



Middle School Course Catalog 2023-2024



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English Language Arts

English Language Arts 6

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: Year Long (4 Quarters/2 Semesters)

Grade Level: 6

Course Description: : ELA 6 focuses on the grade 6 MN English Language Arts benchmarks, provides advanced reading instruction, and establishes a foundation in the habits and skills for the critical thinking, analysis, and text types that will be expected of students during their middle school years. Students will read a variety of genres, participate in literature discussions and book clubs, develop written responses to literature, select books to read independently, and set reading goals based on their strengths, needs, and interests. ELA 6 also focuses on the grade 6 MN English Language Arts benchmarks; provides advanced writing, media literacy, and language instruction; and establishes a foundation for the habits and skills for research, argumentation, speaking, and writing types that will be expected of students during their middle school years. Students will read, write, and evaluate memoirs, literary essays, feature articles, personal essays, research papers, and poetry.

English Language Arts 7

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation or by test results

Course Length: Year Long (4 Quarters/2 Semesters)

Grade Level: 7

Course Description: ELA 7 focuses on the grade 7 MN English Language Arts benchmarks; provides advanced reading, writing, media literacy, and language instruction; and deepens the habits and skills for the critical thinking, analysis, text types, research, and writing types expected of students at the end of their middle school years. Students will read, write, and evaluate a variety of genres and digital texts; participate in literature discussions, writing groups, and book clubs; select books to read independently and select topics for writing; and set reading and writing goals based on their strengths, needs, and interests.

English Language Arts 8

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: Year Long (4 Quarters/2 Semesters)

Grade Level: 8

Course Description: ELA 8 focuses on the grade 8 MN English Language Arts benchmarks; provides advanced reading, writing, media literacy, and language instruction; and establishes a foundation in the habits and skills for critical thinking, analysis, text types, research, and writing types expected of during their high school years. Students will read, write, and evaluate a variety of genres, digital texts, position papers, and speeches; participate in literature discussions, writing groups, and book clubs; select books to read independently and select topics for writing; and set reading and writing goals based on their strengths, needs, and interests.

Read for Success

Prerequisite: none

Course Length: Half year Long (2 Quarters/1 Semesters)

Grade Level: 6-8

Course Description: Read for Success focuses on explicit systematic instruction of phonics and phonemic awareness to refine students fluency. Students will use ReadLive and teacher instruction to work on phonics and phonemic awareness at their level. The goal is to have scholars reading independently and fluently.

Mathematics

Math 6

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: Year Long (4 Quarters/2 Semesters)

Grade Level: 6

Course Description: This course is the introduction to algebraic concepts with a strong emphasis placed on computations with fractions, decimals, and percentages. Students will engage in an in-depth study of number theory, positive rational number computation, two and three-dimensional geometry and measurement, probability and statistics, and apply this learning to solve real-world mathematical problems. This course prepares students to be mathematically literate, as well as prepare them for future math courses, the 6th grade MN Math Standards, and MN standardized math tests.

Pre-Algebra

Prerequisite: None (6th grade need recommendation)

Course Length: Year Long (4 Quarters/2 Semesters)

Grade Level: 6/7

Course Description: This course prepares students for Algebra 1 or Linear Algebra. The objective of this course is for students to learn all content standards as given by the State of Minnesota for grade 7. The four mathematics strands covered in this course are: Number and Operation, Algebra, Geometry, and Data Analysis and Probability.

Pre-Algebra, Accelerated

Prerequisite: Recommendation

Course Length: Year Long (4 Quarters/2 Semesters)

Grade Level: 6/7

Course Description: This course prepares students for Algebra 1. The objective of this course is for students to learn all content standards as given by the State of Minnesota for grade 7 and to become prepared to take the Algebra 1 course in 8th grade. The Advanced Pre-Algebra mathematics curriculum is designed to expand the student's knowledge of the four mathematics strands covered in this course which are: Number and Operation, Algebra, Geometry, and Data Analysis and Probability.

Linear Algebra

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra (7th grader needs recommendation)

Course Length: Year Long (4 Quarters/2 Semesters)

Grade Level: 7,8

Course Description: This course covers the first half of a traditional Algebra 1 course. It reviews Pre-algebra skills and extends through linear functions, linear inequalities, and systems of linear equations.

Algebra 1

Prerequisite: Accelerated Pre-Algebra or recommendation

Course Length: Year Long (4 Quarters/2 Semesters)

Grade Level: 7, 8

Course Description: This course is a complete Algebra 1 course. It extends through linear functions and inequalities, systems of linear equations, polynomials, and quadratic and exponential functions. The course is intended for students who have shown mastery of Pre-Algebra concepts and skills.

Social Studies

Grade 6 - Minnesota Studies

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: Year Long (4 Quarters/2 Semesters)

Grade Level: 6

Course Description:

Students in 6th grade will learn about Minnesota state history and government and Minnesota's role within the larger context of the country. Students study Minnesota history and its government, placing the state and its people within the context of the national story. They engage in historical inquiry and study events, issues and individuals significant to Minnesota history, beginning with the early indigenous people of the upper Mississippi River region to the present day. They examine the relationship between levels of government, and how the concept of sovereignty affects the exercise of treaty rights. They analyze how the state's physical features and location of resources affected settlement patterns and the growth of cities. Drawing on their knowledge of economics, students analyze the influence of a market-based economy at the local and national levels. They learn about the unique role Minnesota played, and continues to play, in regional, national and global politics.

Grade 7 - United States Studies (history and government 1800–present)

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: Year Long (4 Quarters/2 Semesters)

Grade Level: 7

Course Description:

Students in 7th grade will learn about people, issues and events of significance to this nation's history from 1800 to the current era of globalization. They will examine the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and Supreme Court decisions for their lasting impact on the American people, economy and governance structure. Students will study civics and economic principles in depth, drawing connections between these disciplines and history to explain the impact of various policies on how people lived, worked and functioned in society. They will

create and use detailed maps of places in the United States and conduct historical inquiry on a topic in the nation's history.

Grade 8 - Global Studies (interdisciplinary; world geography and contemporary world history)

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: Year Long (4 Quarters/2 Semesters)

Grade Level: 8

Course Description:

Students in 8th grade will explore the regions of the world using geographic information from print and electronic sources. They will analyze important trends in the modern world such as demographic change, shifting trade patterns, and intensified cultural interactions due to globalization. Students will participate in civic discussion on contemporary issues, conduct historical inquiry, and study events over the last half century that have shaped the contemporary world. They will analyze connections between revolutions, independence movements and social transformations, and understand reasons for the creation of modern nation states. They will learn that governments are based on different political philosophies and serve various purposes. By learning economic principles of trade and the factors that affect economic growth, students understand why there are different standards of living in countries around the world

Science

Earth Science

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: Year Long (4 Quarters/2 Semesters)

Grade Level: 6

Course Description:

Introduces students to basic earth science concepts. The topics covered are: geology, meteorology, and astronomy. Students will continue building skills in scientific inquiry and laboratory investigations

Life Science

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: Year Long (4 Quarters/2 Semesters)

Grade Level: 7

Course Description:

Life Science 7 covers basic life science concepts such as cells, genetics, ecology, evolution, and the human body. Students will also develop skills in scientific inquiry and laboratory investigations.

Physical Science

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: Year Long (4 Quarters/2 Semesters)

Grade Level: 8

Course Description:

Earth Science 8 Covers basic middle school physics and chemistry concepts as well as the engineering design process and the nature of science. Students learn about the properties of matter, how materials and atoms interact in a physical change, types of energy, waves, light, forces and motion.

Physical Education

6th-8th Grade

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: (1 Semester per year or every other day for a year)

Grade Level: 6-8

Course Description: This course is designed to enhance students' interest and participation in lifetime fitness activities and a variety of lifetime sports. Opportunities will be provided for participation in individual, dual and team sports and activities. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on fundamentals, rules, strategies and individual physical fitness.

Health Education

7th Grade

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Quarters (1 Semester)

Grade Level: 7

Course Description: This course will empower students to make healthy life-long decisions that influence self, family and community. Students will be provided opportunities to explore personal, community and global health issues in a positive, supportive environment. Students will analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology and other factors on health behaviors. Students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.

Hmong Language & Culture

Hmong 6

Prerequisite: Pre-Assessment of the Hmong Alphabet (Consonants, vowels and tone markers as well as the Four Domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing)

Course Length: Every other day for one year

Course Description: This course will introduce the Hmong Romanized Popular Alphabet (RPA) writing system. Students will learn to introduce themselves to one another, use simple phrases to communicate, learn how to count, express emotions, state their likes and dislikes, and students will

also be introduced to Hmong Culture and History. This course prepares students to learn how to read, write and speak in Hmong, as well as prepare them for future Hmong courses.

Hmong 6 Accelerated

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation or by test scores

Course Length: 2 Quarters (1 Semester)

Course Description: This course prepares students to learn how to read, write and speak in Hmong, as well as prepare them for future Hmong courses. This course covers what Hmong 6 covers, the difference is the depth and pace.

Hmong 7

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Quarters (1 Semester)

Course Description: This course will review the Hmong Romanized Popular Alphabet (RPA) writing system. Students will learn to introduce themselves to one another, use simple phrases to communicate, learn how to count, express emotions, state their likes and dislikes, and students will learn more in depth about Hmong Culture and History. This course prepares students to learn how to read, write and speak in Hmong, as well as prepare them for future Hmong courses.

Hmong 7 Accelerated

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation or by test scores

Course Length: 2 Quarters (1 Semester)

Course Description: This course prepares students to learn how to read, write and speak in Hmong, as well as prepare them for future Hmong courses. This course covers what Hmong 7 covers, the difference is the depth and pace.

Hmong 8

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Quarters (1 Semester)

Course Description: This course will review the Hmong Romanized Popular Alphabet (RPA) writing system. Students will learn to introduce themselves to one another, use simple phrases to communicate, learn how to count, express emotions, state their likes and dislikes, and students will learn more in depth about Hmong Culture and History. This course prepares students to learn how to read, write and speak in Hmong, as well as prepare them for future Hmong courses.

Hmong 8 Accelerated

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation or by test scores

Course Length: 2 Quarters (1 Semester)

Course Description: This course prepares students to learn how to read, write and speak in Hmong, as well as prepare them for future Hmong courses. This course covers what Hmong 8 covers, the difference is the depth and pace.

(The focus is on the development of listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills in Hmong through short discussions, debates, reading, presentations and other activities. The writing component will come in through weekly journals, responses to readings and discussions, etc. Along with learning how to speak, read, write, and listen in Hmong, students will also be introduced to Hmong history, culture, and traditions through stories, films, and poetry)

Music

6 Choir

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 4 Quarters/2 Semesters

Grade level: 6

Description: The 6 Choir class is designed to teach students how to sing, read, and perform music. Students will learn proper singing technique in a variety of styles within a musical ensemble. Students will learn the basic elements of music - rhythm, melody, and harmony. They will learn how to use these elements to read and prepare music for performance. As a group, they will explore musical styles and folk songs from around the world. Students will display all their basic reading and singing skills, musical expression, and performance etiquette skills in performances and concerts throughout the year.

7 Choir

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 4 Quarters/2 Semesters

Grade level: 7

Description: The 7 choir class is designed to develop students ability to sing, read, and perform music. Students will develop their singing technique in a variety of styles within a musical ensemble. Students will continue reading more complex rhythms and melodies and begin to work more with harmonies. They will begin exploring musical expression and how techniques and lyrics convey meaning through music. As a group, they will explore musical styles and folk songs from around the world. Students will display all their reading and singing skills, musical expression, and performance etiquette skills in performances and concerts throughout the year.

8 Choir

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 4 Quarters/2 Semesters

Grade level: 8

Description: The 8 choir class is designed to prepare students to sing, read, and perform music at the high school level. Students will refine their singing technique in a variety of styles within a musical ensemble to prepare for high school choir. Students will continue reading more complex rhythms and melodies and begin to work more with harmonies. They will continue exploring musical expression and how techniques and lyrics convey meaning through music. As a group, they will explore musical styles and folk songs from around the world. Students will display all their reading and singing skills, musical expression, and performance etiquette skills in performances and concerts throughout the year.

Art

Art- 6-8

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: 2 Quarters (1 Semester)

Grade Level: 6-8

Course Description: This course encompasses broad visual art experiences. The course is designed to build knowledge of artists and art history, to create an awareness of visual art within their world and to develop techniques for creating and understanding artworks. To accomplish this, students will experience using a variety of art mediums which will include drawing, painting and sculpting.