

Course	Description
7th Grade Language Arts A & B	Following the Core Knowledge Sequence, this course aims to produce high-level readers who love literature and are able to respond to it analytically through respectful discussion and eloquent writing. Grammar and mechanics are studied formally to provide students with a common vocabulary with which to discuss their writing with teachers and peers.
8th Grade Language Arts A & B	Following the Core Knowledge Sequence, this course aims to produce high-level readers who love literature and are able to respond to it analytically through respectful discussion and eloquent writing. Grammar and mechanics are studied formally to provide students with a common vocabulary with which to discuss their writing with teachers and peers.
7th Grade History A & B	Core History 7 will cover the period of history surrounding the United States from the late nineteenth century until the end of WWII. The following topics and their influences upon modern society will be analyzed: U.S. Geography, The rise of the United States as an up and coming world superpower, The political and military forces that created WWI and the Russian Revolution., The Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, and the New Deal., The rise totalitarianism in Europe and the events and causes of WWII, World Tour-Analysis in Geography (time permitting).
8th Grade History A & B	Core History 8 will cover the period of history surrounding the United States from the end of WWII through the present day. The following topics and their influences upon modern society will be analyzed: Geography of N. America: Canada and Mexico, The origin and structure of the U.S. Constitution, The decline of European Colonialism and its affects on the World , The Cold War, The American Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam: War, Peace, and Protest, The Middle East and Oil Politics, The end of the Cold War, The War on Terror (time permitting).
7th Grade Science A & B	This general hands-on science course surveys the following topics: atomic structure, chemical bonds and reactions, cell division and genetics, history of the earth and life forms, and evolution. Current science discoveries and topics are discussed regularly, including articles from <i>The New York Times</i> and other respected sources. Rather than depending on a particular textbook, student will develop a science binder as a knowledge resource.
8th Grade Science A & B	This general hands-on science course surveys the following topics: physics, electricity and magnetism, electromagnetics, light and sound waves, and chemistry of food and respiration. Current science discoveries and topics are discussed regularly, including articles from <i>The New York Times</i> and other respected sources. Rather than depending on a particular textbook, student will develop a science binder as a knowledge resource.
PreAlgebra A & B	This is a crucial class in mathematics in which mastery of foundational skills sets the stage for success in subsequent math classes. Topics: basic mathematical processes, order of operations, introductory algebra, ratio, proportion, and percents, probability, measures of central tendency, graphs, and introductory geometry.
Algebra I A & B	(prerequisite Pre-Algebra) This class lays the foundations for the more complex algebra topics that are covered in Algebra II. Topics: adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing expressions/equations with variables, exponents and radicals, rectangular coordinate system, extensive work with linear functions, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, factoring

polynomials, and sequences and series.

Algebra 2 A & B	(prerequisite Algebra I) This class builds on the foundations developed in Algebra I and goes on to explore more complex problems in mathematics. Topics: complex numbers, quadratic equations, polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, conics, matrices, and probability.
7/8th Grade General Dance	Dance topics include: an introduction to dance technique in ballroom, jazz/hip hop, tap, classical ballet, modern and improvisation.
Intermediate Spanish	Prerequisite: pass Beginner Spanish. Students continue to expand their grammatical knowledge, explore cultural difference and their influences on our society, build a larger vocabulary base, and expand verb tenses. Writing, speaking, listening and reading are all components of this course.
Yearbook	Yearbook is a year-long course during which students produce the school yearbook. Activities include photography, photo manipulation, layout design, copy writing, proofing and binding. Students will need to submit an application in order to be accepted to this class.
7th/8th grade Art - Visualization	<p>In this class we will discover and explore how formulas, canons and patterns of beauty have been used throughout the history of man to help create and ornament art and architecture. We will explore different cultures' interpretations of 'ideal beauty', their use of symbols and patterns to create meaning in image making, and explore various materials and mediums that can be used in creating art. Using this information and practicing these formulas, we will then create original artwork that is 'informed' from these methods.</p> <p>Advanced or repeating students will have the opportunity to pursue artwork projects of their own choosing and materials by working from a contract laying out goals and timelines from project to project. Students are encouraged to return to the elements and principles of design, as will be laid out in the beginning of class.</p>
7th/8th grade Piano	Piano class is an opportunity to study piano both privately and in a group setting. Students may enter at any level and are assigned pieces that best fit their musicality. Students work on Roland digital pianos that have headphones so that the students may practice independently or with another student. Students are required to perform a scale and a piano selection once a week to build a notebook of repertoire.
7th/8th grade Ballet 1 A & B	Beginning technique in classical ballet including barre, adagio, allegro and creative expression in a performance venue
8th grade Ballet 2	Prerequisite: Must have completed Ballet 1 and have teacher recommendation. This class builds upon the knowledge learned in Ballet 1 and introduces more advanced techniques.

7th/8th grade Sports Skills	This class is designed to develop skills and habits needed to engage in a lifetime of physical activity. It has two major components. The first is development of physical fitness. This includes the development of strength, flexibility, quickness, and endurance which are needed for maintaining a healthy, energetic, and productive life. The second component is the development of physical activity skills which will develop the confidence of the individual in his/her ability to successfully participate in physical activities. Topics: fitness, ultimate frisbee, volleyball, softball, racquetball, modified indoor tennis, table tennis, touch football, soccer, and basketball.
7th/8th grade 3-D Paper Art	3-D Paper Art explores various methods and techniques of folding and cutting paper to create three dimensional objects.
7th/8th Printmaking	Learn the history of making multiple images, try our hand at making images that speak and that follow traditions that contribute personal voice to our world. Many different processes will be in effect: Serigraphy –silk screening, Intaglio –dry point etching, Relief prints –lino cut: We will make editions and practice craftsmanship in order to sell works and market our ideas.
7th/8th grade Studio Arts	Prerequisite: Printmaking. In this class we will: Concentrate on portfolio production in breadth and depth, both in concept and techniques that each individual student wants to practice. Independent study will be required, especially for dual credits if offered. Serious art students will experience what it takes to make personal artwork In a professional manner. Quality and marketability are important, while having fun and experimenting in an engaging environment. Sketch books will be required and entries in the sketchbooks will be regular. We will practice: Drawing, Painting, ceramics, glass, metal/wood 3-D design and sculpture building, Collage, mixed media works, photography, printmaking, bookmaking, <i>Archivements</i> TM , and more. Course will be based on independent study with practice projects and presentations of personal research and growth.
7th/8th grade Production Art	In this class students will have a very active part in the art side of the school activities and productions, as well as helping with other classes' art projects. To name a few expectations, students will take part in: face painting, making and using several types of clay, painting with a spray gun, preparing and running operations at school functions such as the art gala and spring showcase, preparing art materials for use, and the care and upkeep of art supplies and tools. Students will also get to prepare demos and go into classrooms to show them how to create art, such as African masks and Greek warship models. Students will also do research on the projects they prepare demonstrations for, becoming familiar with how and why art has been made traditionally, while looking for ways to explore originality.
7th/8th grade Modern Dance	This class teaches modern technique for the general student. The emphasis is placed on body integration, locomotor skills, dynamic variety, musicality, and artistic expression.
7th/8th grade Jr. Armonia Choir	Jr. Armonia Choir studies a vast repertoire of music including a capella classics to modern jazz and demands a strong ability to maintain harmony. Armonia is an auditioned group that makes several appearances in the community during the year (including both showcases) and includes choreographed pieces. Students must be in good academic standing to remain in show choir. Students are encouraged to audition at the end of the school year by preparing an audition piece that is 2 minutes in length and shows vocal quality and great stage presence. Audition accompaniments must be on tape or CD and must not have a vocal melody. Class fees required, see teacher for details.

Drawing

In this class we will learn and practice the foundations of drawing people and objects convincingly. Namely we will work on proportion, perspective, learning to judge distances and angles with our eyes, how to construct human and cartoon forms, and how light and shade reveal the form of an object. Students will also explore drawing techniques and styles through the ages to help inform their own style and decision making in regards to their art.

Advanced students will have the opportunity to pursue artwork projects of their own choosing and materials by working from a contract laying out goals and timelines from project to project. For the advanced students this is meant to help them reach particular personal goals within their own art.

Improvisation As Performance Art

This course is designed to evoke the student's creative individuality and problem solving. Movement will be explored through spontaneous, in the moment, problem solving. Students will have the opportunity to delve into their own inner kinetic/movement "voice" and further explore the creative process while appreciating improvisation as an art form as well as a tool for choreography.

Movement explorations will take place in an improvisation or extemporaneous setting. Movement studies will explore improvisational approaches, devices, elements and exercises to gain skills in the art of improvisation, with some more in depth explorations specific to concepts and themes leading to solo and group performances.

We will explore NATURAL PHYSICAL RESPONSE in order to:

1. Understand the importance of natural physical response to whatever stimulus is presented.
2. Sense physically, sentiently and personally the neuromuscular logic of the body, as well as the specific quirks, strengths and weaknesses of your own body.
3. Explore movement beyond any preconceived notions of what dance/motion/movement "should" be like according to your intellectual sense of logic or form.