

# *ICON Middle School Course Catalog*

## *CORE Courses*

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **Language Arts 600**

6th grade Language Arts class is designed to increase communication skills through reading, writing, speaking, and the study of the English language. Students will delve into texts that span the genres of narrative fiction, poetry, literary nonfiction, and informational texts to build reading, writing, and thinking skills. The sixth grade Language Arts course includes the minimum and advanced performance objectives to be covered at the sixth grade level in grammar/usage, writing, spelling, reading literature, reference and study, and critical thinking. Students will develop their writing skills while producing narrative, argumentative, and explanatory compositions. The course concludes with students completing a full research report.

Principal texts: include (but are not limited to) tales by the Brothers Grimm, “The Three Golden Hairs of Grandfather Know-All,” Retold by Pat Betteley, The Bundle of Sticks by Aesop; informational texts such as “Journey Down Under the Sea: My Visit to the Great Barrier Reef,” by Alexandra Loewen, Excerpt. Chapter One from Susan B. Anthony, by Alma Lutz, “The Forests of Yosemite Park,” by John Muir, and “Training the World’s Next Stars,” by Colette Weil Parrinello; articles which spark controversy, such as “To GMO or Not to GMO” by George Erdash and Marcia Amidon Lusted, and “What’s for Lunch?” by Marcia Amidon Lusted; poetry including “The Road Not Taken,” by Robert Frost, “Who Has Seen the Wind?” by Christina Rossetti, and “Escape at Bedtime” by Robert Louis Stevenson; literature excerpts, such as Heidi by Johanna Spyri, and “The Lady and the Tiger,” A Chosen Few Short Stories, by Frank R. Stockton; and perspectives on issues, such as “Going to Jail,” by Laura Phillips, and Excerpt from “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ***All literature and required reading is included in the curriculum platform.***

#### **Language Arts 700**

7th grade Language Arts is aligned to the State Standards of Idaho. It is a thematic study of literature that explores accounts of earth, space, and survival. Throughout this course, students will delve into texts that span the genres of narrative fiction, poetry, literary nonfiction, and informational texts. Students will develop writing skills while producing argumentative, narrative, and expository compositions.

Principal texts: include The Call of the Wild, by Jack London; The Diary of Anne Frank, A Play, by Goodrich & Hackett; “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County” and excerpts from The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, both by Mark Twain; The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle, by Avi; The First Men in the Moon, by H. G. Wells, and various nonfiction articles by various authors. Most required literature is provided in the curriculum platform. The teacher will email digital copies of The Diary of Anne Frank, A

Play, and The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle, by Avi to students, as they are not available within the curriculum platform.

### **Language Arts 800**

This 8<sup>th</sup> grade-level course develops skills in four major areas—reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Test-taking strategies are included throughout the course to prepare for state-mandated assessments. This course explores literature that discovers the work of various writers of different time periods. In this course, you will build skills by studying a range of classic and contemporary literature to convey themes of American History, Poetry, Narrative writing, and Non-Fiction Texts, through such works as, “Journey to the Center of the Earth”, and “The Iliad”. Students will also develop writing skills while producing informative, narrative, and argumentative compositions. They will learn to find, analyze, use, and cite outside sources in their writing. All of this is achieved through a project-based lens, and allows students to apply the course material, and their own personal experiences to create several projects that demonstrate mastery of all the concepts in the course. Critical thought is developed while reading the various short stories, excerpts, and a novel, to apply it to their own life, and go beyond basic comprehension, and develop application, so that students are prepared to enter their next phase of learning in their high school experience.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Mathematics 600**

Mathematics 600 is a full-year elementary math course focusing on the ability to perform basic mathematical functions and problem solving in the areas of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, fractions, ratio and proportion, pre-algebra, and geometry. Students in the 6th grade focus on active engagement with numbers by focusing on conceptual understanding, computational and procedural skills, and problem solving.

### **Mathematics 700**

Mathematics 700 is a full-year math course designed to prepare middle-school students for Pre-Algebra. This course focuses on strengthening needed skills in problem solving, number sense, and proportional reasoning. It introduces students to understand how to interpret and compute all rational numbers. They can add, subtract, multiply, and divide all decimals and fractions. Students will begin to see the "big picture" of mathematics and learn how numeric, algebraic, and geometric concepts are woven together to build a foundation for higher mathematical thinking.

### **Pre-Algebra 800**

Pre-Algebra is a full-year introductory algebra course designed to prepare middle-school students for Algebra I. The course focuses on strengthening needed skills in problem solving, integers, one-step equations, inequalities and equations, graphs and functions, percent, probabilities. We also present an introduction to geometry and right triangles. Students will begin to see the "big picture" of mathematics

and learn how numeric, algebraic, and geometric concepts are woven together to build a foundation for higher mathematical thinking.

## **SCIENCE**

### **Science 600**

Science 600 includes the study of plant and animal systems, plant and animal behavior, genetics, the structure of matter, light and sound, kinematics, planet earth, the solar system, and astronomy. Students will begin to understand interrelationships between organisms, recognize patterns in ecosystems, and become aware of the cellular dimensions of living systems.

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to do the following:

- Use their main senses for observation of the world around them.
- Describe the different systems in plants and animals.
- Explain the various ways plants and animals behave.
- Explain how Mendel used observation to develop his theories.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of chemical structure and the periodic table.
- Discuss the layers of the atmosphere.
- Describe motion as it relates to force and work.
- Explain how time and season are related to the rotation and revolution of the earth.
- Explain the different forms of energy.

### **Science 700**

Science 700 expands on Science 600 and offers students exposure to the designs and patterns in the physical universe, providing practice of basic scientific skills and a broad survey of the major areas of science. Skills include observing, asking questions, making hypotheses and making connections between life science, earth and space science, and physical science themes. Units contain experiments and projects to capitalize on the students' natural curiosity. Students will begin to recognize the role of mathematics in science, principles of astronomy, the atmosphere, natural cycles, weather and climate, human anatomy and physiology, and careers in science.

### **Earth Science 800**

Science 800 expands on Science 600 and 700 and offers students exposure to the designs and patterns in the physical universe, providing practice of basic scientific skills and a broad survey of the major areas of science. Skills include observing, asking questions, making hypotheses and making connections between life science, earth and space science, and physical science themes. Units contain experiments and projects to capitalize on the students' natural curiosity. Students will begin to recognize the structure and properties of matter, measurement and mathematics of science, geology, oceanography, natural cycles and resources, science today and tomorrow, and astronomy.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **History 600**

The following 6th grade Social Studies content is integrated within the other 6th grade level classes throughout the year:

History 600 introduces students to the study of world cultures and civilizations, and the study of geography. Students will build an understanding of the cultural and social development of human civilization. First semester includes units on the five themes of geography: location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region. Second semester examines cultures and civilizations in the various regions of the Earth, so that students may use their understanding of geography to study how unique situations and environments influenced the cultures and civilizations that have arisen in each area.

### **World Civilizations 700**

World Civilizations 700 focuses on the history, geography, and culture of Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. First semester includes units on physical geography, prehistory, the ancient history of early civilizations, and the physical and cultural studies of Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia.

Second semester includes the history, politics, physical geography, and cultural features of Europe, Southeast Asia, China, Japan, the Koreas, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Americas. A brief introduction to economics is also covered.

This course is aligned to the State Standards of Idaho for Social Studies.

### **History 800**

\*\* Parent approval must be gained for students to access external website in History 800. This course is a brief history of America from early colonization to the reelection of President Obama in 2012. There are 6 units for the overall course which include:

#### History & Geography 800 A

1. Founding of America
2. The New Nation
3. Antebellum America

#### History and Geography 800 B

4. America Grows Up
5. The American Century
6. The Fracturing of America

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES**

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education**

This course is designed not only to explore the benefits of basic nutrition, physical fitness, and healthy lifestyles, but to encourage off-computer fitness activities by requiring that students log daily activities that promote health and fitness. Topics include: knowledge and skills needed to analyze the key components of successful physical activity and ability to use this analysis to determine if a program is reasonable and effective.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Exploration**

Career Exploration is an important course for middle schoolers. In this course, careers are explored, and what it takes to succeed in different fields. You'll learn about what steps are needed to explore what is needed to move into the workforce.

Career Exploration helps teens:

- Understand themselves better in a non-judgmental platform
- Evaluate their skills, talents, and experiences
- Gently experiment with some ideas for careers and
- Build self-awareness