



## Middle School Course Catalog 2018 - 2019

### **Welcome to the Middle School Course Catalog for the 2018 - 2019 school year!**

The purpose of this catalog is to provide you with a description of three types of unique courses for the 2018-2019 school year: Advanced, Accelerated, and Elective courses. Students will be placed in the Advanced and Accelerated courses using a combination of data points: class performance, MAP Assessment results, Milestones Assessment results, and teacher recommendation. Over the summer the school will make determinations on Advanced and Accelerated course placements based on those data points. Parents will be informed of those decisions before the start of the school year. If a parent would rather his/her student not participate in the Advanced or Accelerated course they may indicate that they prefer him/her to take the regular course for that grade level. For the Elective courses, students will have the opportunity to select their elective choices through an elective survey. The elective survey will be given to current 5th through 7th grade students the last week of school. We highly encourage parents to discuss with their students the elective course options and assist them in making the most appropriate choice.

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### **Advanced and Accelerated Courses:**

In each grade, 6th through 8th, advanced Math and ELA courses are offered to those students who qualify. Additionally, in 8th grade an accelerated Math course will be offered to qualifying students. Following is a descriptor of each of those courses, including the course structure, student make-up, and pacing guide.

**Advanced 6th/7th Math:**

This is an advanced Math course offered to 6th grade students. The advanced 6/7 Math class and the 7th Grade Math class are the same class; therefore, students enrolled in the Advanced 6/7 Math class are taking 7th grade Math content and their transcript will reflect 7th Grade Math. The class make-up will consist of 6th and 7th grade students and the classes are gender based. There will be one male and one female class. At the end of the year, students take the 6th Grade Math Milestones.

**Advanced 6th ELA:**

This is an advanced English Language Arts course offered to 6th grade students. The advanced 6th ELA class and the 7th Grade ELA class are the same class; therefore, students enrolled in the Advanced 6th ELA class are taking 7th grade ELA content. The class make-up will consist of 6th and 7th grade students and the classes are gender based. There will be one male and one female class. At the end of the year, students take the 6th Grade ELA Milestones.

**Advanced 7th/8th Math:**

This is an advanced Math course offered to 7th grade students. The advanced 7/8 Math class and the 8th Grade Math class are the same class; therefore, students enrolled in the Advanced 7/8 Math class are taking 8th grade Math content and their transcript will reflect 8th Grade Math. The class make-up will consist of 7th and 8th grade students and the classes are gender based. There will be one male and one female class. At the end of the year, students take the 7th Grade Math Milestones.

**Advanced 7th ELA:**

This is an advanced English Language Arts course offered to 7th grade students. The advanced 7th ELA class and the 8th Grade ELA class are the same class; therefore, students enrolled in the Advanced 7th ELA class are taking 8th grade ELA content. The class make-up will consist of 7th and 8th grade students and the classes are gender based. There will be one male and one female class. At the end of the year, students take the 7th Grade ELA Milestones.

**Advanced Algebra I:**

This is an advanced Math course offered to 8th grade students who completed the Advanced 7/8 Math course in 7th grade. This course is a high school credit course, which means that they will earn a high school Math credit on their transcript. This also means that the grade earned in this class does transfer over to their high school GPA. At the end of the year, students in this course will take the Algebra I End of Course Milestones assessment in place of the 8th Grade Math Milestones. There will be one class for this course, and the class will be co-ed in gender make-up.

**Accelerated Algebra I/Geometry A:**

This is a very fast paced accelerated Math course offered to qualifying 8th grade students who completed the Advanced 7/8 Math course in 7th grade. Like the Algebra course, this is a high school credit course, which means they will earn a high school Math credit on their transcript. This also means that the grade earned in this class does transfer over to their high school GPA. The difference in this course is that it not only covers the entire year of Algebra I but also covers the first semester of Geometry. Essentially, students are doing a year and a half of advanced material in only a year. At the end of the year, students in this course will take the Algebra I End of Course Milestones assessment in place of the 8th Grade Math Milestones. Students will not take the Geometry End of Course assessment until they have completed the other half of Geometry in high school. There will be one class for this course, and the class will be co-ed in gender make-up.

**Advanced 8th ELA:**

This is an advanced English Language Arts course offered to 8th grade students. The Advanced 8th ELA class will be exploring 9th grade literature standards during their course of study. Though advanced, this is not a high school credit course. The purpose of this course is to give those advanced students exposure to the content and material that they will be working with at the next level. There will be two Advanced 8th ELA classes - both being co-ed in gender make-up. One of the classes will be the students from the Advanced Algebra I course, and the other class will be the students from the Accelerated Algebra I/Geometry A course. At the end of the year, students will take the 8th Grade ELA Milestones assessment.

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**Middle School Electives Courses:**

All current 5th through 7th grade students will be asked to complete the elective course survey during the last week of school. On the survey students will rank the six elective course offerings from 1 to 6 (1 being their most preferred and 6 being their least preferred). Students will be enrolled in two elective courses for the school year based on their rankings on the survey. Each course is a 60-minute class block, which the students will attend twice a week. Students will take one course on Mondays and Thursdays, while they take the other course on Tuesdays and Fridays. Electives are chosen on an annual basis; therefore, each year students have the option to continue on in an elective study or to choose a different elective course to pursue. Following is a descriptor of each course offered.

**Chorus:**

Middle school students are eligible for the LTCS choir, regardless of previous choral experience. This group will perform a varied repertoire of music, including classical, folk, pop, and musical theater. They will perform a number of concerts during the year, which could include both after school on campus and off campus performances. The ensemble will also collaborate with other music groups. Skills and topics will include: Sight Singing, Reading Music, Stage Set Construction, History of Music.

**Instrumentals:**

Middle school students are eligible to take instrumentals, regardless of previous experience. We will, however, attempt to create to separate classes for students new to playing and students returning in the course. Like chorus, this group will perform a number of concerts throughout the year, which could include both after school on campus and off campus performances. These performances may also include collaborations with the chorus group. Families are responsible for instrumental rentals. Information concerning this process will be provided in August. The school does have a limited amount of instruments that can be rented on a need basis; however, to ensure that you get the instrument of your choosing you will likely want to rent or purchase through a local vendor. Skills and main topics for the instrumentals course will include: refining instrument position and posture, reading and playing music, patterns for major and minor keys, music history, music theory, musical terms, solo and ensemble repertoire.

**Visual Art:**

The visual art elective course introduces students to the Elements of Art and Principles of Design, while developing drawing skills and painting techniques. Studio experiences in the classroom will give students opportunities to experience a variety of media (pencil, pen, ink, charcoal, pastel, watercolor, and tempera paint) while developing student's individual style and creative problem solving skills. Students will demonstrate their ability to respond, to analyze and to interpret their own artwork and the work of others through discussions, critiques, and writings.

**STEAM Lab:**

The STEAM Lab course is run by our partnership with Generation if Focus, a STEAM based education company. In the course students will engage in various hands-on/minds-on activities and problem solving processes while using math and technology to research, track, and analyze data. Students will work collaboratively to solve real-world based inquiry problems. The goal of this course is to foster a learning environment in which students are guided to produce original ideas, objects, and structures according to certain specifications using concepts and skills from Math, Science, and Technology. Possible units of study may include: Environmental Engineering, 3-D Printing, Wearable Technology, Circuitry, Human Anatomy, and Forensic Science.

**Computer Technology:**

This Computer Technology course is designed to assist students in becoming better digital citizens. Each grade will have custom projects/assignments designed for that grade's developmental and proficiency levels. Though not the main focus of this course, proper keyboarding skills will be promoted. Students will learn and develop proper technological habits that will promote learning, such as proper finger placement, screen engagement, and proper posture. Topics covered by all grades will include online safety, digital etiquette, cyber bullying, protecting your online reputation, social networking, plagiarism, copyright law, how to conduct effective internet searches, and how to evaluate sites for accuracy and bias. Throughout this course, students will produce works using the Google Suite, including Docs, Sheets, and Slides.

**Spanish:**

This course is designed to prepare students for Spanish at the high school level. Middle School students in 6th through 8th grades are eligible to take Spanish regardless of previous experience. In this course, students begin to communicate in Spanish through interpersonal speaking and writing, presentational speaking and writing, and interpretive reading and listening. The course will be conducted heavily in Spanish with a goal of helping students become more competent communicators. They will also explore in-depth themes in order to expand their understanding of Spanish speaking countries.

**Spanish I:**

The Spanish I course is a high school credit course for 8th grade students who qualify. This means that students enrolled in the course will earn a high school credit on their transcript upon successful completion of the course. Also, the students' grade in this will reflect onto their high school transcript, thus being calculated into their high school GPA. While not required, it is highly suggested that students take Spanish in both 6th and 7th grades before taking the Spanish I course. At the beginning of the course, the teacher will assess students who have enrolled to determine eligibility to continue in the course.