



## Course Catalog 2018-19

### 6th- to 8th-Grade

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#### English

##### Language Arts 6

Language Arts 6 covers novels, poetry, and non-fiction texts; students explore elements of literature and the tools of writers. Students start developing the skills of analyzing both informational and literary texts. They keep an interactive journal, engage in 'quick writes' to build fluency and confidence, and hone their skills as young essay writers - all the while improving both critical thinking and original expression.

##### Language Arts 7

Language Arts 7 focuses on the writing process. Students practice these essay forms: personal, compare-contrast, persuasive and literary analysis as well as review cause & effect, classification & division and process paragraph writing. Students apply active reading strategies to the study of poetry, non-fiction and fiction, including the reading of two novels. The learn to think of expression in terms of entering a conversation in which the ideas of others are considered and responded to.

## Language Arts 8

In Language Arts 8, students continue to develop their facility with written expression, writing expository essays, formal arguments, and creative works. They build a writer's portfolio. They develop media literacy and analyze media texts from a variety of sources. They explore "spoken word" and performance poetry as well as read several contemporary classics of literature.

## Social Studies

### Geography and World Cultures Ancient<sup>1</sup>

In this course, students learn the five themes of geography and practice using the tools of geographers. They explore ancient civilizations around the world and learn about the characteristics and cultural contributions of each. Students will create an ancient Mayan travel guide, write an imaginative journal of a trader traveling through early African empires, document a day in the life of a woman in ancient Rome, generate a message in cuneiform, and more.

### Geography and World Cultures Regions & Peoples<sup>1</sup>

This course covers topics in world history from the middle ages to the mid-nineteenth century. Units of study include Castles & Knights, Renaissance Art, The Age of Reason and Enlightenment, Exploration, Transportation & Cities, and more. Students will create a map of Spanish missions in America, create a historical Facebook page for an Enlightenment thinker, design a storyboard on the plague, and build a medieval castle.

### World Governments and Economics<sup>1</sup>

This course focuses on the purposes and forms of government around the world. They also learn about basic principles of economics and apply them to their understanding of global political systems. Students conduct research and present their findings. They create visualizations of information, write about historical events from the perspective of a journalist, and even develop a budget.

### U.S. Government and Constitution<sup>1</sup>

In this course, students explore ideas that influenced the development of American government and identify principles foundational to our government past and present. Students also learn the three branches of government, citizenship rights and responsibilities, and civil rights and liberties. Students analyze primary documents, create infographics, review Supreme Court decisions, and discuss citizenship.

### U.S. History to the Civil War<sup>1</sup>

In this course, students explore the sweep of history from the earliest migration of peoples across the Bering Strait to a young nation in crisis at the onset of the Civil War. Students research the true story of Pocahontas, create a museum exhibit on the slave trade, review the impact of the steam engine on the changing American landscape, create a biographical sketch of an early immigrant, draw a map depicting Westward expansion, and more.

## U.S. History from the Civil War<sup>1</sup>

This course covers historical topics from Reconstruction to the Contemporary Tech Boom. Students learn about the Robber Barons, Queen Liliokalani of Hawaii, changing roles for women in American society and the causes and impacts of wars on the nation; from WWI through the war on terrorism. Students create infographics, conduct short research projects, and design illustrations of New Deal programs, all while honing their skills of critical thinking, evaluation, and personal response to history.

## Washington State History

Washington State History covers civics, history, geography and economics. The state's historical events are placed in the larger context of our nation's history. Using an integrated and customized approach, students learn about Washington's landforms, American Indians, expansion, government, and economy. They explore the state's growth and development by creating a timeline and a research paper on a topic of their choice.

## Mathematics

### Math 6

Math 6 introduces students to the order of operations, negative numbers, absolute value, and inequalities. They learn factoring fraction and decimal operations, ratio and percents. Students demonstrate knowledge through mathematical investigations, projects and problem sets.

### Math 7

Math 7 focuses on integer operations, rates, ration & proportion, one-step and multi-step equations. Students complete a statistics project using box and whisker plots. They also undertake a unit rate project to determine best value at the grocery store. Problem sets and mathematical investigations are incorporated throughout the course.

### Pre-Algebra

Introductory Algebra provides a curriculum focused on foundational concepts that prepare students for success in Algebra I. Through a "Discovery-Confirmation-Practice"-based exploration students are challenged to work toward a mastery of computational skills, to deepen their understanding of key ideas and solution strategies, and to extend their knowledge through a variety of problem-solving applications. Course topics include the language of algebra; solving equations with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; fractions and decimals; measurement; exponents; solving equations with roots and powers; multi-step equations; and linear equations.

## Science

### Life Science

Life science focuses on basic biological concepts while developing a foundation in scientific inquiry. Students learn about the nature of science before beginning an exploration of themes such as states of matter, biological systems, relationships among organisms, energy in ecosystems, agricultural and biomechanical engineering. Students wrap up the course by

completing an original engineering project. Students complete hands on labs throughout the course.

## **Earth Science**

Earth Science offers a focused curriculum that explores Earth's composition, structure, processes, and history; its atmosphere, freshwater, and oceans; and its environment in space. Course topics include an exploration of the major cycles that affect every aspect of life, including weather, climate, air movement, tectonics, volcanic eruptions, rocks, minerals, geologic history, Earth's environment, sustainability, and energy resources. Students complete hands on labs throughout the course.

## **Physical Science**

Physical Science focuses on the mastery of important scientific skills through the study of concepts such as states of matter, chemical reactions, refraction and reflection of light, wave theory, and systems of measurement. Students learn about scientific research and conduct a culminating research project on careers in physical science. Students complete hands on labs throughout the course.

## **World Languages**

### **American Sign Language 1a: Introduction<sup>1</sup>**

American Sign Language 1a: Introduction covers vocabulary and simple sentences, so students can start communicating right away. Importantly, students will explore Deaf culture – social beliefs, traditions, history, values and communities influenced by deafness.

### **American Sign Language 1b: Learn to Sign<sup>1</sup>**

*Prerequisite: American Sign Language 1a: Introduction*

American Sign Language 1b: Learn to Sign emphasizes comprehension and signing. Students continue to build their vocabulary and communication skills while learning classifiers, glossing and mouth morphemes. They explore interesting topics like Deaf education and Deaf arts and culture.

### **French I**

French I teaches students to greet people, describe family and friends, talk about hobbies, and communicate about other topics, such as sports, travel, and medicine. Each lesson presents vocabulary, grammar, and culture in context, followed by explanations and exercises. Vocabulary includes terms to describe school subjects, parts of the body, and people, as well as idiomatic phrases. Instruction in language structure and grammar includes the verb system, adjective agreement, formal and informal address, reflexive verbs, and past tense. Students also gain an understanding of the cultures of French-speaking countries and regions within and outside Europe, as well as insight into Francophone culture and people.

## French II

*Prerequisite: French I or equivalent*

French II teaches students to communicate more confidently about themselves, as well as about topics beyond their own lives - both in formal and informal address. Each lesson presents vocabulary, grammar, and culture in context, followed by explanations and exercises. Vocabulary includes terms in cooking, geography, and architecture. Instruction in language structure and grammar includes present- and past-tense verb forms and uses, negation, and direct and indirect objects. Students deepen their knowledge of French-speaking regions and cultures by learning about history, literature, culture, and contemporary issues.

## Spanish I

Spanish I teaches students to greet people, describe family and friends, talk about hobbies, and communicate about other topics, such as home life, occupations, travel, and medicine. Each lesson presents vocabulary, grammar, and culture in context, followed by explanations and exercises. Vocabulary includes terms to describe school subjects, parts of the body, and people, as well as idiomatic phrases. Instruction in language structure and grammar includes the structures and uses of present-tense verb forms, imperatives, adjective agreement, impersonal constructions, formal and informal address, and reflexive verbs. Students explore words used in different Spanish-speaking regions and learn about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries and regions within and outside Europe.

## Spanish II

*Prerequisite: Spanish I or equivalent*

Building on Spanish I concepts, Spanish II students learn to communicate more confidently about themselves, as well as about topics beyond their own lives - both in formal and informal situations. Each lesson presents vocabulary, grammar, and culture in context, followed by explanations and exercises. Students expand their vocabulary in topics such as cooking, ecology, geography, and architecture. Instruction in language structure and grammar includes a review of present-tense verb forms, an introduction to the past tense, the conditional mood, imperatives, impersonal constructions, and reported speech. Students deepen their knowledge of Spanish-speaking regions and cultures by learning about history, literature, culture, and contemporary issues.

## Spanish II Cultures

*Prerequisite: Spanish I or equivalent*

Spanish II Cultures builds upon the foundation of Spanish I to expand communication skills in this foreign language. The course includes the components of grammar, reading comprehension, listening comprehension, and written expression, similar to a traditional Spanish II curriculum, but also includes an extensive cultural research component that allows students to focus intensively on a Spanish-speaking country. As this course covers less vocabulary than might be included in a typical Spanish II course, students should consult with the instructor to determine whether their next course placement should be Spanish II or Spanish III.

## Spanish III

*Prerequisites: Spanish II or equivalent*

In Spanish III, students build upon the skills and knowledge they acquired in Spanish I and II. The course presents new vocabulary and grammatical concepts in context while providing students with ample opportunities to review and expand upon the material they have learned previously.

Students read and listen to authentic materials from newspapers, magazines, and television. The content is focused on contemporary and relevant topics such as urbanization and population growth in Latin American countries, global health concerns, jobs of the future, and scientific advancements. The materials engage students as they improve their command of Spanish.

Students review the formation and use of regular and irregular verbs in the present and future tenses, as well as the use of reflexive particles and infinitives. They also expand their understanding of noun and adjective agreement, the comparative and superlative degree of adjectives, and the placement and use of direct and indirect objects and pronouns. Students expand their vocabulary through exposure to word roots and families, popular slang, the correct use of words that are often confused for one another, and review of concepts such as proper placement of accents and stress.

Presentation of new materials is always followed by several interactive, online exercises, allowing students to master the material as they learn it. Teacher-scored activities provide students with opportunities to use their new Spanish skills both orally and in writing. Discussion activities allow students to interact with their peers in the target language.

## Fine Art

### Middle School Photography<sup>1</sup>

In Middle School Photography students get an introduction to digital photography. They learn how to use point-and-shoot cameras and how to avoid common photography mistakes. Students gain knowledge about best practices for choosing a subject, framing composition, and creating depth. The basics of editing and printing photos are also covered.

## Life Skills

### Middle School Career Exploration 1a

In Middle School Career Exploration 1a, students have the chance to explore more than 15 different career areas including government, marketing, engineering, energy, human resources, the law, business and more. They learn about leadership skills to apply to their education and later on in the workplace. Students examine their own personality traits, skills and abilities to help them decide which career cluster and pathway might be the best fit for their future.

## **Middle School Career Exploration 1b**

In Middle School Career Exploration 1b, students explore more careers and what it takes to succeed. They learn about setting goals and building workplace skills to prepare for their career. Students compare the pros and cons of different career choices by getting insight through day in the life scenarios, and they explore ways to gain experience and training in several career fields. At the culmination of the course, students know how to show employers they are the right candidate for the job they want.

## **Foundations**

### **Math Foundations**

Math Foundations offers a structured remediation solution designed to expedite student progress. Students remediate computational skills and conceptual understanding needed to undertake high school-level math courses with confidence. Students develop strategies for honing their problem-solving skills and practice applying specific math skills to a variety of real-world contexts.

### **Reading Skills and Strategies<sup>1</sup>**

Reading Skills and Strategies is designed for special education students and for students unable to enroll in an appropriate grade-level course. Students enrolling in this course demonstrate significant deficits on entrance assessments. The focus of this remedial class is to build basic skills. Upon completion of the course, the student should show at least one year's growth on an exit assessment; however, the student may still demonstrate skills significantly below grade level.

### **Science Foundations**

*Prerequisite: Middle school/junior high physical science*

Science Foundations provides students with opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, and strategies necessary for success in rigorous high school science courses. The course is appropriate for use as remediation at the high school level or as a bridge to high school.

### **Writing Skills and Strategies<sup>1</sup>**

The Writing Skills and Strategies course is designed for special education students and for students unable to enroll in an appropriate grade-level course. Students enrolled in this class have demonstrated significant deficits on entrance assessments; the focus of this remedial class is to build basic skills. Upon completion of the course, the student should show at least one year's growth on an exit assessment; however, the student may still demonstrate skills significantly below grade level.

### **Fundamental Math**

Fundamental Math explores foundational concepts in math. Students master basic skills and extend their knowledge as they prepare for more advanced work. Topics include basic number concepts such as whole numbers, counting, place value, rounding, exponents, and negative numbers; addition and subtraction; and multiplication and division. The course also covers

fractions, operations with fractions, decimals, percents, ratios, problem solving, basic concepts in geometry, and measuring shapes.

<sup>1</sup> 0.5 credit course

<sup>2</sup> These courses have been authorized by the College Board® to use the AP designation. Advanced Placement and AP are registered trademarks of the College Board.

<sup>3</sup> Common Core aligned

<sup>4</sup> Sophia Pathways college credit course. 1.0 High school credit in AZ, CO, MI and WA, and 0.75 high school credit in MN; equivalent to 3 college credits



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