

Course Descriptions: Middle School 2024-2025



ENGLISH

7th Grade Language Arts

Teacher: TBD

This class is designed to support students as they grow to be critical thinkers, discerning readers, and competent writers. Students will study literature, composition, grammar and vocabulary. Students will be evaluated through essay writing, vocabulary tests, oral presentation, and other activities.

Textbooks: \$30 (provided by teacher)

Required Books:

1. *The Magician's Nephew* by C.S. Lewis
2. *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson
3. *America Street: A Multicultural Anthology of Stories* by Anne Mazer 2019 Edition (ISBN: 0892554916)
4. *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
5. Choice Missionary book (Choices will be given prior to beginning this unit 4th quarter)
6. Choice novels (can be purchased or borrowed from the library)

Student Supplies Needed: folder, paper, composition notebook, Microsoft Word and PowerPoint or equivalent

Duration: Year long

8th Grade Language Arts

Teacher: TBD

This class is designed to support students as they grow to be critical thinkers, discerning readers, and competent writers. Students will study literature, composition, grammar, and vocabulary. Students will be evaluated through essay writing, vocabulary tests, oral presentation, and other activities.

This class will include both regular and honors 8th grade students.

Textbook: \$30 (provided by teacher)

Required books:

1. *Nothing but the Truth* by Avi
2. *The Miracle Worker: A Play* by William Gibson (ISBN: 1416590846)
3. *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
4. *American Street* by Anne Mazer (ISBN: 0892551917; this book is also used in 7th grade at NP)

5. Choice Holocaust book (choices will be given prior to starting this unit 4th quarter)

Student supplies needed: folder, paper, composition notebook, Microsoft Word and PowerPoint or equivalent

Duration: Year long

SCIENCE

7th Grade General Science

Teacher: Barb Mross

This course covers a wide range of topics including a history of science, the scientific method, a study of simple machines, geology, astronomy, meteorology, oceanography, chemistry, basic biology, and exploring science and creation. Students are encouraged to learn to take their own notes from the reading at home. Students will complete lab reports, take written tests, answer questions from the textbook, have reading assignments, and complete some independent science projects. Class time is primarily used for completion of group activities, experiments and demonstration activities, as well as discussions on the material. Students learn proper lab techniques as well as the proper handling and use of a microscope during this course.

Textbook:

1. Exploring Creation with General Science, 3rd Edition, Seligson ISBN 9781946506573
2. Exploring Creation with General Science, 3rd Edition ISBN 9781946506306 (Student Workbook)

Student supplies needed: Folder or binder, pencils, highlighters, safety glasses

Duration: Year long

8th Grade Advanced Physical Science

Teacher: Jodi Schwartz

This course lays a foundation for high school physics. Students will analyze and interpret the results of experiments, learn how to write lab reports, and use basic laboratory equipment. The scope of study includes: the atmosphere, hydrosphere, and weather, structure of the earth, the environment, motion, Newton's laws, gravity, light and sound. A combination of experiments in the text as well as additional experiments selected by the teacher will promote scientific inquiry skills, critical thinking, and creative communication. The honors level class will be more in depth and move through the material at a faster pace

Prerequisites: Mastery of basic math conversion skills and successful completion of 7th grade level math

Textbook:

1. Exploring Creation with Physical Science, 3rd Edition (ISBN 9781946506511)

Duration: Year long

8th Grade Physical Science

Teacher: Barb Mross

This course covers a wide range of topics. We will be exploring creation by studying the basics of science, the scientific method, chemistry, physics, geology and science research. Students are encouraged to learn to take their own notes from the reading at home. Students will complete lab reports, take written tests, answer questions from the textbook, have reading assignments, and

complete some independent science projects. Class time is primarily used for completion of group activities, experiments and demonstration activities, as well as discussions on the material. Students will continue to build on their knowledge of proper lab techniques as well as the proper handling and use of a microscope during this course.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of 7th grade science

Textbook:

1. Exploring Creation with Physical Science, 3rd Edition (ISBN 9781946506511)
2. Exploring Creation with Physical Science Student Notebook, 3rd Edition (ISBN 9781946506542)

Student supplies needed: Folder or binder, pencils, highlighters, safety glasses

Duration: Year long

MATHEMATICS

7th Grade Math

Teacher: Jodi Smith

This course introduces some pre-algebra skills while solidifying skills learned in earlier grades. Topics include integer and rational number operations (including fractions and decimals), proportions, ratios and percents. Students will learn how to solve one and two-step equations. We will explore elementary probability and statistics and the geometric concepts of surface area and volume of solids. There will be daily homework and both at-home and in-class tests and project-based assessments.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 6th grade Math

Textbook: \$50 (provided by Mrs. Smith)

Student supplies needed: pencils, colored pen (for grading), compass, protractor, small ruler and basic four-function calculator (or scientific calculator – TI 30X-IIS model is required for 8th grade & algebra). Students may not use calculators on their cell phones.

Duration: Year long

7th Grade Advanced Math / Pre-Algebra

Teacher: Jodi Smith

This course is a fast-paced study of pre-algebra that will prepare students to take high school Algebra 1 in 8th grade. It is appropriate for the advanced student who enjoys being challenged in math. Students will develop algebraic thinking by learning how to solve and evaluate equations, graph functions and apply graphing to real-world situations. We will also add on to geometric concepts learned in prior grades and study elementary probability and statistics. There will be daily homework and both at-home and in-class tests and quizzes.

Prerequisite: Superior performance in 6th grade Math or equivalent

Textbook: \$50 (provided by Mrs. Smith)

Student supplies needed: pencils, colored pen (for grading), protractor, small ruler and scientific calculator – TI 30X-IIS model is required. Students will not be able to use calculators on cell phones.

Duration: Year long

8th Grade Math / Pre-Algebra

Teacher: Jodi Smith

This course serves as the regular 8th grade math course and will prepare your student to take high school level Algebra 1 next year. Students will develop algebraic thinking by learning how to solve and evaluate equations, graph functions and apply graphing to real-world situations. We will also add on to geometric concepts learned in prior grades and study elementary probability and statistics. There will be daily homework and both at-home and in-class tests and quizzes.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th grade Math

Textbook: \$50 (provided by Mrs. Smith)

Student supplies needed: pencils, colored pen (for grading), small ruler and scientific calculator – TI 30X-IIS model is required. Students will not be able to use calculators on cell phones.

Duration: Year long

Advanced Algebra I

Teacher: Jodi Smith

This course is a fast-paced study of high school level algebra and serves as an introduction to higher level mathematics. It is designed for the advanced student who has a high level of interest and ability in mathematics. Students are expected to have mastered pre-algebra skills such as integer operations, fraction and decimal operations, exponents, graphing lines and solving equations. Topics of study include algebraic equations and inequalities, functions, linear equations, systems of equations and inequalities, polynomials, quadratic functions, probability and exponential functions., with a focus on real-world applications and problem-solving. There will be daily homework and both in-class and at home assessments.

Prerequisite: Superior performance in Pre-Algebra and a high level of interest in math

Textbook: \$50 (provided by Mrs. Smith)

Student supplies needed: notebook paper, pencils, colored pens for grading, small ruler and calculator (TI-30X IIS model ONLY). Students will not be able to use calculators on cell phones.

Duration: Year long

SOCIAL STUDIES

Middle School American History

Teacher: Lauren Cooper

In Middle School U.S. History we travel back in time and learn about The Explorers to the 21st Century. Through differentiated instruction we will be reading, writing, drawing, comparing, and making meaning from texts and other documents. Through a hands-on-approach history comes to life and understanding is developed.

Textbooks:

1. All American History Book Volume 1 (ISBN-10: 1892427125)
2. All American History Book Volume 2 (ISBN-10 1892427427)
2. Activity Book (this is an online book now)

Student supplies needed: Folder/binder, colored pencils, paper, scissors

Duration: Year long

ELECTIVES

All Things Clay

Teacher: Sarah Schoen

Students will learn clay hand-building techniques. Students will focus on functional and decorative pottery with a variety of traditional and modern techniques. Participants learn freehand and mold techniques to make a wide range of forms, from bowls and mugs to wall hangings and other items. Forms will be complimented through painting and finishing techniques that add color and design to the work.

Textbook: None

Student supplies needed: TBD

Duration: Semester long

American Sign Language I (Middle and High School)

Teacher: BobbiSue Murray

Talking with your hands?! Awesome! This beginner-level course is designed to not only give students a fun yet challenging way to obtain a basic linguistic and conversational understanding of ASL, but to dive deep into Deaf culture. Students will discover new ways of communication, the different language barriers Deaf people experience on a daily basis, and a general sense of how to communicate with our Deaf neighbors and friends in our community. This class is open to 7th-12th grade students.

Textbook:

1. Master ASL. ISBN 1881133206 (the same text is used in both ASL I, II, III)

Student supplies needed: none

Duration: Year long

Baking Essentials

Teacher: Sarah Schoen

This course is a study of the fundamentals of baking including dough, quick breads, pies, cakes, cookies, tarts and basic items made in a bakery. Topics include baking terminology, tool and equipment use, formula conversions, functions of ingredients, and the use of proper flours. This class is very hands on and students will work in groups for most of their bakes created in the school's kitchen.

Textbook: None

Student supplies needed: \$20 supply fee to cover ingredients

Duration: Year Long

Developing Drawing I/II

Teacher: Sarah Schoen

Design Elements and Principles, Drawing, Painting, Aesthetics, Art criticism

This is a studio art course that focuses on the elements and principles of design in a two-dimensional format. Students will be introduced to artists past and current, who communicate successfully by using the language of art.

Students will:

Increase skill in communicating their own ideas.

Gain confidence in their drawing ability and painting, learning to perceive rather than assume

Learn drawing techniques such as contour line drawing, linear perspective, atmospheric perspective, and shading

Use pencil, colored pencil, oil pastel, markers, charcoal, and ink in subjects including still life, portrait, landscape, and abstract designs.

We will have friendly critiques of our work using the four steps of art criticism: describe, analyze, interpret, judge. Each student will compile a portfolio of their completed work from which they will select pieces to be entered in the annual Spring Art Show.

Textbook: None

Student supplies needed: TBD

Duration: Semester Long

Famous Artists and Styles

Teacher: Sarah Schoen

This is a fun studio art course based on art history and significant art movements and artists of the past. We will learn from the Masters, become acquainted with their styles, and try their techniques. Each age and culture has unique things to teach us about art and creativity.

Projects will include 2D and 3D materials, possibly including block printing and tile mosaic.

Each student will compile a portfolio of their completed work from which they will select pieces to be entered in the annual Spring Art Show.

Textbook: None

Student supplies needed: All materials and tools will be provided, with the addition of items brought from home as desired.

Duration: Semester Long

Fiber Arts

Teacher: Sarah Schoen

This course is relaxing in the process while still being challenging in technique and creativity.

Most of the work will be done during class time. We will explore weaving with such materials as fabrics, yarn, ribbon, string, paper, beads, and more, on various shapes and types of looms. We may also employ decorative stitchery in our work. In addition to weaving, we will learn the art of needle felting! Needle felting is processing dyed sheep's wool fibers into colorful designs, small usable items, and small sculptures. The possibilities are innumerable, and this is a very satisfying and intriguing process. Students will select works to be entered in the annual Spring Art Show.

Textbook: None

Student supplies needed: All materials and tools will be provided, with the addition of items brought from home as desired.

Duration: Semester Long

3D Art

Teacher: Sarah Schoen

Students will learn how to design, experiment, and create original, 3D art using recycled materials and other objects. We will also work collaboratively to create installation sculptures. Students will learn how to design, experiment, and create original work out of clay as well as other three dimensional materials such as: yarn, paper, cardboard, felt and more.

Textbook: None

Student supplies needed: All materials and tools will be provided, with the addition of items brought from home as desired.

Duration: Semester Long

Landscape Design and Gardening

Teacher: Sarah Schoen

Topics include basic botany, soils, growing annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, fruits and vegetables, lawns, pests and diseases of plants, plant classification, and selected subjects of local interest. We will learn the different planting “zones”, how our food is produced and effects the environment; as well as students will get to experience growing some of their own species from seed.

Textbook: None

Duration: Year long

Student supplies needed: TBD

Spanish I (High School)

Teacher: Leigh Anne Silva

Students will learn several basic verb endings and grammatical structures as well as pronunciation and basic vocabulary. They will develop basic reading, writing, and entry-level conversation skills. Students will study vocabulary. Students will need to have a basic understanding of English grammar before beginning this course.

Textbook: Textbook and workbook provided by teacher for \$60 (cost will be added to Brightwheel)

Student supplies needed: Small Spanish Dictionary (WITHOUT verb conjugations listed in it), 3 ring binder, paper, 4x6 index cards (optional for vocabulary)

Duration: Year long

Way of Jesus (Middle and High School)

Teacher: Chad Temple

Students will study Jesus and the compelling way that He lived. The class will focus on three basic, yet life-changing principles:

- Be With Jesus
- Become Like Jesus
- Do What Jesus Did

With these concepts as the guide, students will learn about prayer, how to read Scripture, how Jesus cared for those forgotten, among other topics. The goals of the course will be to teach students how to study the way Jesus lived so that they love Him more and pattern their lives after His.

Yearbook and Photography (Middle and High School) **Club Option on Wednesdays**

Teacher: Elizabeth Inskeep

Yearbook is a fun class where students learn many valuable lessons such as; beginning photography, time management, the importance of meeting deadlines, and working together as a team. This class is hands-on and as with other classes-- there will be homework.

Course Objectives:

- Develop a theme
- Design a cover and title page that reflect the theme both verbally and graphically
- Creating visually pleasing design layouts effectively using graphics and color
- Write copy for spreads
- Determine photo ideas and take photos
- Edit and finalize pages
- Meet publication deadlines

Textbook: NONE

Student supplies needed: A laptop for classroom work is helpful, but not necessary. Students will need access to a computer at home to complete their page assignments.