fractions, to learn about rational numbers and how to compare them. They will find the distance between points, both on the number line and in the coordinate plane, and then solve geometry problems involving these concepts. They will study the relationships between variables and how to represent them in different ways. They will learn about ratios and unit rates, and then use them to solve real-world problems. Scholars will also work with data and discover different ways to display data and how to describe data mathematically.

**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

The second half of seventh grade math starts by teaching different methods to simplify arithmetic operations and focuses on subtraction and division. Scholars learn how to use a variety of strategies such as number lines, rules, and properties. Scholars then study and interpret proportional relationships, expressions, equations, and inequalities to solve multi-step mathematical and real-life problems. Scholars begin to identify compound events and find their probabilities by using formulas, organized lists, tables, tree diagrams, or simulations. Scholars then continue with statistics and compare two data sets of random samples by using their center values and variability measures. From there, scholars make conclusions about the populations the data sets represent. As scholars near the end of the course, they apply their knowledge to geometry problems. They solve problems that involve area, surface area, volume, two- and three-dimensional objects, and cross sections. By the end of the course, scholars should have a solid foundation of the math skills needed to be successful in seventh grade and beyond.

**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

Science 7B focuses on science concepts from the fields of ecology and geology. Science 7B begins by exploring the interactions between and among organisms in an ecosystem. Next, the course examines different types of rocks, the rock cycle, and Earth's resources. Scholars can then use their knowledge of Earth's processes to better understand how natural hazard events and severe weather events occur. Scholars will then learn how technology can assist in natural hazard events and discover other benefits of technology. Finally, scholars will track some of Earth's changes through time.

**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

This course will begin by teaching the important skills for studying history and geography. They will follow the earliest humans as they went from hunter gatherers to settled farmers. This course will also explain the main traits of a civilization, which will help scholars study the earliest civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and India. Along the way, they will look at early religious beliefs and the advances in technology that transformed human life.

**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

In this second segment of the course, scholars will study the Renaissance, Reformation, and the Age of Exploration, examining the growing economic interaction among civilizations. Scholars will learn about the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. They learn about the resulting growth of Enlightenment philosophy and the new examination of the concepts of reason and authority, the natural rights of human beings and the divine right of kings, experimentalism in science, and the dogma of belief. Finally, scholars assess the political forces let loose by the Enlightenment, particularly the rise of democratic ideas, and they learn about the continuing influence of these ideas in the world today.

**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

In this course, scholars learn about the main character traits, which are truthfulness, trustworthiness, responsibility, diligence, integrity, respect, caring, and fairness. They analyze and interpret specific situations that demonstrate these traits. Then, in the next part of the course, scholars discover how to define and recognize bullying and cyberbullying, and they learn how they negatively impact everyone involved. Scholars develop a bullying prevention mindset by learning safe and appropriate strategies to respond to bullying situations. Finally, as a member of their neighborhood, their city, and their country, scholars learn about good citizenship by describing the rights, duties, and privileges included in it.

**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

In Photography Basics, scholars will learn how to correctly explain the setup and proper use of basic photography equipment. Through projects and research activities embedded in the course, scholars will create and present a portfolio of work. In addition, scholars will be able to describe professional habits, etiquette, and technology

essential to creating a photograph. Scholars will not need access to photography equipment in order to take the course; opportunities to practice with digital simulations and theory will be present throughout the course. This course is designed for any beginner interested in learning about photography and what it could take to make a career out of their interest in this exciting, dynamic field of study. Photography Basics is designed for scholars in middle school with no background in photography.

**PRE-REQUISITES:** None

### **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.

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Spanish 7A

\*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 8A**

In this introductory course, scholars will continue with the basics of the Spanish language through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Scholars will learn how to discuss school subjects, various professions, and their daily routines. In addition to learning the language, scholars will also learn about the cultures of some Spanish-speaking countries. They will learn about the history, daily life, and cultural products of Venezuela and Chile. Scholars will participate in discussion boards, speaking practice, a culture project, and a speaking project

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Spanish 7A & B

\*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 8B**

In this course, scholars will continue with the basics of the Spanish language through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Scholars will learn how to discuss illnesses and injuries, shopping, and money. In addition to learning the language, scholars will also learn about the cultures of some Spanish-speaking countries. They will learn about the history, daily life, and cultural products of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Cuba. Scholars will participate in discussion boards, speaking practice, a culture project, and a speaking project.

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Spanish 7A & B; 8A

\*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

### **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