



2021-2022
7th-8th Grade Course Offerings
(subject to change)

ELECTIVES

World Mythology (Semester 1 or 2)

World Mythology is a comparative look at myths, folk tales, and fairy tales from around the world and how they derive from, and affect, the mind of a culture. Mythic stories help us understand who and what we are, and what we want to be. Students will examine both common threads and unique elements in these tales. They will examine them as works of art in their own right and also as metaphors expressing a society's major values, themes, and preoccupations.

Science Fiction (Semester 1 or 2)

In this literature-based cross-curricular course, students will examine the ways in which science fiction reflects popular culture and modern societal concerns. By reading and studying science fiction literature, film media, and documentaries, students will enhance their abilities to analyze texts, think critically, and make real-world connections. A wide variety of literature will be read, allowing students to cultivate a deeper passion for reading and science fiction.

Comparative Anatomy (Semester 1 or 2)

In this class you will investigate the evolutionary relationships between all living things and determine if we do share a common ancestry. You will study skeletal structures, muscles, organs, blood, and so much more. You will also compare the anatomy of different species across the animal kingdom such as insects, fish, mammals, and even humans. But be warned this class is not for the squeamish. It involves hands-on labs where you will get to dissect organisms right in the classroom!

History in Film (Semester 1 or 2)

Major historical events and cultures are the center of many movies throughout history. However, often these films only loosely are based in history. This course will watch great historical movies, but will not just be about watching movies. We will also be learning about the history behind the films and analyzing how accurate the film was to the true history. Some examples of films we may watch are: Mulan, Apollo 13, Hamilton, Lincoln, and others. This class is not light on reading and writing, as we will be reading and writing about the history behind each of these films. Many of these films will be PG-13 and we will need a parental permission form to be a part of this course.

Art Plus (Semester 1 or 2)

7th and 8th grade students have the option of taking an additional art course and as elective. In the first semester students will learn drawing and painting skills working in graphite, watercolor and acrylic paint. In the second semester students will focus on sculpture using ceramics and other 3D materials. Students who want to take this class are strongly encouraged to talk to the teacher before signing up.

Choir (Year-Long)

"Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine, cum sanctis mis in aeternum." (Requiem) Understand that? If not "Shake it off! Shake it off!" (Swift) In choir, we will learn and perform music from all over the world and throughout time, all you need is your voice! In middle school choir, we work together to build our natural instruments through performances of unison and harmonic singing. Together we will explore how music history, theory, pedagogy, and performance come together. Choir is a performance class with at least 2 community concerts throughout the year. We hope to see you in choir!

Concert Band (Year-Long)

Concert Band is a performance-based class where you will learn to play wind or percussion instruments as a soloist and in an ensemble. You will learn music history and music theory as well. This class can be taken each year, and new and more difficult concepts will be covered as you advance as a musician. Each year, you will perform in three or four concerts.

Orchestra (Year-Long)

Orchestra is a performance-based class where you will learn to play string instruments as a soloist and in an ensemble. You will learn music history and music theory, as well. This class can be taken each year, and new and more difficult concepts will be covered as you advance as a musician. Each year, you will perform in three or four concerts.

Intro to Greek I (Semester 1 or 2)

This is a one-semester course designed to familiarize students with the Greek alphabet, basic grammar, and simple vocabulary with a focus on English derivatives. Students will follow the Athenaze course and have culture units on Greek Religion, History, Politics, and Mythology.

Spanish I-A (Year-Long)

This course is designed to develop a basic understanding of common conversational phrases and basic communication skills in Spanish, such as the alphabet, numbers, calendar, weather, colors, and greetings. Students will also make comparisons and connections to Spanish-speaking cultures with the goal of encouraging understanding and acceptance of differences. Life in various Spanish-speaking countries will be examined. Additionally, students will emerge into the different regions of Latin America, focusing on their music, clothing, flag, native flower, food and customs.

ENGLISH

7th Grade Reading

In 7th Grade Reading we focus on the study of literature, mainly fiction with some non-fiction. We focus on literary terms, skills, and techniques, and students will learn to write critically and analytically about each text we study.

8th Grade Reading

How to read and why? That is the question at the center of this class. Over the course of the year, we will explore a variety of genres including novels, short stories, poetry, nonfiction and audio/visual mediums. Through these genres we will practice applying reading comprehension and analysis skills while discussing, listening and reflecting with each other. With these new experiences and skills, we will attempt to answer this question.

7th Grade Writing

In this course, students will develop their writing skills in different contexts by practicing the writing process - planning, drafting, editing, and revising. We will read a variety of short passage and texts, and analyze how those texts were crafted by asking questions like: "What is this author trying to accomplish in their piece?", "What is the message or argument this text conveys?", and "What kind of diction, tone, and conventions are appropriate for this kind of text?" Students will learn about and practice crafting informative, argumentative, and narrative pieces, and work in collaboration to improve their own writing based on feedback and new learnings. Along the way, students will expand their vocabulary and learn how to deconstruct sentences by studying grammar and mechanics. Students will leave this course with the ability to not only write clear, organized, and compelling essays, but also to think logically, creatively, and critically.

8th Grade Writing

The 8th grade writing curriculum emphasizes the development of specific writing types, including argumentative, informative, explanatory, and narrative writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. Students will progress through the writing process following the Writer's Workshop model as they plan, draft, revise, and edit their writing. Through this course, students will develop the skills to draw upon and write about evidence from literary and informational texts as well as reflecting on and writing about their own thought process.

Additionally, this course both continues their 7th grade grammar study as well as covers the technical areas of writing that students need to master before moving on to sentences, paragraphs, and then essays, including learning subject-verb agreement, writing complex, varied sentences, identifying and spelling words that often confuse writers, correctly using punctuation, and proofreading their writing for errors.

MATH

Saxon Math Course 2/Course 3

Students will learn math using the Saxon Math Program which instructs in smaller, more easily absorbed increments, allowing for mastery and greater math-confidence. Saxon integrates and connects topics in math on a daily basis, so students cycle back to learned content and practice it constantly, building on easier content and strengthening the connections made as new lessons are taught. Topics in this course include applications of fractions and ratios, probability, geometry, decimals, and pre-algebra concepts.

Algebra I

This course is designed to bring together past experiences in algebraic concepts and extend these experiences through the real number system. The course stresses understanding of the structure of different number systems and learning to appreciate the need for precision of language. Topics include the real number system, first degree equations and inequalities, polynomials, functions, relations, graphs, and quadratic equations and inequalities. Students will master algebraic skills essential for the study of higher mathematics.

SCIENCE

7th Grade Science

The 7th Grade Science class is an introductory course to the basic principles of chemistry and biology. The main objective of this course is to prepare middle school students to be successful in further studies at high school level Chemistry and Biology courses. The topics developed as part of the Chemistry course are the properties and classification of matter, atomic structure, the structure and organization of the periodic table, chemical bonding, chemical formulas and nomenclature, and solutions. The Biology part of the course will address the characteristics of life, structure and organization of the cell, cell reproduction, basics of genetic principles, plants and animals, and the human body system. This course is delivered by combining conceptual and application skills addressed to analyze and solve chemical and biology problems. Labs and hands-on activities are a vital component of this course. There are no prerequisites and it satisfies the middle school science requirements.

8th Grade Science

This course includes the study of matter and energy that surrounds us everyday. Themes that will be covered in this course include scientific skills, motion, forces, electricity, magnets, properties of light, and so much more. Students will even get to do their own scientific experiment for the science fair.

SOCIAL STUDIES

7th Grade Social Studies

The 7th Grade Social Studies course follows the Core Knowledge Sequence. America truly became the nation it is today during the first half of the 20th century. To fully comprehend our country and the world around us, we must explore the expansion of the United States as a world power. We will study American expansion beyond the limits of the continental United States as we annex or conquer areas such as Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and others. Next, we will analyze how the U.S. uses its new power to influence the events of World War I. We will explore how "The Great War" impacted the power structure of Europe and the world. We next explore the Russian Revolution and the rise of Communism in the world, an event that had incredible repercussions for over 70 years. We look back at America during the 1920s and 1930s, exploring the Roaring Twenties and the collapse into the Great Depression. Finally, we will analyze World War II, the event that will set the stage for the Cold War and the second half of the 20th century.

8th Grade Social Studies

The 8th Grade Social Studies course follows the Core Knowledge Sequence. In this course, students will cover historical topics such as the Creation of the US Constitution, the Creation of the People's Republic of China, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, and Middle East Geography and Politics. Students will also explore physical and human geography. They will also develop reading, writing, and argumentation skills.

SPECIALS - Art, Music, P.E., Technology

7th Grade Core Art (Quarterly)

All 7th grade students will take 7th grade Core Art. This course will cover art history periods including Impressionism, Cubism, Surrealism, and Art Nouveau. We discuss how the historical periods relate to art that is being made today. Students will increase their art skills practicing new drawing and 3D building techniques. Emphasis is placed on the Elements and Principles of Art and how they are used to make art throughout history and how students can use them to create their own work. Students will work in a variety of mediums that may include paint, pastels, clay, fabric and other 3D materials.

8th Grade Core Art (Quarterly)

All 8th grade students will take 8th grade Core Art. This course will cover recent historical art periods and topics including the Modern era, architecture during the industrial revolution, photography, and contemporary art. We discuss how the historical periods relate to art that is being made today. Students will increase their art skills practicing new drawing and 3D building techniques. Emphasis is placed on the Elements and Principles of Art and how they are used to make art throughout history and how students can use them to create their own work. Students will work in a variety of mediums that may include paint, pastels, clay, fabric and other 3D materials.

7th/8th Grade Core Music (Quarterly)

Following the Core Knowledge sequence, middle school students will participate in core music classes. In core music we explore, learn and apply lessons in musical content to engage with as much music as we can. In this class, we use the music of current day to guide our exploration of music theory, history, instrumentation and performance. By the end of the course students should have a broader appreciation for the role that music plays for both the individual and society.

7th/8th Grade Core P.E. (Quarterly)

This class will focus on students participating in a variety of cardiovascular and fitness activities, as well as developing knowledge and skills in team sports. This class will also focus on health-related fitness topics and fitness goals.

7th/8th Core Technology (Quarterly)

This course was designed to give exposure to basic computer skills that are fundamental to everyday classroom usage. The class will cover Google Suite applications (Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms) for all subject areas and content usage. Additionally students will work on basic keyboarding skills and introduction to coding.