

# *ICON Middle School Course Catalog 2020-2021*

## *CORE Courses*

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **Language Arts 600 (Year Long Course)**

This 6th grade course is aligned to the Common Core State Standards of Idaho. 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. Students will also develop their writing skills as they focus on the six traits while producing narrative, argumentative, and explanatory compositions, as well as creative pieces including poetry. 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 are included in the curriculum platform.

#### **Language Arts 700 (Year Long Course)**

This 7th grade course is aligned to the Common Core 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 also develop their writing skills as they focus on the six traits 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 *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, *Bulfinch’s Mythology: The Age of Fable* by Thomas Bulfinch (excerpts); and *Harriet Tubman: the Moses of Her People*, by Sarah Bradford.

**Please note:** Students taking LA 700A (first semester of the course) will need to obtain a copy of the required reading: *The Diary of Anne Frank, A Play*, by Goodrich & Hackett before beginning Unit 4. Students taking LA 700B (second semester of the course) will need obtain a copy of the required reading: *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, by Avi before beginning Unit 1. These texts are not included

in the curriculum platform and can be found at a local or online public library, or a traditional or online bookstore.

### **Language Arts 800 (Year Long Course)**

This 8th Grade Language Arts course is aligned to the Common Core State Standards of Idaho and helps expand reading and writing skills with a review of important rules of grammar and usage. Interactive, technology-based audio and video elements help students to more efficiently retain concepts and ideas. Topics include: strategies for writing, punctuation, essays, analyzing, propaganda, persuasive factors, formal essays, summarizing, paraphrasing, persuasive language, listening, cues, following directions, story elements, narrating, and editing.

Principal texts include but are not limited to: *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott, *Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist* (biography), Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, *Landscape with the Fall of Icarus* by William Carlos Williams, *Girl Powdering Her Neck* by Cathy Song, *The Camera Does Lie*, *Taj Mahal, and Head Games*, *Journey to the Center of the Earth* by Jules Verne, *The Bear* by Anton Checkov, *The White Umbrella* by Jen Gish, *The Medicine Bag* by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, Excerpt from *The Iliad* by Homer, *The Early History of the Airplane* by Wilbur & Orville Wright, *The Monkey's Paw* by W. W. Jacobs, *The Modern Faithful Steed*, *Living Like Weasels* by Annie Dillard, and *Secret Life of Walter Mitty* by James Thurber.

**Please note:** Students taking LA 800A (first semester of the course) will need to obtain a copy of the required reading: *Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist* (biography), Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan before beginning Unit 4. This text is not included in the curriculum platform and can be found at a local or online public library, or a traditional or online bookstore.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Mathematics 600 (Year Long Course)**

From whole numbers to decimals, and geometry to statistics, this course reviews arithmetic basics then builds on that knowledge to prepare students for middle and high school. Topics include: number skills and numerical literacy, introduction to the number skills necessary for algebra, factoring, exponents, statistical charts, probabilities, and making predictions.

### **Mathematics 700 (Year Long Course)**

This course reviews math fundamentals and gives students the digital tools to strengthen their skills in problem solving, number sense, and proportional reasoning. It also introduces them to new concepts including integers, equations, and geometry. Topics include: integers, fractions, decimals, patterns and equations, ratios and proportions, probability and graphing, data analysis, geometry, measurement and area, surface area and volume.

### **Pre-Algebra 800 (Year Long Course)**

This course lays the groundwork for higher-level math study through an examination of number relationships, variables, scientific notation, functions, integers, measurement, formula use, and data

representation. Topics include: subsets of the real number system, using variables, the number line, comparing rational numbers, exponents, scientific notation, square roots, order of operations, expressions and equations, and solving one-step and two-step equations.

## **SCIENCE**

### **Science 600 (Year Long Course)**

Some of the areas covered in Science 600 include 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 (Year Long Course)**

Throughout this course, students will explore the meaning of science, scientific method, atoms, molecules, compounds, matter, plant and animal cells, personal health and diseases, the environment, the solar system, natural selection, and mutation.

### **Earth Science 800 (Year Long Course)**

This course instruction includes the structure of matter, scientific measurement, the natural structures of the planet and their origins, fossils, the ocean, energy sources, and space exploration.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **History and Geography 600 (Year Long Course)**

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

### **World Civilizations 700 (Year Long Course)**

World Civilizations 700 focuses on the history, geography, and culture of Asia, Africa, Europe, and America. 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, physical geography, and cultural features of Southeast Asia, China, Japan, the Koreas, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Americas.

### **History and Geography 800 (Year Long Course)**

History and Geography 800 begins with a study of Europe's colonization of the new world, continues through the birth of our nation, its western expansion, struggles with unity, and emergence as an economic and political power in the twentieth century. It ends with the role of the United States in a changing world. Special attention is paid to the Colonial Period, the Revolutionary War, the constitution, the Federal Period, the War of 1812, the Age of Jackson, the Antebellum Period, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Gilded Age, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the demise of communism.

## **HEALTH AND PE**

### **Middle School Physical Education—for 7<sup>th</sup> graders (One Semester Course)**

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.

### **Middle School Health—for 8<sup>th</sup> graders (One Semester Course)**

The curriculum introduces students to the concepts of what good health is, why good health is important, and what students should do in order to achieve good health. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate an awareness of health as it applies to their own bodies, minds, and emotions.
- Demonstrate an awareness of health as it applies to their living environments.
- Identify the components of a healthy lifestyle and set reasonable goals to achieve a lifestyle of wellness.
- Understand that incorporating sound health practices creates a lifestyle of moderation and wellness.
- Describe health as it applies to broader society, the world, and their own responsibility to stimulate good health around them.

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## *ELECTIVE Courses*

### **Project-Based Music**

Students will receive credit for private music lessons and real world application of music skills and knowledge. MUST BE APPROVED THROUGH THE SCHOOL.

### **Project-Based Sports/Physical Fitness**

Students will receive credit for private sports/physical fitness involvement and real world application of skills and knowledge. MUST BE APPROVED THROUGH THE SCHOOL.