

Cross Middle School

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

2024-2025

Grade Level Courses		
6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th 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
RAMS 101	Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective	Elective

** Some students may be placed in an additional Math Intervention OR Language Arts Intervention class if needed. This is predetermined by the math/language arts department and Administration.

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., Computer Programming, Technology, Career Exploration	
\$31.00 – Odyssey of the Mind \$35.00 – W.E.B. \$33.00 – Art (6 th grade Exploratory Art – 1 Quarter) \$10.00	
<i>(Subject to Change)</i>	
2/2023	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ELECTIVES	3-7
Advanced Band / Chorus / Orchestra	
Art	
Beginning Band	
Career Exploration	
Computer Programming	
Conversational Spanish	
Exploratory	
Guitar	
Harelson Helper	
Intermediate Band / Chorus / Orchestra	
Introduction to Sign Language	
Introduction to Theater	
Jazz Band	
Lab Science	
Library Aide	
Musical Theater	
Odyssey of the Mind (OM)	
Office Aide	
Percussion	
RAMS 101 – 6 th grade requirement	
Spanish 1	
STEM	
Teacher Aide	
Technology	
WEB Leadership	
Yearbook	
LANGUAGE ARTS	8
6 Language Arts	
7 Language Arts	
8 Language Arts	
Advanced Language Arts	
Writing Lab (Literature Intervention)	
MATH	9
Course 1	
Course 2	
Course 3	
Algebra 1	
Geometry	
Intervention Math	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	10
6 Physical Education	
7/8 Physical Education	
Strength Training and Conditioning (Weight Training)	
Sports Conditioning (Volleyball)	
Lifetime Sports (Walking for Fitness)	
SCIENCE	11
Biology/Environmental Sci/Energy/Chemistry	
Geology/Astronomy/Ecology	
Genetics/Physics/Chemistry/Ecology	
SOCIAL STUDIES	12
World History: Early Civilizations	
American History: Civil War – The Depression	
Contemporary US History & Civics	
Humanities	

ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS

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 4th quarter as a part of their yearly assessment. This class also does a unit on marching band 1st quarter, and performs a student-led halftime show at home football games. 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 4th quarter as a part of their yearly assessment.

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 through the exploration of various media, movements, and genres of art. 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 yearlong course. This is the **BEST CLASS EVER!** The primary curriculum is adapted from Jobs for the Future, with a focus on STEM (Health Care, Cyber Security, Engineering, IT, etc.) related careers, as well as the development of soft skills that employers say they need in their employees, and financial literacy. 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 (Coding)

Grade 7 or 8

Prerequisite: None
Fee Required

This class teaches students the basics of programming logic and problem solving, as well as concepts such as loops, sequences, conditionals and functions. Block coding with JavaScript is the cornerstone of the course, followed by script coding in JavaScript and /or Python for some students. Instruction is individualized. Student can take this class in both 7th and 8th grade).

CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH

Grade 7 or 8

Prerequisite: None

This beginning level Spanish class focuses on Spanish basics: pronunciation, useful phrases, relevant vocabulary, some verb conjugation, and culture study of Spanish speaking countries. This class prepares students to speak, understand, read, and write in Spanish. For 7th graders, this class can prepare them to consider taking Spanish 1 for high school credit as an 8th grader. For 8th graders it provides the same preparation, so that students have an important foundation to successfully complete Spanish 1 as a high school freshman.

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 may include introductory courses in Art, Astronomy, Technology, Spanish, Music and Cartography, Sign Language. Courses may change yearly, and rotations are determined by Cross.

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).

INTRODUCTION TO SIGN LANGUAGE

Grade 7 or 8

Prerequisite: None

American Sign Language (ASL) is not just “signed” English, it is a distinct language with its own syntax and grammar. This class will introduce students to the language and culture of a group of people that make up roughly 5% of the US population. Through the learning of basic vocabulary, grammatical structures and ASL fingerspelling system, students will develop their expressive and receptive language skills, while improving their ability to express themselves nonverbally. By the end of the class, students will be able to sustain communication with those that are hard of hearing or deaf, introduce themselves, express their desires and share their interests.

INTRODUCTION TO THEATER

Grade 6, 7, 8

Prerequisite: None
Fee Required

This class will cover basic theater skills needed to be a successful theater performer, tech, or viewer. Students will learn and work on performance skills such as improv, script analysis, and acting as well as technical theater skills such as script creation, direction, lighting design, costume design, set design, prop design and power tool usage. Students from this class will have the opportunity to apply to be a part of the back stage crew for our school's musical.

JAZZ BAND

Grade 6, 7, 8

Prerequisite: Audition required and teacher approval
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. This is an ADVANCED class.

LAB SCIENCE

Grade 7 or 8

Prerequisite: Student must be excelling in regular science class. **Students must be comfortable completing dissection activities.**
Fee Required

This class will provide advanced scientific concepts and hands-on lab experiences primarily focused in biology and chemistry. This elective is designed for students who are excelling in their regular science class, but does not replace their core science class. In this course, students will study numerous life forms through care and husbandry of living organisms and the anatomy of prepared specimens through dissection. Students will identify the main structures and functions of organ systems of grasshoppers, crawfish, frogs, sharks, and pigs. Students will also study chemical properties and observe chemical reactions beyond what is offered in general science classes, and prepare them for advanced biology and chemistry in high school.

LIBRARY AIDE

Grade 7 or 8

Prerequisite: Application required

Grade 6 Accelerated Math Students may also apply

Library aides assist the librarian in ensuring the daily operations of the school library function well. Students will provide services to the Cross community while learning and practicing skills that will impact their learning and future. Customer Service (helping others) is one of the main focuses. This includes assisting students and teachers to locate needed materials, working the circulation desk, shelving books, and maintaining the books displayed on the library shelves. Students will work with both the middle school and elementary students. Library aides are expected to be responsible, dependable, able to work independently, organized and good with details.

MUSICAL THEATER

Grade 7 or 8

Prerequisite: No experience required. Students must commit to some after school and 2 weekend rehearsals. 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 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 7th-8th graders travel to festivals in the 4th quarter as a part of their yearly assessment. This class has a unit on marching band 1st quarter, and performs a student-led halftime show at home football games.

RAMS 101 – Recognizing And Managing Success This is a Mandatory 6th grade class

Grade 6

Throughout the year, we will be working on building and improving our executive functioning skills, which are essential for success in both academics and life. These skills include organization, time management, goal-setting and others. We will be exploring the 7 Habits of Highly Successful Teens, written by Sean Covey. These habits include being proactive, beginning with the end in mind, thinking win-win and more. We will be learning how to apply these habits in our daily lives to become more effective and successful individuals. This class is also intended to transition students from elementary to middle school.

SPANISH 1

Grade 8

Prerequisite: complete Conversational Spanish as a 7th grader, overall GPA of 3.0 or higher, A or B in all four quarters of 7th grade Language Arts, a MAP reading score of 225 or higher, and a strong, independent work ethic.

This is a *rigorous high school credit course* that will prepare students to enter Spanish 2 as a freshman while also receiving credit for Spanish 1 on their high school transcript. Grades post to the high school transcript but are not included in the high school GPA. This class is for highly motivated, hardworking 8th grade students who successfully completed Conversational Spanish as a 7th grade student. This class uses the identical curriculum followed at Canyon del Oro and Ironwood Ridge high schools. This class is divided into two semesters with grades posting after completion of each semester rather than after each quarter. It is a fun, challenging, and exciting class.

STEM

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. Students will learn the role robots play in our daily lives through design, build and programming VEX robotics kits.

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
Fee Required

This class explores multiple uses of digital technology such as organizing files, formatting documents, spreadsheet basics, and graphic design/digital art and website design. Some students may also be involved with podcasting and/or video editing. Students learn to navigate new applications, follow multi-step instructions, work cooperatively with others, and how to be a successful digital citizen. (Students should only take this class ONCE in either 7th or 8th grade.)

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 Welcome Program during registration week. At the Welcome Program, 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. Students in W.E.B. complete quarterly projects, facilitate spirit days, and host social and academic follow-ups. There is a 10-hour requirement each quarter for community service.

YEARBOOK

Grade 8

Prerequisite: Application and teacher recommendation form required
Fee Required

Students must commit to some before and after school attendance at events to help the publication meet the strict deadlines set by the publisher

Students will learn aspects of publication while creating the Cross Middle School yearbook. Students will photograph school events, interview students and teachers, write stories and captions, produce and design a high-quality yearbook using professional graphic design, layout, and photo editing software, manage the yearbook staff through leadership positions, and promote yearbook sales by creating advertising campaigns (posters, events, announcements).

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 *HMH: Intro Literature* 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 *HMH: Intro Literature* 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: 6th 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 *HMH: Intro Literature* 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 *HMH: Intro Literature* 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: 7th 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 *HMH: Intro Literature* 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 (Literature Intervention)

Grade 6, 7, 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 5th 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

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 6th 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 7th and 8th grade students. Athleticism and volleyball experience preferred but not mandatory.

LIFETIME SPORTS (Walking for Fitness)

Grade 7 or 8

Prerequisite: None

This class will focus mainly on walking and 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 will have the opportunity to walk off campus in surrounding neighborhoods for variety. Students should be ready to walk up to 8 miles each week. Throughout this course students will participate in a weekly fitness program involving walking, as well as elements of resistance training and flexibility. Students may have some academic assignments, and outside work related to fitness.

SCIENCE COURSE OFFERINGS

BIOLOGY/ENVIRONMENTAL SCI/ENERGY/CHEMISTRY

Grade 6

Prerequisite: None

This 6th grade course follows the standards set by the State of Arizona covering inquiry into the nature of matter and the role of energy transformation. Students will apply their understanding of how matter and energy relate to atoms, the solar system, and ecosystems. Laboratory investigations, demonstrations, engineering practice, 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 7th grade course follows the standards set by the State of Arizona covering inquiry into how forces cause changes in motion, and how energy is transferred in geologic, atmospheric, and environmental processes. Students will investigate force and motion in a wide variety of systems, model how heat energy drives cycles in weather and climate, and explain the structure and function of cells. Laboratory investigations, demonstrations, engineering practice, and other class activities provide hands-on reinforcement of these topics.

GENETICS/PHYSICS/CHEMISTRY/ECOLOGY

Grade 8

Prerequisite: None

This 8th grade course follows the standards set by the State of Arizona covering inquiry into how stability, change, and the process of cause and effect influence the natural world. Students will apply energy principles to chemical reactions, explore changes within Earth, and understand how genetic information is passed down to produce variation among the populations. Laboratory investigations, demonstrations, engineering practice, and other class activities provide hands-on reinforcement of these topics. All 8th grade students are required to take the 8th Grade AzSCI exam during the fourth quarter.

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

The content focus for sixth-grade will include a study of historical time periods from early civilization to Renaissance and Reformation viewed through geographic and historical lenses. Students will understand cultural, religious, economic, and political systems of selected societies in the Eastern Hemisphere as they read widely, think analytically, and communicate clearly through spoken and written language. Regions in the Eastern Hemisphere include the Middle East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, and Asia.

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

This course focuses on Citizenship and civic engagement. Studies will make connections between historical and current/recent issues as a base for implementing change in society. Students will recognize and practice their roles and responsibilities as both American and global citizens. United States History will focus on the major events that have roots in the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments.

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 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. They will cover the same social studies content but in more depth and with more rigor.