

# Cross Middle School

## GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

2020-2021

Grade Level Courses		
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Math	Math	Math
Science	Science	Science
Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies
Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts
Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education
Elective	Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective	Elective

\*\* Some students may be placed in an additional Math Lab/ Intervention class if needed. This is determined by the math department.

Students take grade level or advanced math courses based on teacher recommendation and test scores.

Students who qualify for gifted services take the REACH Humanities course in place of Social Studies.

### Schedule Changes

Parents and students should be aware that there are limited opportunities for making changes to a student's schedule. Schedules may be changed upon availability during the first ten days of the school year. Second semester course changes are encouraged to be made prior to Winter Break. Second semester course changes must be submitted by the fifth day of the second semester. *Cross reserves the right to change student schedules for administrative reasons at any time.*

### Fees for Electives

Many elective classes require a fee that is approved by the Governing Board. Please check the current fees as listed below in the Fee Schedule. A fee *wavier* may be available to eligible students with administrative approval.

### Education and Career Plan (EACP)

Eighth grade students work with a counselor to develop an understanding of the high school ECAP requirements. Students will set up their ECAP electronic portfolio and use the Arizona Career Information System (AzCIS). Students will use the AzCIS to conduct research for an integrated career/language arts narrative essay.

### Elective Fee Schedule

**\$21.00** – Band, Choir, Guitar, Orchestra, Musical Theater, Lab Science, S.T.E.M.

**\$31.00** – Odyssey of the Mind      **\$33.00** – Art (6<sup>th</sup> grade Exploratory Art – 1 Quarter **\$10.00**)

*(Subject to Change)*

2/2019

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ELECTIVES</b> .....	<b>2-7</b>
Academic Pentathlon	
Advanced Band	
Advanced Chorus	
Advanced Orchestra	
Art	
Beginning Band	
Career Exploration	
Computer Programming	
Conversational Spanish	
Exploratory	
Guitar	
Harelson Helper	
Intermediate Band	
Intermediate Chorus	
Intermediate Orchestra	
Jazz Band	
Lab Science	
Library Aide	
Musical Theater	
Odyssey of the Mind	
Office Aide	
Percussion	
Spanish 1	
STEM/Computer Programming	
Teacher Aide	
Technology	
WEB Leadership	
<b>LANGUAGE ARTS</b> .....	<b>8</b>
6 Language Arts	
7 Language Arts	
8 Language Arts	
Advanced Language Arts	
Writing Lab	
<b>MATH</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Course 1	
Course 2	
Course 3	
Algebra 1	
Geometry	
Intervention Math	
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b> .....	<b>10</b>
6 Physical Education	
7/8 Physical Education	
Strength Training and Conditioning (Weight Training)	
Sports Conditioning (Volleyball)	
<b>SCIENCE</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Biology/Environmental Sci/Energy/Chemistry	
Geology/Astronomy/Ecology	
Genetics/Physics/Chemistry/Ecology	
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b> .....	<b>12</b>
World History: Early Civilizations	
American History: Civil War – The Depression	
Contemporary US History & Civics	
Humanities	

# ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS

## **ACADEMIC PENTATHLON**

**Grade 6, 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: Application required  
Fee Required

Academic Pentathlon is an exciting five-event competition for grades six, seven, and eight. The program engages students of all achievement levels in a variety of challenging academic events. Under the guidance of an adult coach, teams of students prepare for competition in the subject areas of fine arts (art and music), literature (including essay analysis), math, science, and social science. Academic Pentathlon utilizes a similar structure compared to the high school-level Academic Decathlon.

## **ADVANCED BAND**

**Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: Previous playing experience. Audition, and teacher approval.  
Fee Required

This class is for experienced musicians who are looking to further their playing and refine their skills in a performing group. In addition to learning advanced techniques on their instrument and improving music reading, students in advanced band learn the value of teamwork, dedication, creativity, expression, and hard work. Students in this group perform in at least 5 concerts throughout the year, and travel to festivals in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter as a part of their yearly assessment. This class also does a unit on marching band 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, and performs a student-led halftime show at home football games. Audition and/or teacher approval is required. Percussion is included in this class.

## **ADVANCED CHORUS**

**Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: Previous experience singing in choir. Audition and teacher approval.  
Fee Required

This class is for experienced musicians who are looking to further their skills in a performing group. In addition to learning advanced singing techniques and improving music reading, students in advanced choir learn the value of teamwork, dedication, creativity, expression, and hard work. Students in this group perform in at least 5 concerts throughout the year, and travel to festivals in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter as a part of their yearly assessment. Audition and/or teacher approval is required.

## **ADVANCED ORCHESTRA**

**Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: Previous playing experience. Audition and teacher approval  
Fee Required

Students will focus on individual technique and develop their orchestra playing skills to a higher level. Students will study and perform orchestral repertoire appropriate for middle school. Open to one piano student (audition required). Students will perform in at least four concerts per year.

## **ART**

**Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: None  
Fee Required

Students will gain knowledge and experience while producing creative works of art in a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional materials. This course will focus on the basic elements and principles of art, art criticism, and world arts by focusing on different cultures. The units and objectives included in this curriculum follow the Arizona State Standards for Visual Art.

## **BEGINNING BAND**

**Grade 6, 7, 8**

Prerequisite: None  
Fee Required

This class is open to any student who has played a band instrument, or who is interested in learning how to play an instrument. Inexperienced players are welcome. In addition to learning beginning-intermediate techniques on their instrument and improving music reading, students in beginning band learn the value of teamwork, dedication, creativity, expression, and hard work. Students in this group perform in at least four concerts throughout the year. **PERCUSSION IS A SEPARATE COURSE FROM THIS CLASS.**

## **CAREER EXPLORATION**

**Grade 8**

Prerequisite: None

Career Exploration is a semester long course. The primary curriculum is adapted from Jobs for the Future, with a focus on STEM related careers, as well as the development of soft skills that employers say they need in their employees. In addition, students will become familiar with the AZCIS program, engage in high school and post-secondary planning and begin to develop their own career and college ready portfolio.

## **COMPUTER PROGRAMMING**

**Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: None

The computer programming class will introduce students to basic computer science and computer coding concepts. Topics will include, but will not be limited to, algorithm development, conditional statements, functions, repeating loops, recursion, variables and computational thinking. Students will learn with object based coding using the *Scratch 2* platform.

## **CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH**

**Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: None

This beginning level Spanish class focuses on pronunciation, useful phrases, relevant vocabulary, and some culture study. Games, songs, and movies are integrated regularly to help learn the Spanish language and create a fun, lively atmosphere. For 7<sup>th</sup> graders, this class is a wonderful preparation course for 8<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish 1; and 8<sup>th</sup> graders learn the basics of the language in order to prepare them for high school Spanish.

Not recommended for native Spanish speakers due to its introductory nature.

## **EXPLORATORY PROGRAM**

**Grade 6**

Prerequisite: None  
Fee Required

Students will be placed in four, quarter-long elective exploratory classes that will rotate each quarter. This will provide students an opportunity to find interest in electives for the following year by exploring what each class is about. The exploratories include introductory courses in Art, Astronomy, Computers, Spanish, Life Skills and Study Skills.

## **GUITAR**

**Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: Students must have their own guitar to practice at home.  
Fee Required

Students will learn to read music and learn the techniques necessary to play the acoustic guitar. They will learn about the contributions of the guitar in music history. Students will participate in tuning their instrument, playing technical exercises, and performing as a group. Students will be exposed to varied guitar literature geared toward the ability of the students. Nylon String Guitars are used in class and preferred for practice at home.

## **HARELSON HELPER**

**Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: Application required

Teacher Aides assisting teachers at Harelson Elementary with a variety of assigned tasks. Students must know a Harelson teacher and get their approval on the appropriate application to be a Harelson Helper.

## **INTERMEDIATE BAND**

**Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: Incoming Harelson 7th Grader, or previously in Beginning Band at Cross  
Fee Required

This class is open to any student who has played a band instrument for at least 1 year, or who is interested in learning a new instrument after having played another one last year. In addition to learning beginning-intermediate techniques on their instrument and improving music reading, students in intermediate band learn the value of teamwork, dedication, creativity, expression, and hard work. Students in this group perform in at least four concerts throughout the year, and are part of the 1st quarter marching band unit which performs a student-led halftime show at home football games. PERCUSSION IS A SEPARATE COURSE FROM THIS CLASS.

## **INTERMEDIATE CHORUS**

**Grade 6 or 7**

Prerequisite: None  
Fee Required

This class is open to any student who has sung in choir, or who is interested in learning how to sing in a performing group. In addition to learning beginning-intermediate singing techniques and improving music reading, students in intermediate choir learn the value of teamwork, dedication, creativity, expression, and hard work. Students in this group perform in at least four concerts throughout the year.

## **INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA**

**Grade 6 or 7**

Prerequisite: None  
Fee Required

Students will learn basic individual and orchestral skills. Students will learn technique for their instrument to increase their playing skills. Students will study and perform orchestral repertoire appropriate for middle school. Students will perform in at least three concerts per year. Open to one piano student (audition required).

## **JAZZ BAND**

**Grade 6, 7, 8**

Prerequisite: 2 yrs previous playing experience  
Fee Required

This class is for instrumental musicians including brass and woodwind, drums, bass, guitar, and piano players. In addition to learning techniques on their instruments, students will learn the value of teamwork, dedication, creativity, expression, and hard work. Music goals will be centered on improvisation and jazz music theory. Students in this group perform in at least five concerts throughout the year, and may include in-state travel as part of their yearly assessment. Teacher approval is required.

**6<sup>th</sup> Graders** – Jazz band is not an auditioned class, however it is musically challenging. Abstract topics like soloing and chords are covered. They are exciting and creative, however, also difficult. Students trying an instrument for the first time are recommended to take Beginning Band in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**LAB SCIENCE****Grade 8**

Prerequisite: Student must be excelling in regular science class. Labs require a high degree of self-direction.  
Fee Required

This class will provide advanced scientific concepts using daily lab experiences in numerous areas of scientific study. Primary areas of study will include biology and physics. This elective is designed for students who are excelling in their regular science class, but does not replace 8<sup>th</sup> grade science. In life science studies, students will study numerous life forms and the anatomy of these life forms through hands on dissection. Students will create models and dissect worms, grasshoppers, crayfish, fish, and frogs. Students will identify the main structures and functions of organ systems within these organisms. During physical science students will consider the relationships among parts of familiar systems (e.g. a bicycle, electrical appliance, or a clock). Students will take these items apart and re-assemble them. They will identify the parts of each system and explain the relationships among the parts of these systems. We will attempt to answer the question "How does this thing work?" This class will involve students in inquiry-oriented investigations. This class will challenge students to accept and share responsibility for their learning.

**LIBRARY AIDE****Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: Application required  
Grade 6 Accelerated Math Students may also apply

Will assist with all aspects of library operations and will develop intrinsic knowledge of the library, its resources, and library services. Library Aides should enjoy books, have computer knowledge, and be comfortable assisting other students (including elementary students).

**MUSICAL THEATER****Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: No experience required. Students must commit to after school and some weekend rehearsals. Parent involvement is required during production. Participation in the spring performance is mandatory. Fee Required

Students will learn basic acting, singing and choreography skills and develop confidence to perform in front of others. They will learn the basics characterization and stage performance. The first semester focuses on skill development and the audition process. The emphasis for second semester will be on the production and performance of a musical theater production. The class will learn and perform a Broadway Jr. show in the spring as a culmination of all that was learned throughout the year.

**ODYSSEY OF THE MIND (OM)****Grade 6, 7, 8**

Prerequisite: Application Required  
Fee Required

Odyssey of the Mind is a unique academic program designed to require students to work collaboratively to creatively tackle problems and find solutions. Teams of up to seven students are formed to solve one of five Long-term problems (Vehicle, Technical, Classics, Structure, or Performance) and present the solution in an eight-minute performance. In addition, teams compete to solve a Spontaneous problems on the day of competition. Odyssey of the Mind culminates in team competitions in March, April (if qualify), and May (if qualify). As such, students in the Odyssey class should be prepared to participate in the class, as well as extra-curricular activities and meetings with their team.

**OFFICE AIDE****Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: Excellent attendance and behavior. Application Required.

Perform a variety of duties within the front office including greeting parents and other school visitors, delivering messages and attendance verification slips, filing, making copies, distributing mail and classroom materials, and assisting with all other aspects of running a front desk in a school setting

**PERCUSSION****Grade 6, 7, 8**

Prerequisite: Previous playing experience, or audition and/or teacher approval.  
Fee Required

This class is for experienced percussionists who are looking to further their playing and refine their skills in a performing group. In addition to learning techniques on all percussion instruments including keyboards, drums, and auxiliary percussion, students in percussion learn the value of teamwork, dedication, creativity, expression, and hard work. Students in this group perform in at least four concerts throughout the year. The 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders travel to festivals in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter as a part of their yearly assessment. This class has a unit on marching band 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, and performs a student-led halftime show at home football games.

**SPANISH 1****Grade 8**

Prerequisite: Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher, A or B in all four quarters of 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts, a MAP reading score of 225 or higher, and a strong, independent work ethic.

This class is for highly motivated 8<sup>th</sup> graders who wish to earn high school credit and enter Spanish 2 in high school. It is a high-school level class, which uses the identical curriculum as CDO and Ironwood Ridge. It is an incredibly fun, challenging and exciting class.

**STEM/Computer Programming****Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: None  
Fee Required

Using the design process as a framework, students will begin to understand the importance of creativity and innovation in our lives and the world around us. Students will use beginning engineering tools and software to examine real problems and develop solutions.

**TEACHER AIDE****Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: Application required

Teacher Aides assist teachers with a variety of assigned tasks which may include organizing, running errands, distributing and collecting materials, mentoring, tutoring, and instructional assistance.

**TECHNOLOGY****Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: None

Intermediate Technology is an introductory course that expands the student's knowledge base of basic computer applications such as word-processing, spreadsheets, and presentation software. Other topics that will be addressed include introduction to computer aided design, audio and video editing techniques, and object based computer coding. Students will also investigate what it means to be a responsible digital citizen and will learn strategies to remain safe and secure on the internet. The course will integrate technical reading and writing standards into the curriculum and provide opportunities to develop critical thinking and collaborative skills

**WEB LEADERSHIP****Grade 8**

Prerequisite: Application Required

W.E.B. Leaders are trained to mentor incoming sixth graders and other students new to our school. After extensive summer training, the W.E.B. Leaders will run the sixth grade orientation in August. At the orientation, each W.E.B. Leader is assigned a group of incoming sixth graders to work with. They facilitate many activities to help the students feel comfortable about starting middle school, such as teambuilding, making new friends, answering questions and taking students on a campus tour. The W.E.B. Leadership curriculum includes many opportunities and activities to help you unlock your leadership potential. There is a 10 hour requirement each quarter for community service.

# LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE OFFERINGS

## 6 LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 6

Prerequisite: None

The Sixth Grade English Language Arts Curriculum is designed to focus on reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar usage. These abilities will be developed within the context of different units from the *Prentice Hall Literature* and *Writing Coach* series. Essential questions and AZ College and Career Ready Standards drive instruction within each unit and provide a purpose for learning.

## 7 LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 7

Prerequisite: None

The Seventh Grade English Language Arts Curriculum is designed to continue the process of student growth and development within the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar usage. These abilities will be developed within the context of different units from the *Prentice Hall Literature* and *Writing Coach* series. Essential questions and AZ College and Career Ready Standards drive instruction within each unit and provide a purpose for learning.

## 7 ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 7

Prerequisite: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA teacher recommendation and department approval.

The Seventh Grade English Language Arts Curriculum is designed to continue the process of student growth and development within the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar usage. These abilities will be developed within the context of different units from the *Prentice Hall Literature* and *Writing Coach* series. The higher level selections from the series will be used, with greater focus on analyzing the authors' craft. Essential questions and AZ College and Career Ready Standards drive instruction within each unit and provide a purpose for learning.

## 8 LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 8

Prerequisite: None

The Eighth Grade English Language Arts Curriculum furthers the process of student growth and development within the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar usage. These abilities will be developed within the context of different units from the *Prentice Hall Literature* and *Writing Coach* series. Essential questions and AZ College and Career Ready Standards drive instruction within each unit and provide a purpose for learning.

## 8 ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 8

Prerequisite: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA teacher recommendation and department approval.

The Eighth Grade English Language Arts Curriculum furthers the process of student growth and development within the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar usage. These abilities will be developed within the context of different units from the *Prentice Hall Literature* and *Writing Coach* series. The higher level selections from the series will be used, with greater focus on analyzing the authors' craft. Essential questions and AZ College and Career Ready Standards drive instruction within each unit and provide a purpose for learning.

## WRITING LAB

Grade 7 and 8

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

This class emphasizes grammar and usage, vocabulary development, citing textual evidence, and essay writing. Students focus on the writing process from pre-writing to revision. Support for content area reading and writing assignments is also provided in this course. Students are selected for this course by teacher recommendation and review of MAP scores.



# MATH COURSE OFFERINGS

## **MATH COURSE 1**

**Grade 6**

Prerequisite: Completion of 5<sup>th</sup> grade math or teacher recommendation.

This standards based course focuses on developing number sense; comparing quantities using ratios, rates, and percentages; algebraic thinking; geometry; and statistical thinking.

## **MATH COURSE 2**

**Grade 6 and 7**

Prerequisite: Completion of Cross Course 1, Edgenuity Course 1, or passing Course 1 Final Exam.

This standards based course (grade 7) focuses on proportional reasoning, developing number sense, algebraic thinking, geometry, and statistical thinking and probability.

## **MATH COURSE 3**

**Grade 6, 7, 8**

Prerequisite: Completion of Cross Course 2, Edgenuity Course 2, or passing Course 2 Final Exam.

This standards based course (grade 8) focuses on algebraic thinking, geometry, and statistical thinking and probability, and revisits algebraic thinking and geometry.

## **ALGEBRA 1**

**Grade 6, 7, 8**

Prerequisite: Completion of Cross Course 3, Edgenuity Course 3, or passing Course 3 Final Exam.

This standards based course covers the fundamentals of algebra, with a focus on multiple representation of functions and problem solving. Topics include linear, exponential, absolute value, and quadratic functions; sequences, systems; inequalities; and polynomials. This is a high school level course that will earn high school credit.

## **GEOMETRY**

**Grade 6, 7, 8**

Prerequisite: Passing Algebra 1

This standards-based course in Euclidean Geometry covers topics such as proofs, congruence and similarity of polygons, circles, areas or plane figures, surface area and volume of three-dimensional objects, and coordinate geometry. Basic elements of algebra are also reviewed. This is a high school level course that will earn high school credit.

## **INTERVENTION MATH/ MATH LAB**

**Grade 6, 7, 8**

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

This standards based course focuses on students who need support in their regular math course. Support may take the form of homework help, quiz and test preparation, and remediation of previous grade-level skills using blended-learning and tutoring-type models facilitated by a highly-qualified math teacher.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE OFFERINGS

## **6 PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Grade 6**

Prerequisite: None

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade physical education classes at Cross do a variety of activities including team and individual sports. Focus is on skill development, knowledge of rules along with game play. Classes do activities such as archery, basketball, floor hockey, football, softball, table tennis and volleyball. Weekly fitness activity is done with a focus on personal improvement and use of the target heart rate zone. Classes also participate in units of aerobics, yoga and basic weight room training to enhance personal fitness and gain knowledge for lifelong health.

## **7 / 8 PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: None

The focus of this course is the application and reinforcement of movement skills and knowledge within a team sport setting. Students will address assessment and maintenance of physical fitness to improve health and performance. Students will be introduced to principles and strategies and the application of psychological and sociological concepts, including self-responsibility, positive social interaction, and group dynamics, in the learning and performance of physical activity. Course includes both lecture and activity sessions.

Students will be empowered to make healthy choices, meet challenges, and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness and movement activity for a lifetime. Students will benefit from comprehensive weight training and cardiorespiratory endurance activities. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of strength training, aerobic training, and overall fitness training and conditioning.

## **STRENGTH TRAINING AND CONDITIONING (Weight Training)**

**Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: None

This class will provide an opportunity for the development of strength and conditioning principles and techniques for various sports and fitness related activities. Students in this class should expect a high level of conditioning and vigorous exercise. Free weights, exercise machines and conditioning activities will be incorporated to promote improvement in strength, endurance, balance, agility, flexibility, and speed. A normal week will consist of conditioning on Wednesday and Friday and weight training on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Proper technique, safety precautions and proper application of the Principles of Training will be emphasized. A plan to achieve goals will be developed and implemented. Students will be graded on fitness gains and participation.

## **SPORTS CONDITIONING (Volleyball)**

**Grade 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: Application Required

This is a competitive/experienced level class and will focus on the skills and strategies needed to play volleyball. The class will focus mainly on volleyball skills, but will also stay grounded in terms of general overall strength and conditioning. Students should expect high levels of vigorous activity, some academic assignments, and outside work related to the sport. Students will be selected based on athleticism and experience in volleyball. The class counts as a P.E. class and is open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Athleticism and volleyball experience preferred but not mandatory.

## **WALKING FOR FITNESS**

**Grade 6, 7 or 8**

Prerequisite: Application Required

This class will focus mainly on walking and some other low impact fitness activities. This course will help students establish a regular walking program for health and fitness. Walking is appropriate for students of all fitness levels and is a great way to maintain a moderately active lifestyle. Students should also expect some academic assignments, and some outside work related to fitness.

# SCIENCE COURSE OFFERINGS

## **BIOLOGY/ENVIRONMENTAL SCI/ENERGY/CHEMISTRY**

**Grade 6**

Prerequisite: None

This course follows the standards set by the State of Arizona covering an introduction to biology, the characteristics of living organisms and their interactions with the environment, the impact of science and technology on our world, the nature of matter and energy, and insight into our earth's water and weather systems. Laboratory investigations, demonstrations and other class activities reinforce these topics as well as provide hands-on experience with the inquiry process.

## **GEOLOGY/ASTRONOMY/ECOLOGY**

**Grade 7**

Prerequisite: None

This course follows the standards set by the State of Arizona covering an introduction to space science, where students learn about the interactions between the Sun, Earth and Moon, along with other celestial objects, an introduction to earth science, explaining the composition of the Earth, phenomena due to plate tectonics, as well the classification of minerals and rocks, and an introduction to ecology, discussing parts of an ecosystem and relationships present in nature. Laboratory investigations, demonstrations and other class activities provide hands-on reinforcement of these topics.

## **GENETICS/PHYSICS/CHEMISTRY/ECOLOGY**

**Grade 8**

Prerequisite: None

This course follows the standards set by the State of Arizona covering life science with a focus on understanding the basic principles of heredity, the relationships among various organisms and their environment and structural and behavioral adaptations of living things. We will also study physical sciences including chemistry and physics. In chemistry, the focus is on the physical and chemical properties of matter which include the classification of matter and the organization of the periodic table as well as identification of types of evidence indicating a chemical reaction. Physics instruction will focus on the Laws of Motion and the relationship between force and motion. Laboratory investigations, demonstrations and other class activities provide hands-on reinforcement of these topics. All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to take the 8th Grade Science AIMS exam.

## **LAB SCIENCE**

**Grade 7 or 8**

See course description in the Elective section.

# SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE OFFERINGS

## **WORLD HISTORY: EARLY CIVILIZATIONS**

**Grade 6**

Prerequisite: None

This course is designated to build a foundation for understanding the beginnings of human history across different cultures and civilizations in both Western and non-Western societies. Emphasis will be placed on the interaction among world cultures, the linking of the past and present, and the importance of the relationship of geography and history. Cultural diversity will be emphasized as both profound and important. Students will learn ideas and concepts which bridge the time and space between the ancient and the modern world, including the development of art, philosophy, economics, politics, government, relationships in systems, as well as world religions. They will learn that change, conflict, and cooperation are key concepts to understand throughout civilizations as well as becoming good citizens. All concepts are in alignment with the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards.

## **AMERICAN HISTORY: CIVIL WAR – THE DEPRESSION**

**Grade 7**

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to cover the development of the United States from the Pre Civil War Era through the Great Depression. Economics and current events will be integrated into both semesters to satisfy the Arizona State Standards.

## **CONTEMPORARY US HISTORY & CIVICS**

**Grade 8**

Prerequisite: None

During the first semester, students will examine the structure and function of American government as outlined by the Constitution. The specific powers and formal processes of the legislative, executive and judicial branches will be presented as well as the mechanisms of the federal system. Political parties, voter behavior, and current issues will be discussed in the context of contemporary political climate. The development of the United States from the Great Depression to present day is the focus of the second semester.

## **HUMANITIES**

**Grade 6, 7, 8**

Prerequisite: Qualify for the Gifted and Talented Program

This is a project-based social studies class with an emphasis in art, music, and literature for gifted students. Students are placed into Humanities instead of social studies and take the class in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. They will cover the same social studies content but in more depth and with more rigor.