



*M*iddle *S*chool

*P*rogram of *S*tudies

Please Note:

Not all courses in this catalog will be offered at all schools at any one time.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to Middle School! The Anchorage School District has nine comprehensive middle schools, alternative programs and charter schools that serve middle school students. Although each middle school is uniquely adapted to its community, there are many common characteristics that provide for an environment and structure especially adapted for the middle school student. They include:

- **Teams:** In order to provide a supportive student-centered environment, ASD middle schools are made up of teams of teachers and students. Students belong to a team whose teachers provide the core academic subjects. The team structure enables teachers to personally monitor the progress of the students on their team.
- **Blocked time:** middle school teams are able to make use of blocked team time to schedule longer instructional blocks for labs and projects or to allow for special events such as field trips.
- **Team planning:** middle school teachers have team planning time that allows them to jointly develop instructional units, plan team activities, and monitor student progress.
- **Elective programs:** middle schools offer a variety of standard elective subjects and some special alternative electives that depend upon student/parent interest and staff availability. These non-traditional courses are usually one quarter in length and are designed to catch the interest and imagination of the middle school student.

This Program of Studies is designed to assist parents and students with course selection by giving a brief description of the curriculum content of each course. School district-required courses in language arts, mathematics, physical education, health, science and social studies are offered at each school. The elective courses taught at your school are dependent upon the interests of the parents and students, and the availability of staff. Not all elective courses are taught at every school.

Please contact your school if you have any questions about the curriculum or about your student's progress. There are many opportunities for parent involvement at the middle school level. We hope you will become involved so we can work together in promoting the academic and emotional development of the young adults who attend our middle schools.

Leslie Vandergaw

Executive Director, Middle School Education

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www.asdk12.org

ASD Non Discrimination Statement:

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Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the School District's Equal Employment Opportunity Director, who also serves as the Title IX Coordinator, Boniface Education Center, P.O. Box 196614, Anchorage, AK 99519-6614, (907) 742-4132 or to any of the following external agencies: Alaska State Commission for Human Rights, Anchorage Equal Rights Commission, Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services.

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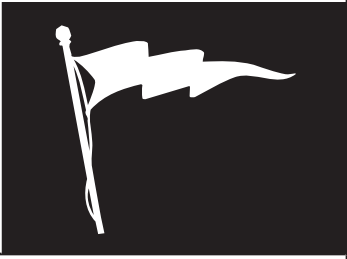
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Standard: These courses are approved curriculum in the specialty area. They have curriculums written and approved by the district. These courses are more "traditional" in nature and usually have instructors that are specialists in that particular elective area.	
Alternative: These courses are offered by individual schools. The curriculum is designed and implemented by the school and teaching staff at each school site. These courses meet student, parent and community needs. Their availability coincides with staffing. Due to the creativity and flexibility in design of these courses they will vary from year to year, program to program and school to school.	
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Middle Schools

The Anchorage School District Middle School Education Division is responsible for nine middle schools and Polaris K-12 School. The middle level schools serve grades 7 and 8 (and grade 6 at Mirror Lake). Gruening Middle School served as the original middle school after a three-year pilot project. Two additional schools, Hanshew and Clark, were converted to middle schools during the 1995-96 school year. In 1996-97, Central Middle School of Science and Wendler Middle School joined the ranks of the middle schools. The opening of school in 1997-98 was celebrated with the successful transition of all junior high schools to the middle school model and the opening of two new middle school complexes.

Middle school model characteristics are as follows: team teaching, interdisciplinary instruction, attention to issues affecting middle school students, a seven-period day, two electives available rather than one, block scheduling, and increased home-school contact. The middle school philosophy, properly implemented, leads to increased student success academically and socially, thus ensuring a more successful transition to high school.

Central Middle School of Science infuses science and technology throughout all curricular areas through interdisciplinary teams of teachers and students. It is Central's goal to provide an instructional program that is on the cutting edge of technology; to involve teachers in ongoing training in the most current educational and technological techniques; and to produce self-motivated students who will become responsible adults and lifelong learners. High academic expectations and high standards for students' behavior are characteristics of Central's program.

Clark Middle School is a dynamic and energetic learning environment that inspires our diverse community of learners. Clark is strongly supported by parents, educators, and community members who are committed to excellence in academics, attendance and attitude. We value individuality; foster a passion for learning and promote the enrichment of mind, body and character. We serve seventh and eighth grade students through our academically challenging curriculum. Students are provided instruction in the four core subject areas: math, language arts, social studies, and science as well as an abundant selection of electives. The core subjects embrace Socratic seminar methodologies. Socratic seminars enhance reading comprehension, writing, listening and speaking skills as well as aid in the development of critical thinking, which builds a stronger classroom community. Programs that foster exceptional academic excellence for all students include: migrant education, gifted, bilingual, and special education, multi media technology, applied technology, Title I specialist, 21st Century After School Program, lunch tutorial, and participation in the Appeal Grant which offers Advance Placement courses. Clark Middle School is an integral partner in the continued development of the Mt. View arts and cultural district.

Goldenview Middle School serves grades seven and eight. Goldenview's mission is to strive for academic excellence, to unleash creative expression, to nurture personal character, and to support a sense of community. The curricula at Goldenview include math, science, language arts, social studies, physical education and elective offerings—both traditional and middle school alternative—in scope. Services for gifted, learning-disabled, and intensive needs special education students are provided. Goldenview uses a middle school delivery model that is founded on the common middle school components of teaming, exploration, flexible scheduling, attention to the developmental needs of middle school students, and transitioning between divisional levels.

Gruening Middle School provides students instruction in core subjects and physical education. Options for involvement in remedial and enriched course work are provided in language arts, math and science. Exploratory opportunities in computers, music, technology, arts and crafts and world language are also provided. Development of basic skills in traditional academic areas is stressed. Students are provided opportunities to increase their awareness of career and leisure time activities. Computer assisted instruction will be incorporated into each curricular area. Development of positive student attitude, self-worth, and behavior are a major focus. Articulation with the feeder elementary schools and the high school is emphasized as will be increased communication with the parents and the community.

Hanshew Middle School believes each student is a valued individual with unique physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs. The staff at Hanshew advocates high expectations and is dedicated to providing a supportive and challenging learning environment for all students. Opportunities for success will be provided through instruction and experience in core subjects, physical education, and electives as well as higher level thinking skills, problem solving, wellness, self-control and responsible behavior. Hanshew is a place where positive relations and mutual respect among students, staff, parents, and the community create and maintain a healthy nurturing and vital learning environment. Hanshew's goal is to prepare lifelong learners who will become literate, self-disciplined, independent and confident individuals who take pride in themselves, communicate effectively and who make positive contributions to society.



Middle Schools

Mears Middle School students are enrolled in four required “core” courses, physical education, and two electives. Gifted, special education, bilingual, migrant, and language immersion opportunities are provided. Positive student behavior and daily attendance are stressed. Parent communication is also a priority of the school. Mears is dedicated to providing a positive environment which promotes individual achievement and academic excellence through the development of student responsibility, good work habits, and technological opportunity. Through an integrated, team-based curriculum and application of that knowledge to daily life, Mears students learn to become productive citizens and lifelong learners.

Mirror Lake Middle School, is the only middle school providing instruction to sixth- through eighth-grade students in the Anchorage School District. Students are enrolled in four required “core” courses, physical education, and electives. Gifted, music, fine arts, special education, bilingual, migrant and language immersion opportunities are provided. Positive student behavior and daily attendance are stressed. Parent involvement is also a priority of the school. Mirror Lake is dedicated to providing a positive environment which promotes individual achievement and academic excellence through the development of student responsibility, good work habits, and technological opportunity. Through an integrated, team-based curriculum and application of that knowledge to daily life, Mirror Lake students learn to become productive citizens and lifelong learners.

Romig Middle School offers the middle school model to students receiving traditional, gifted, ESL, special education, remedial and accelerated services to our students. Our mission is to provide an environment, which allows students to develop to their highest potential and become productive citizens in an ever-changing, diverse society. We incorporate the use of a team approach in the four core area, language arts, mathematics, social studies and science. Students also take physical education and elective choices. Romig has a specialized program for all qualified highly gifted students and one of two Spanish Immersion programs in the Anchorage School District. Our state of the art science wing provides advanced study and exploration, three fully equipped computer labs and mobile labs provide technology opportunities for students. Romig is attached to West High School. This allows our students to take advanced classes as in math and world languages. Romig is dedicated to providing a safe, supportive and respectful learning environment for staff and students.

Wendler Middle School serves area seventh and eighth graders. The school has a seven-period day with a schedule that allows for “blocks” of time to be used by the “teams.” Wendler emphasizes interdisciplinary work and attention to affective issues facing middle school students. The school has strongly established school business partnerships. All district support services are provided.

Benson Secondary School is an individualized program designed for students (generally in grades 7,8, and 9) who are experiencing attendance and discipline problems. The program utilizes behavior modification techniques. Applications are available by contacting the school.

Girdwood K-8 provides educational services for seventh and eighth graders living in the Girdwood attendance area. As a K-8 school they are supervised by ASD Elementary Education, but offer a full middle school curriculum. More specific information can be obtained by contacting the school or Elementary Education, 742-4254.

Northern Lights ABC K-8 is highly structured and dedicated to academic excellence. ABC Schools seek to build a sense of responsibility, patriotism, citizenship, confidence, pride in accomplishment and a positive self-image within each child through academic achievement.

Steller Secondary School is an open optional school providing educational services for seventh and eighth grade students, as well as being home to a 9-12 high school. More specific information can be provided by contacting the school or High School Education, 742-4256.

Polaris K-12 School is open to students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Polaris has an evolving program that creates an environment challenging its students, teachers and parents to personal excellence, lifelong learning and ethical responsibility to self, community and world. The school is for students, parents and teachers who want an emphasis on self-directed learning and active participation in education. Instruction methods focus on “doing,” the “experience” approach to learning. In practice, this means extensive use of manipulative teaching materials, forming and testing hypotheses, numerous field trips, and classroom visits by a variety of resource persons. Community involvement and parent participation are an integral part of the program.



Middle Schools

Anchorage School District Middle Schools

Central Middle School
of Science 742-5100
1405 E Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5098

Clark Middle School 742-4700
150 S. Bragaw Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-1398

Goldenview Middle School . . . 348-8626
15800 Goldenview Drive
Anchorage Alaska 99516-4924

Gruening Middle School. . . . 742-3600
9601 Lee Street
Eagle River, Alaska 99577-8399

Hanshew Middle School 349-1561
10121 Lake Otis Parkway
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-4298

Mears Middle School 349-3332
2700 West 100th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99515-2200

Mirror Lake Middle School . . . 742-3500
22901 Lake Hill Drive
Chugiak, Alaska 99567-5584

Muldoon-area middle
school Opens 2007-2008
7440 Creekside Center Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

Romig Middle School 742-5200
2500 Minnesota Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2398

Wendler Middle School 742-7300
2905 Lake Otis Parkway
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4599

Alternative schools serving middle level students

Girdwood K-8 742-5300
P.O. Box 189
Girdwood, Alaska 99587-0189

Northern Lights ABC 563-2439
1705 W. 32nd Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99503-2002

Polaris K-12 School 742-8700
6200 Ashwood Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1911

Benson Secondary School . . . 742-2050
4515 Campbell Airstrip Road
Anchorage Alaska 99507-1267

Steller Secondary School 742-4950
2508 Blueberry Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2693

Charter schools serving middle level students

Family Partnership 742-3700
Highland Tech 742-1700

Frontier Charter School 742-1180



Core Requirements

Every 6th (Mirror Lake Middle School only), 7th and 8th grade student will take a full year of language arts, math, science, social studies and their choice of electives. A minimum of a half-year of health is a two-quarter requirement to be fulfilled during the seventh and/or eighth grade, depending upon the site schedule. A minimum of a year and a half of physical education is required.

6th Grade Core Requirements

<p>Math</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Math 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Algebra <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<p>Language Arts</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Language Arts 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Language Arts 6 Gifted <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<p>Social Studies</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Social Studies 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<p>Science</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Science 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Science 6 Gifted <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<p>Physical Education/Health</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Health <input type="checkbox"/> Other
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7th Grade Core Requirements

<p>Math</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Math 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Algebra <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra I <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<p>Language Arts</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Language Arts 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Language Arts 7 Gifted <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<p>Social Studies</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Social Studies 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<p>Science</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Science 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Science 7 Gifted <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<p>Physical Education/Health</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Health <input type="checkbox"/> Other
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8th Grade Core Requirements

<p>Math</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Math 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra I <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<p>Language Arts</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Language Arts 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Language Arts 8 Gifted <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<p>Social Studies</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Social Studies 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<p>Science</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Science 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Science 8 Gifted <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<p>Physical Education/Health</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Health <input type="checkbox"/> Other
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Electives: Every student may have a choice of electives. The electives are either a quarter, semester, or year in length depending upon the choice offerings at each middle school. The elective choices begin on page 26.



Core Requirements

6th Grade Planner

Fall	Spring
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____
7. _____	7. _____

7th Grade Planner

Fall	Spring
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____
7. _____	7. _____

8th Grade Planner

Fall	Spring
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____
7. _____	7. _____



Special Programs

The following are either local, state or federal programs designed to service the needs of particular students. Contact your school for specific qualifications, details or additional information. Not all courses or programs are offered at all schools at any one time.

English As a Second Language Tutorial

Grade level: 6,7,8

Prerequisites: *Eligibility with the Bilingual Education Program*

A program designed for bilingual students to support specific areas of need as well as monitor the academic progress in the core classes. Emphasis is placed on study skills and organization. The tutorial teacher collaborates with the core subject teachers to provide a cohesive learning environment for the bilingual student. The program will foster cross-cultural understanding, cultural materials and multicultural activities. The ESL class replaces one elective for a semester or a full year.

Gifted Education

Grade level: 6,7,8

Prerequisites: *Qualifying scores on the ASD Gifted Identification Matrix*

The gifted program strives to guarantee each identified student barrier-free full participation in learning. Students who need extension beyond the regular classroom are provided accelerated and enriched academic materials as well as the opportunity to discuss emotional needs. The middle school program currently offers sixth, seventh and eighth grade classes in language arts and science.

Indian Education Tutorial

Grade level: 6,7,8

Prerequisites: *Eligibility with the Indian Education program*

A program designed for Alaska Native and American Indian students to support specific areas of need as well as monitor work in all classes to promote academic success. The tutor will provide academic instruction in small, personalized groups. Writing communication, language, and social studies are emphasized. Activities and assistance are coordinated with other agencies that provide service to students. The Indian Education tutorial class replaces one elective for a semester or a full year.

Special Education

Grade level: 6,7,8

Prerequisites: *Special Education Certification (IEP) in one or more subject areas*

Special Education offers a wide range of courses designed to provide individualized instruction for students with disabilities who require additional support and service in those settings. These courses include, but are not limited to, math, reading, English, science and social studies. The course design meets the individualized needs of each student. It should be specified in each student's Individualized Educational Program (IEP) if a student should attend any of these courses outside the general education setting.



Core Subjects

These are district written, adopted and approved subjects. These are required by all students in the sixth, seventh and/or eighth grade. All school units will offer adequate sections of required courses to meet student enrollments prescribed in the district's Catalog of Course Descriptions.

Language Arts	12
Math	15
Physical Education/Health	17
Science	19
Social Studies	22



Language Arts

The mission of the Anchorage School District's English/Language Arts Program is to promote a lifelong appreciation of listening, speaking, reading, and writing and to provide a program which develops excellence in understanding literature and using language. The program encourages extensive reading, writing, and oral presentations and the learning of language skills within a meaningful context.

Language Arts 6

008500

Grade level: 6

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: None

This full-year English/language arts class offers a literature-based curriculum that integrates listening, speaking, reading and writing skills across the entire year for all students. Speaking and listening skills instruction includes listening strategies, use of expressions and gestures to convey meaning, and opportunities for participating in presentations. Reading instruction will provide opportunities for whole group, small group, and individual reading in a variety of genres. Writing instruction will continue to build fluency and correctness strategies begun at earlier levels. Students will practice standard English grammar, mechanics, usage, and writing legibly in cursive. This course, or its equivalent, is required of all sixth grade students in the Anchorage School District.

Language Arts 6 Gifted

008530

Grade level: 6

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: *Qualifying scores on the ASD Gifted Identification*

Matrix and placement in the Gifted Program with an IEP specifying this class.

This course emphasizes the same areas as regular Language Arts 6. The unique needs of the gifted learner focus the direction. Students will use technology, dictionaries, software and the thesaurus in their writing and oral presentations.

Language Arts 7

012000

Grade level: 7

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: None

This full-year English/language arts class offers a literature-based curriculum that integrates listening, speaking, reading and writing skills across the entire year for all students. Two major School Board-approved content units provide a focus for this class and support integration of instruction across the language arts and social studies: Alaskan literature and world literature/world mythologies. Speaking and listening skills instruction includes listening strategies, methods of note taking, and opportunities for participating and facilitating small groups. Reading instruction will provide opportunities for whole group, small group, and individual reading in a variety of genres. Writing instruction will continue to build fluency and correctness strategies begun at earlier levels. Students will practice standard English grammar, mechanics, and usage. This course, or its equivalent, is required of all seventh grade students in the Anchorage School District.



Language Arts

Language Arts 7 Gifted

012200

Grade level: 7

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: *Qualifying scores on the ASD Gifted Identification Matrix and placement in the Gifted Program with an IEP specifying this class.*

This course emphasizes the same areas as regular Language Arts 7. The unique needs of the gifted learner focus the direction. In writing, the primary skill areas are simple sentences, developing paragraphs and developing characters and logical plots. In reading, analyzing literature, drawing inferences, making generalizations and exhibiting awareness of various cultures as reflected through literature are studied. Speaking consists of articulating ideas in a clear, logical, precise manner and presenting a variety of speeches. Listening requires note production and direction following.

Language Arts 8

012500

Grade level: 8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: None

This full-year English/Language Arts class offers a literature-based curriculum that integrates listening, speaking, reading and writing skills across the entire year for all students. The major School Board-approved content focus for this class, American unity and diversity, supports integration with the social studies' curriculum. Speaking and listening skills instruction focuses on listening strategies, methods of note taking, and opportunities for participating and facilitating small groups, and delivering both informal and prepared presentations. Reading instruction will provide opportunities for whole group, small group, and individual reading in a variety of genres. Writing instruction will continue to build fluency and correctness strategies begun at earlier levels. Students will practice standard English grammar, mechanics, and usage. This course, or its equivalent, is required of all eighth grade students in the Anchorage School District.

Language Arts 8 Gifted

022900

Grade level: 8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: *Qualifying scores on the ASD Gifted Identification Matrix and placement in the Gifted Program with an EIP specifying this class.*

This course emphasizes the four areas of language arts: writing, reading, speaking, and listening. In each of the four areas, the teacher will include material covered in the prescribed eighth grade program. In writing, additional emphasis is placed upon development of the short essay, creative writing and the elements of style. In reading, emphasis is on development of critical reading skills and exposure to world authors. In literary skills, emphasis is placed upon individual themes pursued through several genres. In speaking, additional exposure is given to formal and informal communication activities. Listening is developed as a vital part of all instructional units. American unity and diversity form the year-long framework for this program.



Language Arts

Language Arts 7/8 ESL Beginning/ Newcomers' Center

012035, 012535

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Placement

This is a beginning English as a second language (ESL) course designed for monolingual speakers of another language (i.e., students who speak little or no English). The course content, activities and instruction in the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing are taught on a basic, yet sequential level. Grammar, vocabulary development, word attack skills, study skills, reading comprehension and oral language are included in teaching the four skill areas. This course fulfills the Anchorage School District language arts requirements.

Language Arts 7/8 ESL Intermediate

012036, 012536

Grade level:-7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Placement

This is an intermediate English as a second language (ESL) course designed for bilingual students who are predominantly speakers of another language or who are bilingual in two or more languages. Course content expands upon that in Beginning ESL. Grammar, vocabulary development, word recognition and attack skills, reading comprehension, mechanics of writing and increased fluency are included in the instruction and activities of the four skill areas (listening, speaking, reading and writing). This course fulfills the Anchorage School District language arts requirement.

Language Arts 7/8 ESL Advanced

012037, 012537

Grade level:-7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Placement

This is an advanced English as a second language (ESL) course designed for bilingual students who are mostly proficient in spoken English, but needs strengthening in reading, comprehension, writing and/ or literacy skills. Course content includes instruction and activities in all four skill areas and continues to elaborate upon the Intermediate ESL class. The Advanced ESL curriculum parallels that of the mainstream language arts, but is tailored to meet the needs of students with a non-English background. This course fulfills the Anchorage School District language arts requirement.

Language Arts Special Education 6/7/8

000500, 008900

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Special Education Certification (IEP) in the area of reading and/or written expression.

This language arts program places an emphasis on reading, vocabulary development, word recognition skills and reading comprehension skills. In addition, assistance with editing skills in written expression; use of proper grammar, punctuation, capitalization and spelling.



Math

Mathematical literacy is essential for every individual in today's technological society. A working knowledge of mathematics is needed to deal with the qualitative, quantitative, and spatial relationships that are encountered in everyday life. Therefore the overall goal of the Mathematics Program for the Anchorage School District is to provide the opportunity for all students to learn, use, communicate, apply, appreciate, and enjoy the mathematics appropriate for their age, needs and ambitions.

Math 6

100500**Grade Level: 6****Length of Course: Year****Prerequisites: None**

Students will practice and improve their number sense, measure sense, and estimation skills. They will review and extend their arithmetic, calculator, and thinking skills by writing and solving number sentences that contain variables, identify and construct similar and congruent polygons using a ruler and protractor, identify and explain prime and composite numbers, use order of operations, including exponents and grouping symbols and read, write, and order rational positive and negative numbers. They will write and solve word problems involving multiple operations.

Math 7

100700**Grade Level: 7****Length of Course: Year****Prerequisites: Placement**

Students will practice and improve their number sense, measure sense, and estimation skills. They will review and extend their arithmetic, calculator, and thinking skills by working with fractions, decimals, percents, large and small numbers, and negative numbers, variables, expressions, equations, graphing, and other algebra topics. Students will extend their understanding of geometry, including transformations and two and three dimensional figures, and their knowledge of probability and statistics. They will investigate the uses of mathematics outside the classroom.

Math 8

101000**Grade Level: 8****Length of Course: Year****Prerequisites: Placement**

Students will continue to practice and improve their number sense, measure sense, and estimation skills, review and extend their arithmetic, calculator, and thinking skills by working with fractions, decimals, percents, large and small numbers, and negative numbers. Students will study variables, expressions, equations, multiple representations of data, and other algebra topics. Students will extend their understanding of geometry, including transformation and two and three dimensional figures, and their knowledge of probability and statistics. They will investigate the uses of mathematics outside the classroom. Successful completion of Math 7 and Math 8 will prepare a student to take Algebra.

Pre-Algebra

103000**Grade level: 6,7****Length of course: Year****Prerequisites: Placement**

This course is designed to prepare students for success in Algebra I. The emphasis on continued development of pattern recognition, computational skills, elementary algebra topics, geometric relationships, problem solving, and the use of technology. Students will extend their knowledge of probability and statistics and analyze data to make decisions and defend conclusions.



Math

Algebra I **101400**

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Placement

Students will review and extend their knowledge of problem solving, data analysis, and the use of technology (i.e., scientific calculator, graphing calculator, computer). They will extend their knowledge of the theory, use and understanding of the fundamental operations to real numbers. Students will learn to express quantitative statements in the language of algebra, solve equations and inequalities, use rational expressions in equations, graph using the coordinate plane, perform operations with polynomials and irrational numbers, and solve quadratic equations. They will use their mathematical knowledge to solve problems.

Geometry **150000**

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Algebra I

This course covers the study of plane and three dimensional geometry. There is an emphasis on clarity and precision of language and the logical development of geometric principles in deductive reasoning and proof. This will include work with points, lines, planes, angles, congruent triangles, circles, polygons and transformations.

Math 6 ESL **100635**

Math 7 ESL **100636**

Math 8 ESL **100637**

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Placement

This course is designed for and who need targeted assistance in the content areas of math and English; who are non-English-proficient or limited-English-proficient; and who need targeted assistance in accessing and comprehending the content and language of the mathematics curriculum. This course covers addition, subtraction, multiplication, division of whole numbers, fractions and decimals, estimation, percents, solution of word problems, calculator applications and mathematics content vocabulary.

Math 6/7/8 Special Education **100600**

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Special Education Certification (IEP) in the area of math.

Individualized instruction for students who have a significant deficit in the area of math. Topics may include addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, calculator skills, and practical math skills.



Physical Education/Health

17

The middle level physical education program is divided into five strands: fitness activities, rhythms and dance activities, outdoor winter activities, individual activities and team activities. Each strand is composed of a wide variety of instructional units. This gives students an opportunity to experience a vast array of activities to which they may or may not have had previous exposure. In an effort to promote lifelong activity, fitness/wellness concepts are presented in all strands.

The developmental needs of young adolescents make health instruction very important at this age. Hence, middle school health instruction emphasizes skills development in the areas of communications and decision making and promotes personal responsibility, critical thinking, and lifelong learning. Overall, the program is aimed at helping students maintain healthy behaviors while preventing risky ones.

Physical Education 6 **606100**

Grade Level: 6

Length of Course: Semester/Year

Prerequisites: None

P.E. is a required course for all students. Only students who have a physician-documented limitation may be excused from P.E. The activities offered at the sixth grade level are introductory. The program offers a wide variety of individual, dual, and team activities. The units most often included are basketball, volleyball, tumbling, rhythms and dance, outdoor winter activities, and aerobic fitness.

Physical Education 7 **606300**

Grade level: 7

Length of course: Semester/Year

Prerequisites: None

P.E. is a required course for all students. Only students who have a physician-documented limitation may be excused from P. E. The activities offered at the seventh grade level are usually introductory and encourage lifelong skills. The program offers a wide variety of individual, dual, and team activities. The units most often included are basketball, volleyball, tumbling, strength training, and aerobic fitness.

Physical Education 8 **606400**

Grade level: 8

Length of course: Semester/Year

Prerequisites: None

P.E. is a required course for all students. Only students who have a physician-documented limitation may be excused from P. E. The program offers students a wide variety of individual, dual and team activities. These activities build on the seventh grade introductory program and emphasize student participation. Physical fitness is emphasized throughout the year providing students an excellent opportunity to achieve success and have fun. The activities generally include soccer, basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, wrestling, hockey, figure skating, track and field, and softball.

P.E. Special Education **606000**

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Semester/Year

Prerequisites: Special education certification (IEP)

Adapted Physical Education is the practice of assessment, prescription and instruction within the psychomotor domain. It ensures that an individual with a disability has access to programs designed to develop physical and motor fitness, fundamental motor skills and patterns, and skills in aquatics, dance, individual and group games, and sports; so that the individual can ultimately participate in community-based leisure, recreation, and sport activities and as such, enjoy an enhanced quality of life.



Physical Education/Health

Adapted physical education is a service outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1990. It specifically states that the service of physical education and leisure, lifetime recreational skills must be provided for every individual student regardless of specific disabilities.

Health 6

207500

Grade Level: 6

Length of Course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This course provides information for the student in order that they will be able to make healthy choices by setting goals based on information they have learned in the areas of genetic health problems, environmental health issues, recognizing eating disorders, and understanding issues related to adolescent development. They will identify the effects of addiction and where to get help. Students will practice refusal, coping, and decision making skills.

Health 7,8

207501

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Quarter/semester

Prerequisites: None

This course offers effective health instruction methods that are active and promote personal responsibility, lifelong learning, critical thinking, cooperation, and use interdisciplinary approaches. The major topic areas include personal health, nutrition, physical development, social development, substance abuse and use. Further studies will include human sexuality. Parents/community are invited to view the materials. These areas are interrelated and lead to total positive functioning of the individual in his/her environment. Health education aids the individual in making informed choices. Students will practice reflective, active observation and examination of their choices and the affect on personal, family and social well-being.



Science

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Middle school science instruction takes an integrated approach, exploring a variety of scientific areas. This approach better ensures “science for all learners,” and is more developmentally appropriate.

Science 6 **201200**

Grade Level: 6

Length of Course: Year

Prerequisites: None

The focus of the sixth grade science class is "scale and structure". Through inquiry-based science, students discover the ecosystems, structures, and astronomy using process skills such as observation, building models, interpreting evidence and experimenting, collecting and analyzing data, and drawing conclusions.

Science 6 Gifted **201230**

Grade level: 6

Length of Course: Year

Prerequisites: *Qualifying scores on the ASD Gifted Identification*

Matrix and placement in the Gifted Program with an IEP specifying this class.

The class covers similar content to Science 6, allowing students to broaden their learning with more in depth studies and projects. Analysis of scientific data and higher order thinking skills are emphasized.

Science 6 Spanish Immersion **201240**

Grade Level: 6

Length of Course: Year

Prerequisites: Placement

This science course is for students who are in the Spanish Immersion Program or are native speakers of Spanish who are bilingual and biliterate. Through inquiry-based science in Spanish students discover the ecosystems, structures, and astronomy using process skills such as observation, building models, interpreting evidence and experimenting, collecting and analyzing data, and drawing conclusion.

Integrated Science 7 **203000**

Grade level: 7

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: None

This is an integrated thematic program that teaches natural sciences through which common principles operate in relationship to one another. Students explore areas of life science, chemistry, physics, earth and space science, as well as integrating technology. Emphasis is placed on scientific thought and reasoning coordinated with inquiry-based laboratory experiences.



Science

Integrated Science 7 Gifted

203100

Grade level: 7

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Qualifying scores on the ASD Gifted Identification Matrix and placement in the Gifted Program with an IEP specifying this class.

The class covers similar content to Integrated Science 7, allowing students to broaden their learning with more in depth studies and projects. Analysis of scientific data and higher order thinking skills are emphasized.

Integrated Science 7 Spanish Immersion

203041

Grade Level: 7

Length of Course: Year

Prerequisites: Placement

This science course is for students who are in the Spanish Immersion Program or are native speakers of Spanish who are bilingual and biliterate. This is an integrated thematic program in Spanish that teaches natural sciences through which common principles operate in the relationship to one another. Students explore areas of life science, chemistry, physics, earth and space science as well as integrating technology. Emphasis is placed on scientific thought and reasoning coordinated with inquiry-based laboratory experiences.

Integrated Science 8

205200

Grade level: 8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: None

This is an integrated, thematic program that teaches natural sciences through which common principles operate in relationship to one another. Students explore areas of life science, chemistry, physics, earth and space science, as well as integrating technology. Emphasis is placed on scientific thought and reasoning coordinated with inquiry-based laboratory experiences.

Integrated Science 8 Gifted

205400

Grade level: 8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Qualifying scores on the ASD Gifted Identification Matrix and placement in the Gifted Program with an IEP specifying this class.

The class covers similar content to Integrated Science 8, allowing students to broaden their learning with more in depth studies and projects. Analysis of scientific data and higher order thinking skills are emphasized.



Science

Integrated Science 8 Spanish Immersion

Grade Level: 8

Length of Course: Year

Prerequisites: Placement

This science course is for students who are in the Spanish Immersion Program or are native speakers of Spanish who are bilingual and biliterate. This is an integrated thematic program in Spanish that teaches natural sciences through which common principles operate in the relationship to one another. Students explore areas of life science, chemistry, physics, earth and space science as well as integrating technology. Emphasis is placed on scientific thought and reasoning coordinated with inquiry-based laboratory experiences.

Integrated Science 6/7/8 Special Education

200100

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Special Education Certification (IEP) in the area of reading and/or written expression

A full year science program with an emphasis on a health curriculum; healthy life styles, anger management, human growth and development, first aid, and the effects of drugs and alcohol.



Social Studies

Social studies in the Anchorage School District in grades K-7 focuses upon the basic social science areas of geography, history, and civics/government/economics. These studies provide core knowledge, skills, and concepts that will help students to be successful in both school and life. The social studies program in grade 8 and high school builds upon the foundations of geography, history, and civics/government/economics and extends the study by providing students with an understanding of the other social sciences. The seventh grade social studies program focuses primarily upon world geography and Alaska history/geography. The eighth grade program introduces each of the social sciences and the year ends by having students apply the social sciences to the examination of ancient world civilizations.

Social Studies 6

300000

Grade level: 6

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: None

The student will study history, civics, and geography from 1900 to the present for the United States and other major countries. They will examine and review the causes, results, and key people of the 20th century and how important civic concepts apply to recent history. Students will use maps, globes, historical information, graphing, and problem solving skills in their studies and research projects.

Social Studies 6 Spanish Immersion

300040

Grade level: 6

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Placement

This course is for students who have participated in an elementary Spanish Immersion program or are native speakers of Spanish. This course will cover the same content as the sixth grade social studies program, which will include key people of the 20th century, and how important civic concepts apply to recent history. Students will increase and refine their communication skills in Spanish throughout conversation and vocabulary building.

Social Studies 7

300100

Grade level: 7

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: None

This course provides a survey of world physical and political geography. It introduces students to various cultures and focuses attention upon people and their relationship to their environment. Interrelationships and the interdependence of people in various physical settings will be stressed along with the geographic concepts of location, place, movement, and region. Suggested timelines allow for some flexibility relative to the number of weeks allocated per unit. However, nine to twelve weeks will be devoted to the study of Alaska's history and geography.

Social Studies 7 Japanese Immersion

300141

Grade level: 7

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Placement

This course is for students who have participated in an elementary Japanese Immersion Program or are native speakers of Japanese. This course will cover the same content as the seventh grade social studies program which will include Alaska, physical and political geography, people and their relationship to their environment, various cultures in the eastern hemisphere including Japan, China, Southeast Asia, Australia and Africa. Students will increase and refine their communication skills in Japanese through conversation and vocabulary building.



Social Studies

Social Studies 7 Spanish Immersion

300140*Grade level: 7**Length of course: Year**Prerequisites: Placement*

This course is for students who have participated in an elementary Spanish Immersion Program or are native speakers of Spanish. This course will cover the same content as the seventh grade social studies program which will include Alaska, physical and political geography, people and their relationship to their environment. Students will increase and refine their communication skills in Spanish through conversation and vocabulary building.

Social Studies 8 Introduction to Social Sciences

300300*Grade level: 8**Length of course: Year**Prerequisites: None*

This course will introduce the concepts, processes, and vocabulary of the social sciences. It will include studies in history, geography, economics, anthropology, sociology, psychology, political science and law-related studies, futures, multicultural studies, and for the fourth quarter, world civilizations. In addition to this, emphasis will be placed on the development of reading, writing, and research skills in the social science areas. One of the goals will be helping students understand the interrelationship of these areas of study.

Social Studies 8 Japanese Immersion

300341*Grade level: 8**Length of course: Year**Prerequisites: Placement*

This course is for students who have taken Japanese Immersion seventh grade social studies and native speakers of Japanese. This course will cover the same content as the eighth grade social studies program which will include the concepts, processes, and vocabulary of the social sciences. The areas of anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology will be explored. Students will increase and refine their communication skills in Japanese through conversation and vocabulary building.

Social Studies 8 Spanish Immersion

300340*Grade level: 8**Length of course: Year**Prerequisites: Placement*

This course is for students who have taken Spanish Immersion seventh grade social studies and native speakers of Spanish. This course will cover the same content as the eighth grade social studies program which will include the concepts, processes, and vocabulary of the social sciences. The areas of anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology will be explored. Students will increase and refine their communication skills in Spanish through conversation and vocabulary building.



Social Studies

Social Studies 6 ESL	300935
Social Studies 7 ESL	300936
Social Studies 8 ESL	300937

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Placement

This course is designed for students who are identified and assessed as being non-or limited-English-proficient according to state guidelines and district procedures. This course will focus on world geography and world or American history. It will introduce students to the vocabulary, concepts, and processes of the social sciences and relate them to the students, the student's school, community and current events. The curriculum parallels that of the mainstream social studies curriculum but is tailored to meet the needs of students with a non-English background. This course fulfills the Anchorage School District social studies requirement.

Social Studies 6/7/8 Special Education	300500
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Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: *Special Education Certification (IEP) in the area of reading and/or written expression*

A full year social studies program with an emphasis on Alaska studies. This unit will concentrate on geography, history, and cultures. Other units may include topics on humans in relation to their environment.



Electives

Electives are curriculum experiences designed to help students discover and/or examine learning related to their changing needs, aptitudes and interests. The elective program is divided into two categories: standard and alternative. The Standard Electives are based on curricula that have been written and approved by the district and are more “traditional” in nature. They usually have instructors that are specialists in that particular elective area. Alternative Electives are special interest electives that provide learning opportunities for students based on student interest, faculty expertise and community involvement. These are courses that are designed and implemented by the school and teaching staff at each school site to support and expand the regular curriculum.

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NOTE: Not all electives will be offered at all schools.



Art

Standard: **Art, 6th Grade** **500510**

Grade level: 6

Length of course: Quarter

Prerequisite: None

The sixth grade program encompasses the four components of visual arts education using the elements and principles of design as a point of departure. A variety of artists and cultures are introduced in relationship to the role visual art plays in history and cultures. Students learn to value their own art works with the same criteria used to analyze a master's art works.

Art Exploratory **500500**

Grade level: commonly 7

Length of course: Quarter

Prerequisites: None

Students may elect to enroll in a nine-week concentration of units in drawing, painting, printmaking, pottery and sculpture. The seventh grade program encompasses the four components of visual arts education using the elements and principles of design as a point of departure. A variety of artists and cultures are introduced in relationship with the role visual art plays in history and cultures. Students learn to value their own art works with the same criteria used to analyze a master's art works. They will be able to identify and investigate art and art related careers in conjunction with introduced units of study.

Art Expanded **500800**

Grade level: commonly 8

Length of course: Semester

Prerequisites: None

Students may elect to enroll in a semester course designed to provide students with opportunities to expand and translate ideas, feelings and values into personal experiences. The design elements and principles will be expanded and reinforced within the four components of the "inquiry-based" (discipline-based art education) program philosophy. Students will acquire artistic skills to express and communicate responses to experiences, explore their creative abilities and heritage within the context of a global view, make informed aesthetic responses in relationship to their own art and works of professional artists, and, investigate the scope of visual arts related occupations.

Alternative: **Art, Fire & Ice** **991900**

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisite: None

This course will concentrate on pottery and jewelry. Students will be making hand built clay projects such as wind chimes, candle sticks, small sculptures, tiles, vases, and more. Students will also be making various types of jewelry with seed beads, macrame cord, Fimo clay, friendly plastic, ceramic clay, paper mache, and wire.

NOTE: Not all electives will be offered at all schools.



Art

Alternative: Advanced Art 991909

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Elements of line, shape, color, texture and space will be emphasized through drawing and painting skills. Students will learn about the cultural and historical nature of their projects and will develop skills in presentation methods as well.

Art & Craft 991907

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Students will be exposed to a variety of 2-D and 3-D crafts with an emphasis on hands-on experiences. They will also study the history of crafts and the various cultural backgrounds. Students will be expected to produce their own crafts and will develop skills in presentation methods as well.

Alaska Arts & Crafts 991908

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Students will study Native art, Russian art, and modern Alaskan artists. They will also explore Alaskan crafts. They will be expected to produce their own Alaskan arts and crafts and will develop skills in presentation methods as well.

Calligraphy 991901

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This is an elective in "beautiful writing" developing use of the broad nib pen in italic and old English lettering. Drawing will emphasize perspective and representational drawing in a variety of media.

Creative Art 991903

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Students in this elective class will have an opportunity to emphasize creativity and art along with their reading and writing. Students will explore art through poetry and creative writing. Students will study published poetry, as well as write their own. Painting, illustrating, sculpting and other creative means will be utilized.

**NOTE: Not all
electives will
be offered at all
schools.**



Art

Alternative:**Cultural Art****991905***Grade level: 6,7,8**Length of course: Quarter/Semester**Prerequisite: None*

In this elective, students can expect a wide variety of hands-on projects along with reading and writing assignments. Students will learn to appreciate art diversity and cultural differences in art expression.

Graphic Arts**991906***Grade level: 6,7,8**Length of course: Quarter/semester**Prerequisite: none*

This elective is for students who like to combine art with technology. The students will learn to use HyperCard, HyperStudio, and Power Point for presentations along with computer graphics, clip art, digital photography and quick time video.



Career Technology ²⁹

Standard: **Applied Technology Exploratory 6** **820401**

Grade level: 6

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Introduction to technology through problem solving activities. Students explore technology related applications and create, design, and build numerous “hands on” projects. This course offers introduction to Laser Technology, Magnetic Levitation Train Technology, understanding Flight and Aviation Technology and various other activities.

Applied Technology Exploratory 7 **820500**

Grade level: 7

Length of course: Quarter

Prerequisites: None

This course provides a “hands-on” approach of learning with emphasis focused on problem solving scenarios and situations found in the vast range of today’s technologies.

Applied Technology Exploratory 8 **850200**

Grade level: 8

Length of course: Quarter

Prerequisites: None

This course provides continued emphasis on problem solving scenarios and situations found in today’s technologies. Students may select from the following: Technology Systems, Computer Aided Design Technology, Robotic Technology, Laser Technology, Construction Technology, Communications Technology, Video & Multimedia Technology, Earthquake Technology, Transportation Technology, GPS Technology, Space Construction Technology, Aviation Technology, Materials Technology, or Hydroponics Technology.

Business Technology 7 **849000**

Grade level: 7

Length of course: Quarter

Prerequisites: None

A course usually designed for seventh grade. Business Technology offers a technique of developing measurable keyboarding mastery and then provides the opportunity to experience and practice the many facets of computer applications used in the business world.

Business Technology 8 **850000**

Grade Level: 8

Length of course: Semester

Prerequisites: Business Technology 7 or Placement

This course is usually designed for eighth grade and emphasizes advanced computer applications and electronic communications. Emphasis is also placed on the workplace environment and development of personal traits such as promptness, work habits, and individual responsibility.

NOTE: Not all electives will be offered at all schools.



Career Technology

Standard: **Family and Consumer Science 6** **830601**

Grade Level: 6

Length of course: Quarter

Prerequisites: None

This course is usually designed for sixth grade. Students will work in small groups and individually to explore four areas: food and nutrition, care giving, textile creations and careers. They will complete activities that include research and a variety of hands-on activities.

Family and Consumer Science 7 **830700**

Grade Level: 7

Length of course: Quarter

Prerequisites: None

This course is usually designed for seventh grade. Students will work in small groups and individually to explore four areas: food and nutrition, care giving, textile creations and careers. They will complete activities that include research and a variety of hands-on and computer activities.

Family and Consumer Science 8 **830800**

Grade level: 8

Length of course: Semester

Prerequisites: None

This course is usually designed for eighth grade. Students work in small groups and individually to explore all areas of the family and consumer sciences: food preparation and nutrition, care giving, textile creations and clothing care, living environments, personal finances, strictly personal issues and careers. Technology in the home and organizational management will be integrated into the studies. Students will complete activities that include research and a variety of hands-on and computer activities.

Alternative: **Business Education** **850100**

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Quarter/semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective is usually designed for eighth grade and emphasized advanced computer applications and electronic communications. Emphasis is also placed on the workplace environment and development of personal traits such as promptness, work habits, and individual responsibility.

Career Exploration **991700**

Grade level: 8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

The class is designed for eighth grade students. They will learn about various career opportunities, job clusters, fundamentals of work force economics, and various approaches to seeking employment. Students may be involved in projects through Junior Achievement or Service Learning.

**NOTE: Not all
electives will
be offered at all
schools.**



Career Technology

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Alternative: Computer 852600

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Students will learn basic word processing, spreadsheets, and databases in several software formats. The class will be individually paced with students advancing to multimedia, graphics, manipulation of data, e-mail, and web pages when ready.

Computer Graphics 991706

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective allows students to explore the persuasiveness of lettering, color and design in promoting events, ideas or businesses. Students will learn some of the graphic capabilities of the computer in creating logos, flyers and other documents. Ability to draw is not a requirement.

Film and Video 991705

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This class is an introduction to various types of writing for visual media. A significant portion of the class will involve learning about and gaining experience writing film and video scripts. Processes of pre-writing, story plotting, writing convincing dialogue, planning camera and stage direction, production planning, and learning the terminology of film and video direction will be stressed. Portions of a number of classic and modern films will be viewed and discussed in class.

Healthy Cooking 991708

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Students will explore various recipes that are healthy and taste good. Snack foods that have nutritional value will be emphasized. The major food groups will be discussed. Modern kitchen technology will be used.

Keyboarding 991701

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This course is highly useful for both home and school. Students will master the keyboard by touch and be introduced to word processing. This will include an overview of computer fundamentals, use of peripherals, and an introduction to computer applications.

NOTE: Not all electives will be offered at all schools.



Career Technology

Alternative:

Multi-Media Technology

991704

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Students will have fun creating their own multimedia computer project using video clips, photos, graphics, animations, morphs and more. The projects will increase their research skills in many content areas, as well as develop their computer/technological fluency using a variety of software and equipment which will include computer graphics, HyperStudio, digital encyclopedias, digital and video cameras, photos, scanners, laser disks, and CD's.

TechMasters

991707

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: Placement

Students will be selected on the basis of their knowledge of computers and/or previously demonstrated expertise, and their ability to work independently. Students will be given various responsibilities related to computer/Internet operation in the building. They will respond to requests to troubleshoot and maintain computer hardware and software; create and maintain school and teacher web sites; and install computer and peripheral devices as needed. Students must be interviewed and approved by the tech-coordinator before applying to this class.

Video/Sound Production

991703

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: Placement

This elective provides the opportunity for students to become familiar with the process of taping, formatting, editing, sound, and text overlay. There are a limited number of seats in this class and students must complete a separate application form to be considered.

Web Pages

991702

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Explore different search engines, use Netscape and Internet Explorer, and examine many web sites. In this elective students will learn how to create a web page working with video, pictures, etc. Students will be doing multimedia "stuff" with the Internet. This course is limited to technology-minded students.

**NOTE: Not all
electives will
be offered at all
schools.**



Language Arts

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Standard: **ESL Reading Foundations** **988050**

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Semester/Year

Prerequisites: Placement

This course is designed for students who have been identified and assessed as being non- or limited-English-proficient according to state guidelines and district procedures. Instruction supports the development of English proficiency in the five skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing and comprehension. Reading and vocabulary development are emphasized and are presented at students' English language proficiency and reading levels. The program supports students' culturally diverse backgrounds using culturally sensitive and relevant materials.

Alternative: **Creative Writing** **991214**

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective will provide opportunities for students to write in a variety of forms including poems, essays, stories, letters and magazine/newspaper articles. This class will periodically publish anthologies.

Communications **992620**

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective will explore the world of speech. Students will read, evaluate, select, practice and interpret selections from all types of literature. They will create, write, and deliver their speeches in multiple settings: the classroom, reader's theatre production, radio and/or TV broadcasting. Voice techniques for oral work will be included.

Drama **991212**

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective emphasizes the many techniques that humans use to communicate and interact, from the simple to the complex. Students will also be studying drama, acting and play production. They are expected to actively participate in small and large group activities.

**NOTE: Not all
electives will
be offered at all
schools.**



Language Arts

Journalism

991213

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Students with well-developed writing skills can enhance and enrich their abilities through this elective. Students will write articles, learn layout strategies and study journalism career possibilities. The school or team newspaper may be published from this class.

Language Arts Seminar

991200

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Seminar offers a variety of subjects delivered with an emphasis on communication styles. Organizational skills, self and peer-directed learning activities, and group discussion skills are practiced while working in the many curriculum areas.

Literature–Biography

991201

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Students will read and discuss the biographies of both the well-known and unknown. Students may be asked to develop their own autobiography.

Literature–Book Club

991202

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Students who love to read for fun but are too busy should sign up for this elective. Students are surrounded by a variety of exciting books and can see what's new in the publishing world. Students will talk about good books with others who love to read, set personal reading goals, hear a novel read out loud by an enthusiastic teacher, become a book buddy, poetry readings, and reading journals.

Literature–Multiculture

991203

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

In this elective students explore world cultures through a variety of literature. Students will travel through the continents reading multicultural folk tales, myths, and novels. Students will experience the similarities and differences of many people.

NOTE: Not all electives will be offered at all schools.



Language Arts

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Literature–Recreational Reading

991204

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

In this class students read leisurely from books, magazines, and daily newspapers. A daily reading response log is necessary and students are required to write one book report per month and do library research on careers and topics of their choice.

Literature–Science Fiction

991205

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

In this elective students will read short stories, plays, novels, and poetry that have a science fiction orientation. Students may be asked to write their own science fiction stories. They will also watch some “classic” science fiction videos.

Alternative: Reading Intervention

998010

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: Placement

Students in this course will improve reading proficiency with explicit, direct instruction in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Strategies for phonemic awareness and phonics will be available as needed. Students will read leveled, high interest literature for both academic and recreational purposes.

Reading Skills & Strategies

988040

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: Placement

Students will enroll in a leveled reading class based on individual ability. The focus will be on comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary development. A variety of materials will be used, including fiction and nonfiction texts.

SAT Prep

991218

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Students will prepare for the SAT. Students will concentrate on the language arts portion of the SAT, involving vocabulary enhancement and test taking strategies, using a variety of SAT preparation guides.

**NOTE: Not all
electives will
be offered at all
schools.**



Language Arts

Speech Seminar

988060

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective will explore the world of speech. Students will learn the fundamentals of speech and have the opportunity to speak in front of their classmates several times. Some of the speeches students will learn may include persuasive, "how to," and informative. Debating current issues will also be done.

Speed Reading

988030

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This is a self-paced reading program designed to make students more efficient readers. It will develop and extend vocabulary and comprehension skills.

World Mythology

991215

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This course emphasizes the enjoyment and appreciation of popular myths from around the world. The materials selected will include myths in print, myths on audio and video, and mythology games. Outside work may include reading, writing, viewing and other assignments required by the teacher. Students will write, participate in group discussion and oral presentations.

Writing Lab

988200

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: Placement

This class consists of intensive, small-group and one-on-one instruction for students who need remedial writing help. Computers will be available for final drafting.

Writing Workshop

998210

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

The written word provides students with an opportunity to develop their own voice and writing style in a supportive writer's workshop setting. Students will experience and experiment with various genres through a combination of reading, analysis, writing exercises and completed drafts. Composition skills will be taught through the use of the writing process (including narrative, expository, persuasive, and technical writing) to sustain and extend the writer's development.



Leadership

Alternative: CADFY 992100

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: Application

This elective is dedicated to creating and supporting a healthy life style. The group addresses the issues of alcohol, drugs, smoking, racism, name-calling, eating disorders, suicide, pregnancy, dating violence and discrimination through skits. The students create the role-playing skits and the students lead the interactive events. Cross-age teaching is the most successful teaching tool we have—kids teaching kids is the answer.

Careers 992104

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Career explorations is an elective designed for students to learn about various career opportunities, job clusters, fundamentals of work force, and various approaches to seeking employment.

Mentorship 992103

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: Placement

Students will learn to work with children, improving their communication skills, problem solving, organization, and facilitation skills. Students must be able to work independently and may work at an elementary school with younger children.

Conflict Resolution 992101

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Conflict Resolution is a class that will explore new skills to manage and resolve interpersonal conflicts in positive ways. It will emphasize communication (both listening and speaking), cooperation, developing an understanding of self and others, learning assertive behaviors, and appreciating cultural similarities and differences. In this class, concepts such as power, injustice, prejudice and violence will be discussed.

Peer Mediation 992102

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: Application

Student leaders are selected to be taught mediation skills. Once these skills have been learned, a sense of community achieved, and mediators have signed their own nonviolence contracts, students may use the class period for mediating student conflicts.

NOTE: Not all electives will be offered at all schools.



Leadership

Alternative:

School Business Partnership

992106

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

In this class students develop career, business, service learning, and leadership skills while working with the school business partners for their schools. Students will interact with the community by planning and directing fund-raisers, service learning projects, and board meetings. Resume and interview skills will be acquired. Selected students are also given the opportunity to sit on community boards and may be eligible to be nominated for various service awards.

Service Learning

992107

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This is a community and school project oriented elective designed to integrate learning experiences from the general school curriculum. The purpose is to make learning and education experiences more immediately relevant and meaningful to learners as well as increase good citizenship for all students.

Student Government

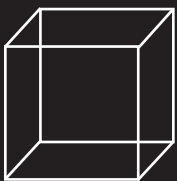
992108

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective provides students with the opportunity to identify and implement projects for the benefit of the school and community. These activities will be augmented by lessons in government (especially parliamentary procedure) to assist students in planning activities and to help them understand their role in a democratic society. Projects are implemented through committee work with teacher/advisor assistance and administrative approval.



Math

Alternative:**Math Competition****991315***Grade level: 6,7,8**Length of course: Quarter/Semester**Prerequisites: None*

This is an intensive course in mathematics with emphasis on problem solving, algebra, and geometry. This elective requires you to be self-motivated and self-disciplined. Students who enjoy math and competing will enjoy this class. It is designed to challenge students to practice higher order thinking skills such as analyzing problems and assimilating new techniques for solving them. Participants can expect to learn new concepts, prove skills with repetitious problems, and approach problems as exciting challenges! Students may prepare for the Math Counts competition which will provide them with an opportunity to compete with other students at the school, regional, state and national levels. Students may be required to complete a quarterly project in engineering applications.

Math GeoArt**991310***Grade level: 6,7,8**Length of course: Quarter/Semester**Prerequisites: None*

Study of visual patterns in math through art. Topics: 3-D geometric solids with unit origami, string art, tessellation's (Escher style), fractals in 2-D and 3-D and topographical maps

Math Lab**991330***Grade level: 6,7,8**Length of course: Quarter/Semester**Prerequisites: Placement*

This class consists of intensive, small-group, and one-on-one instruction for students who need remedial math help. Computers and specific software will also be used.

Math Problem Solving**991340***Grade level: 6,7,8**Length of course: Quarter/Semester**Prerequisites: None*

In this elective students will learn to use different methods to solve problems. The problems will run the gamut from too easy to very difficult. Each student will be expected to present problems to their classmates, solve problems presented by classmates and their teacher. This does not involve higher level math as much as it requires the development of higher order thinking skills.

**NOTE: Not all
electives will
be offered at all
schools.**



Math

Alternative:

Math Projects

991350

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective provides math understanding and enrichment through participation in activities that improve math skills and application. Students are engaged in various math projects, games, and math applications. The activities are developed to make students think and have fun doing math.

Math Seminar

991300

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Seminar offers a variety of subject delivered with an emphasis on communication styles. Organizational skills, self and peer-directed learning activities, and group discussion skills are practiced while working in the many curriculum areas.

Math Support

991360

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective is for students who need additional help with their math. It is an opportunity for students to receive individual tutoring. Students will be required to work quietly and independently while the teacher assists. This class is not designed to replace the regular math program, but to supplement it. There will be no formal class presentations. It is individual or small group math tutoring only.

Math Tip/Tricks

991370

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Problems and concepts that you encounter in your daily math classes will be explored further in this elective to improve achievement and understanding. Abstract ideas, such as volume and surface area of geometric solids will come alive through computer animations, video clips, and manipulation of physical models. A variety of computer programs that support the middle school math curriculum will be available for student use. You will be able to choose each day to work in small learning groups or alone on the math assigned in your core math class.



Miscellaneous

41

Alternative:

Library Aide

920001

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: Application

This elective provides meaningful work experience in the field of education. The student may select only one aide program in any given semester. Applications are available in the office.

Office Aide

920000

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: Application

This elective provides meaningful work experience in the field of education. The student may select only one aide program in any given semester. Applications are available in the office.

Photography

992630

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective will focus on technical aspects of film-based photography, including manual camera operation, film processing and darkroom work. Students will use manual 35mm cameras and examine the effects of different lenses, diaphragm settings and shutter speeds.

Publication

992650

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Students will experience design, preparation, production and finance with emphasis on photographic management, copywriting, and layout in this elective. Students will learn responsibility for deadlines and study career possibilities. The school or team memory book may be published in this class.

Strategies of Success

992610

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective presents and practices very specific study skills, as well as more complex group skills that can help establish positive ways of interacting at school, at home, in a job, and in our community. This class is enjoyable and productive for all students.

**NOTE: Not all
electives will
be offered at all
schools.**



Miscellaneous

Alternative: Study Skills **992600**

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective is designed to supplement and enrich all areas of the student's regular program. Time is provided to focus on needed skills with individual and small group assistance.

Teacher Aide **909000**

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: Application

This elective provides meaningful work experience in the field of education. The student may select only one aide program in any given semester. Applications are available in the office.

Transition Strategies **992660**

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective is designed to address the transitional needs of students as they enter middle school and as they prepare to enter high school. The course will focus on building Developmental Assets for success, team building activities, learning to learn strategies, career exploration, various performance-based assessments, conflict resolution/mediation skills, etc. At the eighth grade level, special attention will be given to preparation for high school.



Music

43

Standard: Beginning Chorus 550200

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: None

This course is for students with little or no music experience. Fundamentals of choral music will be stressed, including note reading, part-singing, interpretation, individual and group response to direction and basics of vocal technique. There may be limited performance opportunities throughout the year.

Intermediate Chorus 550300

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Beginning Chorus or director approval

As a sequel to Beginning Chorus, this course is for students with previous choral training. An emphasis will be placed on vocal technique and a variety of choral literature. Several required performances include school concerts and district festivals.

Advanced Chorus 550400

Grade Level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Audition or director approval

This course is for students with previous training in the fundamentals of choral music. It will involve further study of vocal technique with emphasis on individual and group musical development. Several required performances include school concerts, school district festivals and outside school performances.

Beginning Band 560300

Grade Level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: None

Beginning band is for students who wish to learn the fundamentals of music through playing a wind or percussion instrument. Correct breathing, tonguing, posture, proper care of the instrument and reading musical notation will be learned in a large group setting. Limited public performances may be required. Students provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Intermediate Band Level 1 560400

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Beginning Band or director approval

This course is for students who wish to develop their performance skills beyond the beginning level. Students will encounter a continuation of skills and fundamentals from beginning band with increasing emphasis on better tone production, good intonation, refinement

NOTE: Not all electives will be offered at all schools.



Music

Standard:

of muscular coordination, experimentation in small ensembles, and memorization of scales in basic keys. Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Public performances will be required. Students provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Intermediate Band Level 2

560500

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Beginning Band or director approval

This course is for students who wish to develop their performance skills beyond intermediate band (level 1). Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Public performances will be required. Students provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Advanced Band

560600

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Intermediate Band or director approval

This course is a sequel to intermediate band. Students will continue development of all skills taught in intermediate band with more emphasis placed on performing. Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Several required performances include school concerts, school district festivals and outside school performances. Students provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Jazz Band

560650

Grade Level: 6,7,8

Length: Year

Prerequisites: Intermediate Band and director approval

This course is for students interested in performing and learning jazz. Students will be introduced to jazz theory, style and the art of improvisation. Several required performances include school concerts and outside school performances. Students provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school. Instrumentation of each jazz band may vary depending on director discretion.

Orchestra

567000

Grade level: 6

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: None

Beginning orchestra is for students who wish to learn the fundamentals of music through playing an orchestra instrument. Basic left and right hand techniques, proper care of the instrument, and reading musical notation will be learned in a large group setting. Limited public performances may be required. Students usually provide their own instruments except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

NOTE: Not all electives will be offered at all schools.



Music

Standard: **Intermediate Orchestra Level 1** **566500**

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Beginning Orchestra (sixth grade) or director approval

This course is for students who wish to learn the fundamentals of music through playing an orchestra instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass). Basic left and right hand technique, proper care of the instrument and reading musical notation will be learned in a large group setting. Limited public performances may be required. Students usually provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Intermediate Orchestra Level 2 **566600**

Grade Level: 7,8

Length: Year

Prerequisites: Director approval

This course is for students who wish to develop their performance skills beyond a fundamental level. Students will encounter a continuation of skills and fundamentals from intermediate orchestra (level 1) with increasing emphasis on better tone production, good intonation, refinement of muscular coordination, experimentation in small ensembles, and memorization of scales in basic keys. Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Public performances will be required. Students usually provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Intermediate Orchestra Level 3 **566700**

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Director approval

This course is for students who wish to develop their performance skills beyond intermediate orchestra (level 2). Students will continue development of all skills taught in intermediate orchestra (level 2). Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Public performances will be required. Students usually provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

Concert Orchestra **566800**

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Intermediate Orchestra or director approval

This course is for students who wish to develop their performance skills beyond an intermediate level. Students will continue development of string skills with more emphasis placed on performing. Responsibilities of the individual within the large music ensemble will be stressed. Public performances will be required. Students usually provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school.

**NOTE: Not all
electives will
be offered at all
schools.**



Music

Alternative: Beginning Guitar **581000**

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective is designed for students who have little or no experience with playing the guitar. Students will learn basic strumming and finger techniques as well as music theory as it applies to the guitar.

Music Exploratory **550000**

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective is designed for students who have interest in learning about the development of music throughout history. Students will explore many different styles and rhythms and note their historical significance.

Music Keyboard **571200**

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

A piano keyboarding class where students learn how to play the piano. Also students will learn rhythm, movement, theory, appreciation, and history. Students will learn presentation with performance required.

**NOTE: Not all
electives will
be offered at all
schools.**



Physical Education 47

Alternative:

Beginning TaeKWONdo

992501

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Students will learn basic Korean martial arts as a system of complete body exercise, as well as a way of life. It includes physical techniques, mental disciplines, and deep philosophy.

First Aid

992503

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This course will include a variety of safe and healthy living concepts. The American Red Cross First Aid Course will also be covered. A fee will be charged upon completion of the course to receive a first aid card.

Fitness

992508

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

In this course students will experience a wide range of physical cross-training activities designed to make them more agile, flexible, faster, stronger, and healthier overall.

Kids Moving

992507

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

A different movement activity will be featured each week. In this course students will experience a wide range of activities. The types of activities include: juggling, hacky sack, jump rope, line dancing, weight training, healthy walking, "learn to dance"/drill team, etc. highlighted with all activities will be diet, food and nutrition.

Mountain Biking

992504

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This course, held only in the spring and fall, will include rigorous biking, bike safety, and bike maintenance. Students will need to be able to provide their own safety gear and a bike for use at school.

**NOTE: Not all
electives will
be offered at all
schools.**



Physical Education

Alternative:

Outdoor Adventure

992505

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This course will cover different outdoor activities both in the classroom and through hands-on experience. A variety of activities will be covered, as well as the exploration of the gear needed to participate in them. Students will read from a variety of outdoor literature and biographies of important individuals and engage in different projects.

Outdoor Survival

992506

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

In this course students will learn the skills and knowledge to successfully deal with outdoor survival emergencies. Students will learn about the Outward Bound Program of Colorado, Arctic and Antarctic exploration and Alaskan survival stories.

**NOTE: Not all
electives will
be offered at all
schools.**



Science

49

Alternative:

Aerospace

991414

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective is based on the "central project" method of learning. The central project is to design, build, and operate a simulated space vehicle, station or habitat. The culmination of the project will be a one to two day "Mission to Space" in which a "flight crew" supported by the "ground crew" will enter and operate the simulator.

Anatomy

991412

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

An introduction to anatomy and physiology. Students will discover more about themselves by learning more about how their bodies work and function. Work is based on daily activities in class.

Animals of the World

991408

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Students will learn about a variety of animals from all seven continents. They will utilize readings, research, computers, guest speakers, and videos. A final research project on an animal is required.

Aviation Science

991420

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Semester

Prerequisites: None

This class is an introduction to the Ground School for a Private Pilots license. It covers the physics of aerodynamics, processes of flight, and procedures for obtaining a pilots license and/or career in aviation. This class explores the history of aviation and famous aviators. It involves many hands-on activities and aviation related field trips.

Bridges and Towers

991415

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This course applies math, science and physics principles to design, construct and test truss-type bridges and tower structures. Students will work to design and construct their own project.

**NOTE: Not all
electives will
be offered at all
schools.**



Science

Alternative:

Edible Science

991409

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective reinforces science principles through food. Activities include food observation labs, food surveys, and analysis and graphing of food preferences. Students will be able to identify chemicals found in foods. They will also classify foods by kingdom and research food topics.

Environmental Issues

991406

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

In this class, students will have an overview of a variety of local and global environmental issues. Students will, as a class, choose one or two environmental issues to study in-depth and take action on. Projects are implemented with teacher assistance and administrative approval.

Everyday Science

991416

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective is a hands-on class for exploring physics and chemistry. Students experience how and why things work.

Freshwater Science

991410

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective will introduce students to the basic concepts, terms, and theories as they relate to the ecological factors that influence, maintain, and adversely affect freshwater habitats. This will include the freshwater habitats for salmonids that inhabit South Central Alaska.

Geology

991405

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective is designed to give students lab and field experience in the geology of Alaska, with special focus on the mineral wealth, which supports the present and past Alaskan economy. Field trips may be taken. They will also study the geology base of the oil industry and spend time with working geologists.

**NOTE: Not all
electives will
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schools.**



Science

Alternative:**Inventions****991417***Grade level: 6,7,8**Length of course: Quarter/Semester**Prerequisites: None*

Students will have a chance to be the next Henry Ford or Wright Brother! The students will experience a hands-on opportunity to put their imagination into reality by creating their own invention. The class is sponsored by the Alaska Inventors' Alliance.

Marine Science**991411***Grade level: 6,7,8**Length of course: Quarter/Semester**Prerequisites: None*

This elective involves the study of the ocean and life therein. Primary focus is centered on survival strategies. Students investigate different regions and zones of the ocean.

Rockets and Aerodynamics**991418***Grade level: 6,7,8**Length of course: Quarter/Semester**Prerequisites: None*

This elective will teach students about aerodynamics, airplanes and rockets. Students will build a glider, a rocket from scratch and an Estes Model Rocket. At the same time students will be learning about stability, circuits and current, the space program, laws of motion, orbits, trajectories and altitude tracking.

Science Olympiad**991401***Grade level: 6,7,8**Length of course: Quarter/Semester**Prerequisites: None*

This course will prepare students for a statewide competition in science. It stresses teamwork and hands-on activities. The events include egg drop, crime busters, write-it/do-it metric mastery, and nature quest, etc. Seventeen hands-on events in all are done. Students must be able to work independently and have an interest in science.

Science Projects**991402***Grade level: 6,7,8**Length of course: Quarter/Semester**Prerequisites: None*

In this elective students will generate projects of their own interest, then organize and carry out experiments to answer their questions. They will also read and discuss scientific and mathematical writings, which have had major impacts on the growth of scientific thought.

**NOTE: Not all
electives will
be offered at all
schools.**



Science

Alternative:

Science Seminar

991400

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Seminar offers a variety of subjects delivered with an emphasis on communication styles. Organizational skills, self and peer-directed learning activities and group discussion skills are practiced while working in the many curriculum areas.

Wilderness Safety

991403

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This course includes: Wildlife Management, Gun Safety, and Hunting Ethics. No firearms are used or handled in this class. Course materials will be provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game which may require students to meet minimum standards in each of the categories.

Wildlife

991413

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective is an introduction to the ecosystems and wildlife of Alaska. Topics will include ecology and ecosystems; food chains, webs and pyramids; survival adaptations of both plants and animals; mammals/marine mammals, fish, birds; and current issues of humans and wildlife.

Wings and Wheels

991419

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

In this elective students will explore wheeled and winged vehicles, bikes, motorcycles, mousetrap vehicles, balloons, gliders, and airplanes. They will learn the basics of physics in motion, listen to experts, build samples and make projects for the community.

**NOTE: Not all
electives will
be offered at all
schools.**



Social Studies

53

Alternative:

Economics

991501

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

"Who needs money?" Students will learn about running their own business in a mini-society or play the financial game in the stock market. Students will be taught business basics, and economic concepts such as scarcity, opportunity cost, cost-benefit analysis, supply and demand, inflation, competition and monopoly through actual hands on experiences.

Law Studies

991506

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective will survey the juvenile justice system, conflict resolution and other law-related activities. Students will also learn about the many careers available in the justice system and the skills that go with them.

Native Studies

991507

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Students will become aware of and knowledgeable about Alaska native groups. Historical, traditional, cultural, and sociological perspectives are emphasized. Students will explore Alaska native mythology, and create their own myth. Students will create traditional or contemporary objects of Alaska native art in class.

Newspaper Class

991512

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Students can enhance and enrich their writing and investigative abilities through this elective. Students will write articles, learn layout strategies and study career possibilities. The school or team newspaper may be published from this class.

Problem Solving

991508

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Students will have the opportunity to "solve the problems of the world," using a futuristic view in which anything is possible. Students will learn the problem solving process. Both cooperatively and individually, students will apply the research to identifying the problems, as well as creating and evaluating solutions. There is the possibility of participating on a

**NOTE: Not all
electives will
be offered at all
schools.**



Social Studies

Alternative:

team for the state competition.

Social Studies Seminar

991500

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

Seminar offers a variety of subjects delivered with an emphasis on communication styles. Organizational skills, self and peer-directed learning activities, and group discussion skills are practiced while working in the many curriculum areas.

Stock Market

991503

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective affords the student the opportunity to get his or her feet wet in the exciting world of stocks and investment. Students pore over daily stock quotes in the newspaper or check the prices and trends on the Internet to build their portfolio.

World Cultures

991509

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

How are dreams caught? What are sushi, chamoyu and Ikebana? Students will explore major cultures from the following world regions: Africa, Middle East, Asia, South America and North American natives through drawing, painting, sculpture, culinary art, language and mask making.

Youth Court

991511

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisites: None

This elective is patterned after the Anchorage Youth Court. Students will learn the basic concepts behind the need for laws, as well as the common vocabulary used in legal settings. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights along with specific case studies will be examined. Students will also be trained in court procedure and practice roles of specific court positions such as baliff, attorney and judge.

**NOTE: Not all
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be offered at all
schools.**



World Language

55

The Anchorage School District World Language Program in the middle school prepares students to use world languages for meaningful communication in both spoken and written form. The program emphasizes language as it is used in various real-life situations that students are most likely to encounter. Through world language study, students develop a sensitivity to the cultural and linguistic heritage of other groups and their influence on our own.

NOTE: Not all electives will be offered at all schools.

STANDARD:

French 1A

440500

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisite: None

Students are active participants in learning experiences which encourage confidence and proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing of French. Units of study integrate the culture of France and other Francophone countries and introduce meaningful vocabulary centered around thematic topics such as school, city and family life, body, food, clothing, numbers, telling time, place, and sports. Basic grammatical structures are introduced to support the developing writing skills.

French 1B

440600

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisite: French 1A or placement

Students continue to develop and expand their proficiency skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing of French with more in-depth study of the Francophone culture. Communicative activities in French will involve students in a variety of practical situations for further development of the oral and written language including additional grammatical structures in preparation for level II high school language course.

German 1A

420500

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisite: None

Students are active participants in learning experiences which encourage confidence and proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing of German. Units of study integrate the culture of Germany and its influence in the United States and introduce meaningful vocabulary centered around thematic topics such as school, city and family life, body, food, clothing, numbers, telling time, place, and sports. Basic grammatical structures are introduced to support the developing writing skills.

German 1B

420600

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisite: German 1A or placement

Students continue to develop and expand their proficiency skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing of German with more in-depth study of the German culture. Communicative activities in German will involve students in a variety of practical situations for further development of the oral and written language including additional grammatical structures in preparation for level II high school language course.



World Language

Japanese 1A

470500

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisite: None

Students are active participants in learning experiences which encourage confidence and proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing of Japanese. Units of study integrate the culture of Japan and its influence in the United States and introduce meaningful vocabulary centered around thematic topics such as school, city and family life, body, food, clothing, numbers, telling time, place, and sports. Basic grammatical structures are introduced to support the developing writing skills.

Japanese 1B

470600

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisite: Japanese 1A or placement

Students continue to develop and expand their proficiency skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing of Japanese with more in-depth study of the Japanese culture. Communicative activities in Japanese will involve students in a variety of practical situations for further development of the oral and written language including additional grammatical structures in preparation for level II high school language course.

Japanese Immersion 7

470541

Grade level: 7

Length of course: Year

Prerequisite: Native speaking or placement

This language course is for students who have participated in an elementary Japanese immersion program or are native speakers of Japanese who are bilingual and biliterate. Students will increase and refine their communication skills in Japanese through conversation, vocabulary building, grammar, composition, and appropriate Japanese literature. Thematic units of study integrating culture and the arts from various Japanese-speaking countries will supplement this rich language learning environment for students.

Japanese Immersion 8

470641

Grade level: 8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisite: Native speaking or placement

This language course is for students who have taken Japanese Immersion 7 and native speakers of Japanese. Students will increase and refine their communication skills in Japanese through conversation, vocabulary building, grammar, composition, and appropriate Japanese literature. Thematic units of study integrating culture and the arts from various Japanese-speaking countries will supplement this rich language learning environment for students.



World Language

Russian 1A **460500**

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisite: None

Students are active participants in learning experiences which encourage confidence and proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing of Spanish. Units of study integrate the culture of countries where Russian is spoken and introduce meaningful vocabulary centered around thematic topics such as school, city and family life, body, food, clothing, numbers, telling time, place, and sports. Basic grammatical structures are introduced to support the developing writing skills.

Russian 1B **460600**

Grade level: 7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Russian 1A or placement

Students continue to develop and expand their proficiency skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing of Russian with more in-depth study of the Russian culture. Communicative activities in Russian will involve students in a variety of practical situations for further development of the oral and written language including additional grammatical structures in preparation for level II high school language course.

Spanish 1A **400500**

Grade level: 6,7.8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisite: None

Students are active participants in learning experiences which encourage confidence and proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing of Spanish. Units of study integrate the culture of countries where Spanish is spoken and introduce meaningful vocabulary centered around thematic topics such as school, city and family life, body, food, clothing, numbers, telling time, place, and sports. Basic grammatical structures are introduced to support the developing writing skills.

Spanish 1B **400600**

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisites: Spanish 1A or placement

Students continue to develop and expand their proficiency skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing of Spanish with more in-depth study of the Hispanic/Latino culture. Communicative activities in Spanish will involve students in a variety of practical situations for further development of the oral and written language including additional grammatical structures in preparation for level II high school language course.



World Language

Spanish Immersion 6

400141

Grade level: 6

Length of course: Year

Prerequisite: Native speaking or placement

This language course is for students who are in the Spanish immersion program or are native speakers of Spanish who are bilingual and biliterate. Students will increase and refine their communication skills in Spanish through conversation, vocabulary building, grammar, composition, and appropriate Spanish literature. Thematic units of study integrating culture and the arts from various Spanish-speaking countries will supplement this rich language learning environment for students.

Spanish Immersion 7

400241

Grade level: 7

Length of course: Year

Prerequisite: Native speaking or placement

This language course is for students who have participated in an elementary Spanish immersion program or native speakers of Spanish who are bilingual and biliterate. Students will increase and refine their communication skills in Spanish through conversation, vocabulary building, grammar, composition, and appropriate Spanish literature. Thematic units of study integrating culture and the arts from various Spanish-speaking countries will supplement this rich language learning environment for students.

Spanish Immersion 8

400341

Grade level: 8

Length of course: Year

Prerequisite: Native speaking or placement

This language course is for students who taken Spanish Immersion 7 program and native speakers of Spanish who are bilingual and biliterate. Students will increase and refine their communication skills in Spanish through conversation, vocabulary building, grammar, composition, and appropriate Spanish literature. Thematic units of study integrating culture and the arts from Spanish speaking countries will supplement this rich language learning environment for students.

Alternative: French Exploratory

991801

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisite: None

Students are active participants in language learning experiences, which begin to develop proficiency in listening comprehension and speaking. Some exposure to reading and writing is done. Basic vocabulary such as greetings, alphabet, colors and numbers, calendar, food and "survival" French is taught. This course will help students gain the ability to understand the fundamentals of language and disseminate between French and English. Introduction to the culture will allow students to develop an appreciation for cultural diversity as well as a better understanding of their own.



World Language

German Exploratory

991803

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisite: None

Students are active participants in language learning experiences, which begin to develop proficiency in listening comprehension and speaking. Some exposure to reading and writing is done. Basic vocabulary such as greetings, alphabet, colors and numbers, calendar, food and “survival” German is taught. This course will help students gain the ability to understand the fundamentals of language and distinguish between German and English. Introduction to the culture will allow students to develop an appreciation for cultural diversity as well as a better understanding of their own.

Japanese Exploratory

991804

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisite: None

Students are active participants in language learning experiences, which begin to develop proficiency in listening comprehension and speaking. Some exposure to reading and writing is done. Basic vocabulary such as greetings, alphabet, colors and numbers, calendar, food and “survival” Japanese is taught. This course will help students gain the ability to understand the fundamentals of language and distinguish between Japanese and English. Introduction to the culture will allow students to develop an appreciation for cultural diversity as well as a better understanding of their own.

Russian Exploratory

991805

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisite: None

Students are active participants in language learning experiences, which begin to develop proficiency in listening comprehension and speaking. Some exposure to reading and writing is done. Basic vocabulary such as greetings, alphabet, colors and numbers, calendar, food and “survival” Russian is taught. This course will help students gain the ability to understand the fundamentals of language and distinguish between Russian and English. Introduction to the culture will allow students to develop an appreciation for cultural diversity as well as a better understanding of their own.

Spanish Exploratory

991806

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisite: None

Students are active participants in language learning experiences, which begin to develop proficiency in listening comprehension and speaking. Some exposure to reading and writing is done. Basic vocabulary such as greetings, alphabet, colors and numbers, calendar, food and “survival” Spanish is taught. This course will help students gain the ability to understand the fundamentals of language and distinguish between Spanish and English. Introduction to the culture will allow students to develop an appreciation for cultural diversity as well as a better understanding of their own.



World Language

Sign Language

991800

Grade level: 6,7,8

Length of course: Quarter/Semester

Prerequisite: None

Students will be introduced to Signed English and/or American Sign Language. Students will learn the sign language alphabet, numbers, and a basic sign vocabulary. There will be awareness discussions regarding hearing impaired culture in America.



High School Graduation Requirements

Students must complete 22.5 credits and pass the state-mandated High School Graduation Qualifying Exam to receive a diploma. Seniors who do not pass the exam will receive a certificate of achievement.

1. Language Arts 4 credits

English 9-1, 9-2, English 10-1, 10-2, and one semester of composition during grades 11 or 12 plus three semesters of electives in grades 10, 11, or 12.

2. Social Studies 4 credits

World History 9-1 and 9-2, U.S. History 10-1 and 10-2, one semester of Alaska Studies, one semester of Economics, one semester of United States Government, one semester of a Social Studies elective. Students may waive the .5 credit social studies requirement by completion of Level III of a world language (Latin, French, German, Japanese, Russian, or Spanish); immersion students may waive the .5 social studies requirement by completion of Japanese for Fluent Speaker II or Pacesetter Spanish.

3. Mathematics 2.5 credits

Five semesters of Mathematics electives. Students must complete course work containing or founded in Algebra I level math skills or demonstrate Algebra I level skills by examination.

4. Sciences 3 credits

Three years (six semesters) of science credit are required. Two semesters must be life science. Two semesters must be physical science.

5. Physical Education/Health Education 1.5 credits

Three semesters of physical education graduation requirements can be fulfilled by passing the required Lifetime Personal Fitness course plus .5 credit from the lifetime activity courses (noted as such in course listings) plus .5 additional credit from any physical education class. A) Students may obtain a waiver of .25 of the physical education graduation requirement for each full season of ASAA-sanctioned sports participation within the Anchorage School District. Elective credit must be earned to replace the Physical Education/Health Education requirement that is waived. A waiver of the physical education requirement under this section does not affect the overall minimum requirements of 22.5 credits.

- A) Lifetime Personal Fitness can be waived by:
 - 1. successful completion of a fitness and written test administered by Health and Physical Education Department; or
 - 2. participation in two seasons of ASAA-sanctioned extracurricular sports within the Anchorage School District and successful completion of the computerized knowledge test administered by the designated high school building personnel
- B) Students may also waive physical education requirements through Credit By Choice, correspondence, college coursework, or field study programs.
- C) A maximum of 1.0 waiver of the physical education requirement is available upon successful completion of 2 years (four semesters) of JROTC.
- D) Lifetime Personal Fitness, Healthy Life Skills and First Aid are not repeatable upon receiving a passing grade in a previous semester.

6. Electives 7.5 credits

Fifteen semester courses have not been specified so as to provide students an opportunity to pursue individual educational goals. Electives may include additional courses in Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Fine Arts, World Languages, Physical Education and Career Technology.

Total 22.5 credits

- a. A student may be considered for graduation when he or she has acquired a minimum of 22.5 credits after grade 8 in required and elective subjects. Depending upon High School Graduation Qualifying Exam results, either a diploma or certificate of achievement will be awarded.
- b. Seniors entering the ASD for the first time may graduate by meeting requirements of their previous school when the ASD requirements create hardship.

