

ICON Middle School Course Catalog

CORE Courses

*Courses with ** are offered in Semester-by-Semester or Year-Long Enrollment Options*

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts 600 **

6th grade Language Arts 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 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 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 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 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 Harriet Tubman: the Moses of Her People, by Sarah Bradford. Most required literature is provided in the curriculum platform. The teacher will email digital copies of The Diary of Anne Frank, A Play, by Goodrich & Hackett and The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle, by Avi to students as needed, as they are not available within the curriculum platform.

Language Arts 800 **

Language Arts 800A is the first semester of the eighth-grade language arts experience. This course develops skills in four major areas—reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will also be prepared in test-taking strategies to prepare for the ISATs. This class explores literature that discovers the work of various writers of different time periods through a historical lens. In this course, you will build on these skills by studying a range of classic and contemporary literature to convey themes of American History, Poetry, Narrative writing, and Non-Fiction Texts. Student’s will also develop your writing skills while producing informative and narrative compositions. All of this is achieved through a project-based lens, and allows students to apply the course material, and their own personal experience to build several projects that demonstrate mastery of all the concepts in the course.

Language Arts 800B is the second semester of the eight-grade language arts experience. This course develops skills in four major areas—reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This class dives into literature that explores the work of various writers of different time periods through an historical lens. In this course, you will build on these skills by studying a range of classic and contemporary literature, like that of “Journey to the Center of the Earth”, and “The Iliad”. Students will also develop writing skills while producing informative and argumentative compositions. Critical thought is developed while reading the various short stories, excerpts, and 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 number skills and numerical literacy, with an introduction to rational numbers and the skills needed for algebra. In it, students will gain solid experience with number theory and operations, including decimals and fractions. This course also integrates ratio relationships and proportional reasoning throughout the units, as well as introduces students to geometric and statistical concepts.

Mathematics 700 **

Mathematics 700 is a full-year math course designed to prepare junior-high students for Pre-algebra. This course focuses on strengthening needed skills in problem solving, number sense, and proportional reasoning. It also introduces students to integers, equations, and geometric concepts. 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 junior-high school students for Algebra I. The course focuses on strengthening needed skills in problem solving, integers, equations, and graphing. 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 (Year Long Course)

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 is a year long class that provides a set of basic scientific skills that begin with understanding the scientific method. Other major areas of science that is covered include human biology, genetics and ecology and the environment. The second semester builds a foundation for understanding matter, the transformation of energy and an introduction to Earth Science and the history and makeup of the earth. The units contain experiments and projects to capitalize on the students' natural curiosity. Students at this level should show understanding of interrelationships between organisms, recognize patterns in systems, and expand their knowledge of cellular dimensions of living systems.

Earth Science 800 **

Earth Science is a basic science course intended to further explore the designs and patterns of our planet. This course covers such areas as the origin, history, and structure of the earth. It also covers forces that cause change on the earth and features of the earth including the crust, water, atmosphere, weather, and climate. Earth science wraps up with astronomy and a study of all the planets, the solar system, and galaxies. The course strives to teach that each feature of the earth interacts with the others in many critical ways, and the study of these relationships is important to humanity.

SOCIAL STUDIES

History and Geography 600 **

History and Geography 600 introduces students to the study of world cultures and 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 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, physical geography, and cultural features of Southeast Asia, China, Japan, the Koreas, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Americas.

History and Geography 800 **

A survey of American History, History and Geography 800 is organized chronologically beginning with the 1607 settlement of Jamestown and ending with the re-election of Barack Obama in 2012. The eight units include: Founding and Colonial Period; War and Independence; Founding Documents and Industrialization; Westward Expansion; The Civil War; The Industrial Nation; Twentieth Century World Power; and The United States in a Changing World.

HEALTH AND PE

Middle School Physical Education—for 7th graders

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 8th graders

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.