

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ELA

### **Language Arts 600**

Welcome to the 6th Grade English Language Arts (ELA) class! In this course, we will focus on developing essential reading and writing skills. Our curriculum is aligned with the Idaho State Standards to ensure that students receive a comprehensive education in English language arts. The class is designed to increase communication skills through reading and writing.

In reading, students will engage with a variety of texts, including literature and informational texts. They will interpret and evaluate nonfiction texts, citing textual evidence to support analysis and inferences and understanding how specific details contribute to an overall understanding.

In writing, instruction will cover various forms, emphasizing the writing process from planning to publishing. Students will develop arguments with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic. They will also convey complex ideas and information clearly through well-structured essays, reports, and summaries, as well as craft narratives that develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

### **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 of the of the required literature is provided on 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 8th 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, which 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 novels to apply it to their own life, go beyond basic comprehension, and develop application so that students are prepared to enter their next phase of learning in their high school experience.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH**

### **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 helps students 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, including integers, one-step equations, inequalities and equations, graphs and functions, percents, and 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.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL 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. Topics to be covered include the scientific method, matter, energy & motion, biology, health & disease, genetics, life over time, ecology & the environment, and earth 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. Topics to be covered include matter, motion & force; ecosystems & the environment; the history & origin of the earth, layers of the earth, the rock cycle, erosion, energy & waves; cycles & genetics; the water cycle; earthquakes & volcanoes; weather, climate & atmosphere; and our solar system & astronomy.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL 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 gain 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**

The course begins with the study of early human societies, examining the development of agriculture, the rise of early civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus Valley, and China, and the cultural and technological advancements that characterized these societies. Students will then delve into the classical civilizations of Greece and Rome, exploring their contributions to government, philosophy, art, and science. As the course progresses, students will investigate the fall of the Roman Empire, the rise of Islamic civilizations, the Byzantine Empire, the feudal societies of medieval Europe, and the cultural and economic exchanges along the Silk Road. The curriculum also covers the Renaissance, the Age of Exploration, and the significant political and social changes brought about by the Enlightenment and various revolutions. In the modern era, students will explore the Industrial Revolution, the impact of colonialism and imperialism, the World Wars, the Cold War, and the ongoing developments in the 21st century. By studying these periods, students will gain an understanding of the interconnectedness of global history and the ongoing processes that shape our world today.

### **History 800**

In this comprehensive 8th grade history course, students will embark on an engaging journey through the rich tapestry of United States history, from the age of exploration to contemporary times. The course is designed to provide a deep understanding of the key events, influential figures, and significant themes that have shaped the nation. Students will explore the motivations and impacts of early European explorations and settlements, the development of the American colonies, and the road to independence. The curriculum delves into the formation and evolution of the U.S. government, the expansion westward, and the profound changes brought about by the Civil War and Reconstruction. As the course progresses, students will examine the industrial revolution and the challenges and triumphs of the 20th century, including both World Wars, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Cold War. The journey continues into modern times, addressing recent historical events and contemporary issues.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES**

### **8th Grade Physical Education**

This course is designed not only to explore the benefits of basic nutrition, physical fitness, and healthy lifestyles but also to encourage off-computer fitness activities by requiring that students log daily activities that promote health and fitness. Topics include the 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.

### **8th Grade Career Exploration**

Career Exploration is an important course for middle schoolers. In this course, careers are explored, as is what it takes to succeed in different fields. You'll learn about and explore steps 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
- Build self-awareness