

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE LIST

| Grade 6 | Grade 7 | Grade 8 |
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| English 6 | English 7 | English 8 |
| Math 6 | Math 7 | Math 8 |
| Middle School World History | Middle School US History | Contemporary World |
| Science 6 | Science 7 | Science 8 |
| Earth and Space Science | Physical Science | Life Science |
| | | Civics |

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 6: This course provides a strong foundation in grammar and the writing process. It emphasizes simple but useful composition and language mechanics strategies with multiple opportunities for modeling practical, real-world writing situations that will enable students to improve their written communication skills quickly. Through a variety of grade-appropriate reading selections, students develop a clear understanding of key literary genres and their distinguishing characteristics.

English 7: English 7 Integrates the study of writing and literature through the examination of a variety of genres. Students identify the elements of composition in the reading selections to understand their function and effect on the reader. Practice is



provided in narrative and expository writing. Topics include comparison and contrast, persuasion, and cause and effect essays, as well as descriptive and figurative language. Lessons are supplemented with vocabulary development, grammar, and syntax exercises, along with an introduction to verbal phrases and research tools.

English 8: Extends the skills developed in English 7 through detailed study of parts of sentences and paragraphs to understand their importance to good writing. Students also acquire study skills such as time management and improved test-taking strategies. Other topics include punctuation, word choice, syntax, varying of sentence structure, subordination and coordination, detail and elaboration, effective use of reference materials, and proofreading.

Math 6: This semester-long middle school course will provide students with a deep understanding and mastery of the objectives that will prepare them for algebra. It is aligned to Common Core State Standards and is based on best practices in the teaching of mathematics and the disciplines of STEM learning. Students will develop 21st century skills as they master ratios and proportional relationships; the number system; and number visualization. The course is highly engaging while being easy for teachers to customize and manage.

Math 7: Math 7 builds on material learned in earlier grades, including fractions, decimals, and percentages and introduces students to concepts they will continue to use throughout their study of mathematics. Among these are surface area, volume, and probability. Real-world applications facilitate understanding, and students are provided multiple opportunities to master these skills through practice problems within lessons, homework drills, and graded assignments.

Math 8: This course is designed to enable all students at the middle school level to develop a deep understanding of math objectives and leaves students ready for algebra. The first semester covers objectives in transformations, linear equations, systems of



equations, and functions. The second semester focuses on scientific notation, roots, the Pythagorean Theorem and volume, and statistics and probability. The course is based on the Common Core State Standards Initiative and on a modern understanding of student learning in mathematics.

SCIENCE: This inquiry- and lab-based course is designed to support modern science curriculum and teaching practices. It robustly meets NGSS learning standards associated with a sixth-grade integrated science course (NGSS Appendix K: Modified Conceptual Progression Model, p. 19).

Each lesson includes one or more inquiry-based activities that can be performed online within the context of the lesson. In addition, the course includes a significant number of hands-on lab activities. Approximately 40% of student time in this course is devoted to true lab experiences, as defined by the National Research Council (2006, p. 3).

Lab materials note: All hands-on labs employ relatively common household materials. Please refer to the Student Syllabus or Teacher’s Guide for details on lab materials.

Science 6: focusing on basic physical science, Earth and space science, and ecosystems. Content topics include structure and properties of matter, forces and motion, the Earth and space, the history of the Earth, the interdependence of ecosystems, and weather and climate.

Science 7: focusing on cells, the life cycle, nutrition, chemical reactions, force fields, and energy. Content topics include cells and human body systems, the life cycle, nutrition and energy, chemical reactions, force fields, and energy.

Science 8: Content topics include genes and adaptations, evolution, energy and the Earth, the Earth’s changing climate, waves, and technology and human impacts on the Earth.



Earth and Space Science: Content topics include Earth and space systems and interactions, the history of the Earth, the Earth's systems, weather and climate, climate change, and human impacts on the Earth.

Physical Science: Content topics include structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, forces and motion, force fields, energy, and waves.

Life Science: Content topics include cells and human body systems, structure and functions of living organisms, genes and adaptations, evolution, energy flow in ecosystems, and interdependence of ecosystems.

Middle School World History: In Middle School World History, learners will study major historical world events from early human societies through to the present day. Multimedia tools including custom videos as well as videos from the BBC, custom maps, and interactive timelines will help engage learners as they complete this year-long course. They will explore the development of early humans and early civilizations. They will be introduced to the origins of major world religions, such as Hinduism and Buddhism. Also, learners will study the medieval period. Historical thinking and geography skills will be taught and utilized throughout the course.

Middle School US History: In Middle School U.S. History, learners will explore historical American events with the help of innovative videos, timelines, and interactive maps and images. The course covers colonial America through the Reconstruction period. Learners will develop historical thinking and geography skills, which they will use throughout the course to heighten their understanding of the material. Specific topics of study include the U.S. Constitution, the administrations of George Washington and John Adams, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.



Contemporary World: The Contemporary World is a year-long course designed to strengthen learners' knowledge about the modern world. Multimedia tools including custom videos as well as videos from the BBC, custom maps, and interactive timelines will help engage learners as they complete this course. Learners will explore the importance of geography, the influence of culture, and the relationship humans have with the physical environment. They will also focus on the responsibility of citizens, democracy in the United States, U.S. legal systems, and the U.S. economy. Ultimately, learners will complete this course as global citizens with an understanding of how to help and better their community and the world.

Civics: A citizen is a person who is legally recognized by a state and entitled to the state's rights and privileges. Civics is the study of the rights and duties of such a person. One of the best ways to understand your rights and duties as a citizen is to study the government that defines and upholds them. In Civics A, you will learn about politics and government, and you'll analyze democracy which is the system of government used in the United States. Finally, you will examine the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the U.S. Government. A course in Civics teaches you how to actively participate in governance and how you can help improve the quality of governance at all levels. In Civics B, you will learn how Americans are linked to the government and each other through the media and a number of political parties. You will also take a detailed look at civic responsibility and what it means to be a contributing member of society. Finally, you will study how and why the U.S. creates certain goods and services and you'll see how political and economic decisions made at home can affect foreign policy abroad.

