**Course Descriptions**

**Middle School**

**English**

**Language Arts 6**

Semester A of English 6 is divided into two main categories: Storytelling and Heroes. The first module, or unit, that students will encounter is Introduction to English 6, which provides an introduction to key course concepts and a review of the basic skills needed to succeed in the course. Throughout the remaining modules, students will engage in various interactive activities, quizzes, and writing assignments that build on students’ previous knowledge of literature, informational text, and language use while challenging them to apply these skills to the rigors of a high school course. Assignments include writing a narrative essay and completing a book report.

The second semester of grade 6 English Language Arts online course builds on the skills and concepts introduced in the first semester. Students tackle more difficult texts in Semester B and apply more advanced analysis skills to reading and writing tasks. They also study some of the more subtle aspects of language, such as the role of connotation and nuance in an author’s word choices and how those choices affect readers. Reading assignments are selected, in part, to provide models for students’ own writing in specific modes, forms, or genres. Several lessons demonstrate methods of sharing

**Language Arts 7**

Through analysis of written, spoken, and multimedia texts, students will become more critical consumers of information and of various forms of media in Semester A. They will also synthesize and organize ideas to prepare structured essays in several different modes, including narrative, persuasive, and expository. Each lesson will guide students in learning and applying specific strategies for reading and writing different types of texts. A review of basic English mechanics is included in many of the writing lessons, along with a discussion of levels of formality required for different purposes and audiences. This course provides instruction in many modalities, including audiovisual presentations and videos, interactive activities, projects, and discussions. Opportunities for teacher feedback are frequent, detailed, and varied.

The second semester of grade 7 English Language Arts online course builds on the skills and concepts introduced in the first semester. Students tackle more difficult texts and themes in Semester B, and the level of analysis demonstrated and required is more in-depth. In this part of the course, students study the English language closely—both its history and evolution, and the less obvious ways it can be used to convey meaning. The reading assignments are selected to guide students in understanding how language can be used to convey broader themes in poetry, drama, and humorous or satirical texts. Students continue to develop their writing skills through multi-draft assignments and projects. Emphasis in this semester is on recognizing the multiple levels of meaning that any word or phrase might convey, and in writing one’s own texts with these concepts in mind.

**Language Arts 8**

During the first semester of this year-long course, students will read and analyze various kinds of written texts, include novels and short fiction, informational texts representing a wide range of topics and forms, and several one-act plays. Lessons in Semester A will also guide students in writing their own narratives and essays, using the readings in the course as both examples and sources of ideas for reflection, analysis, and argument. Students will learn better ways to discuss their thoughts and perceptions with others—they will practice their skills in collaborative discussions as well as informal journal entries, presentations, and speeches. Writing assignments include personal narratives, analytical and persuasive essays, and an original one-act play. Special emphasis is placed on reading in certain content areas, such as science and his-tory, as well as understanding and thinking critically about news and media sources.

In Semester B of grade 8 English Language Arts online course, students will examine the role of historical autobiographies and diaries in our understanding of history. In the process, they’ll study the impact of point of view on nonfiction texts. Students will be given opportunities to write autobiographical narratives of their own and then asked to connect their experiences to universal themes or philosophical positions, which they explore through writing about them. In the second half of the semester, students will study the relationship between poetic expression and several conventions of language, including syntax, voice, sentence types, and punctuation.

Next, they will explore the nature of creativity, the processes that tend to produce good literature, and the features of experimental and multi-genre forms of fiction. Near the end of the semester, students will reflect on their own growth and development throughout the year, compiling a portfolio that illustrates the progress they’ve made. Finally, students will consider what high school will ask of them and how they might fulfill those expectations, having gained a better understanding of their strengths as well as areas ripe for continued learning and progress.

**Math**

**Mathematics 6**

Students begin the first semester of this course with a review of how to use basic arithmetic operations with whole numbers, fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals. More complex concepts are built on these basics. Students learn how to express, work with, and solve problems using percentages. They also learn the similarities and differences between ratios, rates, and proportions. They apply these ideas to solving problems involving measurement. This semester ends with an introduction to integers, and how to perform operations on this number set.

In the second semester of grade 6 Math online course, we introduce students to expressions, equations, and inequalities. They learn how to simplify, solve, and plot both solutions and solution sets on a number line. Building on these concepts, students are then introduced to the coordinate plane and linear equations. Students then learn how to apply what they’ve learned so far to geometric concepts like perimeter, area, and volume. An exploration of statistical concepts concludes the second semester.

**Mathematics 7**

In this first semester of grade 7 Math online course, students work with problem-solving skills, beginning algebra skills, geometry, decimals, fractions, data analysis, number theory and patterns, percents, and integer use. Projects measure the student’s ability to integrate and apply the course objectives.

In this continuation of the first semester, students work with fractions; unit conversions; proportions and rates; percents; geometry topics including lines, angles, polygons, polyhedrons, perimeter, area, surface area, volume, and transformations; squares and square roots; permutations and combinations; and probability. Real-life application of concepts is emphasized in all units.

**Pre-Algebra**

The first semester of grade 8 Math online course will help students move from the world of simple mathematics to the exciting world of Algebra and Geometry and will provide them with a concrete understanding of the basics for algebraic thinking. Students will develop a deeper understanding of the math concepts they have already learned and will stretch their thinking by solving real world problems.

The second semester of Math 8 builds on the concepts learned in the first semester and prepares students with the building blocks needed to dive deeper into the exciting world of Algebra and Geometry.

**Science**

**Integrated Science 6**

Science 6 A covers a combination of earth & space science and physical science topics. This course covers concepts of the scientific method, forces and gravity, and an in-depth coverage of the stars, the Earth, the Moon, and the structure of our Solar System. Students will work on developing skills in data recording, classifying, measuring, observing, hypothesizing, analyzing, evaluation, and inferring.

Science 6 B contains topics of life science, earth & space science, and physical science. It covers topics of ecosystems, energy flow in life systems, plants, energy types

(kinetic, potential), resources, and heat. Students will work on developing skills in data recording, classifying, measuring, observing, hypothesizing, analyzing, evaluation, and inferring.

**Integrated Science 7**

Science 7 is an integrated course in which the fields of science are not compartmentalized. Instead, earth and space science, life science, and physical science are integrated within each semester.

Science 7 A covers topics mostly in physical science. The course covers topics of the nature of science, waves and sound, light, lenses, and electricity. Students will work on developing skills in data recording, classifying, measuring, observing, hypothesizing, analyzing, evaluation, and inferring.

Science 7 B covers topics in both physical science and life science. The course covers topics in matter and chemical reactions, cells, and the body systems in the human body. Students will work on developing skills in data recording, classifying, measuring, observing, hypothesizing, analyzing, evaluation, and inferring.

**Integrated Science 8**

Science 8 A covers topics in Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science. The course covers topics including the scientific method, the history of science, simple, com-plex, and modern machines, Earth history and structure, as well as air, climate, weather, and water. Students will work on developing skills in data recording, classifying, measuring, observing, hypothesizing, analyzing, evaluation, and inferring.

Science 8 B covers topics in Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science. The course covers topics including reproduction, heredity, evolution, the classification of living things, invertebrates & vertebrates, pollution, and the human impact on populations. Students will work on developing skills in data recording, classifying, measuring, observing, hypothesizing, analyzing, evaluation, and inferring.

**Social Studies**

**Government & Civics**

This course covers the discovery, development, and growth of the United States. Major topics include American Indian cultures, European colonization of the Americas, and the causes and effects of the American Revolution. Geographical, economic, and political factors are exploring as the key factors in the growth of the United States of America. American History I is a survey of the struggle to build the United States of America from the colonial period to the beginning of the twentieth century. By means of reading, analyzing, and applying historical data, students come to appreciate the forces that shaped our history and character as an American people. Not only are the topics of American history discussed, but students also explore research methods and determine accurate sources of data from the past. Knowing the facts and dates of history are just the beginning: each student must understand how history affects him or her.

American History B begins with a study of American life before the 1929 Stock Market crash and how the Roaring Twenties influenced society in the late 19th through early 20th centuries. Students will examine the causes and consequences of the Great Depression and move on into a detailed study of World War II with an emphasis on America's role in the conflict. The course continues with an analysis of the Cold War struggle and America's rise as a superpower. The Civil Rights and Women's rights movements, pollution and the environment, and American domestic and foreign policy will be examined. The course wraps up with a summary of current events and issues, including a study of the Middle East. This course begins with an assessment of life in United States pre‐World War I and ends with the conflicts of the new millennium. Students look at the nation in terms of economic, social, and political trends. The experiences of the last century are summarized, including a look into the civil rights issues that have embroiled the nation in conflict. The development of the United States of America into a superpower is explored within a global context. Teacher feedback is provided throughout the semester.

**World History**

The first semester of Social Studies 6 introduces students to the beginnings of ancient civilization. We will trace the path of human origins in Africa and follow the path of migration around the Earth. This course will help students understand why we study history and the process in which we form conclusions about events in the past. Students will begin to learn about the major ancient civilization around the world and their cultures. Modern civilizations can trace their foundations to these ancient civilizations, and their cultures and histories teach us much about ourselves and the modern world in which we live.

In the second semester of Social Studies 6, students will continue to examine ancient civilizations and their cultures. In this semester we will continue to trace the path of human civilization from the Mediterranean through the Eastern world. An emphasis will be placed on critical thinking and connecting themes in history to our modern world.

**United States History**

This study of the history of the United States emphasizes how ideas, events, and philosophies have shaped the nation. Students will learn about America’s past while mastering the skills of historical interpretation. Study begins with the earliest arrivals of people and ends with the conclusion of the Civil War.

This course is a continuation of the first semester with an emphasis on how historical ideas, events, and philosophies have shaped the United States. Beginning with Reconstruction, this course uses the same skill development approach to guide students through U.S. history to the present.

**Electives**

**Keyboarding**

This course is written for beginning typers in the 3-8 grade levels. It gives students a complete tutorial for proper typing techniques and covers all alphabet keys, space bar, caps lock, shift, enter, and backspace. It includes many fun, engaging lessons and games to test students speed and accuracy.

**MS Art Explorations**

Art Explorations is a semester course that is designed to give students a broad overview of different categories of art. The semester kicks off focusing on elements of dance, acting, and musical performance followed by fine arts, architecture, and multimedia. In each of these categories, students will learn about the history of each art, famous people in each of the arts, how technology has impacted that art form, as well as having a career in each of these categories.

**Career Exploration**

How do you pick a career path when you’re not sure what’s even out there? This course allows you to begin exploring options in fields such as teaching, business, government, hospitality, health science, IT, and more! You’ll align your interests, wants, and needs to career possibilities, including the required education for each. Let’s find a pathway that works for you.

**Tech Apps 6**

When it comes to technology, there is a lot to learn, and sometimes it’s hard to get a digital foothold. In this course, you will be introduced to some of the most important technological topics to place you on the path to well-rounded understanding. You will learn about your digital footprint, netiquette, and how to stay safe online. You will improve your typing, file management and organization skills as well as your knowledge of software programs. You will also learn about trends, coding, blogs and websites, photo and video software, and more! It’s time to go digital!

**Tech Apps 7**

You learned some tech app basics, and now it’s time to explore new software that will help you with content creation. In this course, you will practice being a member of a team- listening to other’s ideas and advocating for your own- and learn how to break a problem into steps represented with a flowchart. With the steps defined, you’ll put your ideas into action coding a robot in Scratch and a Rock, Paper, Scissors game. Finally, you’ll look at various content creation methods like Google apps, blogs, podcasts, and videos, and think about who your audiences might be. Let’s move beyond the basics and into the ever-expanding world of tech apps.

**Tech Apps 8**

Few things move faster than ever-changing technology, and it’s important to try and stay up to date on this modern digital transformation. In this course, you will get a guided tour through this towering technological landscape from hacking and hardware, understanding algorithms and basic cybersecurity, and even implementing powerful tools like Google apps. You will also improve your ability to type, code, and use audio and video editing software. In the end, you will learn all about how to be an effective and responsible digital citizen in a cyberworld that is only growing increasingly quick and complex. Let’s get up to speed!

**STEM**

You’ve probably heard of STEM, but what exactly is it? STEM is the process of applying a combination of science, technology, engineering, and math and brainstorming, building, testing, and seeking answers through research. In this course, you’ll begin to develop these skills and learn how STEM can shape the future and even solve the world’s biggest problems through innovation. Seems cool, right? Let’s start digging for answers into this groundbreaking subject!

**MS Health**

Our middle school health courses will help the student under-stand the importance of making decisions that will affect his or her physical, emotional, mental and social health. This course will provide students with the knowledge and resources they will need to make responsible informed decisions about their health. Students will have an opportunity to evaluate their own values, opinions and attitudes about health.

**Phys. Ed. 6**

Physical Education 6 is intended to help students maintain an active lifestyle by presenting multiple activities to incorporate in a weekly activity log. Each week, students are provided with three activities including a warm-up activity, an aerobic activity, and a cool-down activity. Students are expected to incorporate those three activities, as well as activities of their own choice, to complete the required number of activity minutes weekly.

**Phys. Ed. 7**

Physical Education 7 is intended to help students maintain an active lifestyle by presenting multiple activities to incorporate in a weekly activity log. Each week, students are provided with three activities including a warm-up activity, an aerobic activity, and a cool-down activity. Students are expected to incorporate those three activities, as well as activities of their own choice, to complete the required number of activity minutes weekly.

**Phys. Ed. 8**

Physical Education 8 is intended to help students maintain an active lifestyle by presenting multiple activities to incorporate in a weekly activity log. Each week, students are provided with three activities including a warm-up activity, an aerobic activity, and a cool-down activity. Students are expected to incorporate those three activities, as well as activities of their own choice, to complete the required number of activity minutes weekly.

**Guitar (guitar required)**

Have you ever dreamed of playing the guitar? Whether you love music, want to play guitar for your family and friends, or desire to be a music star, this course is a great place to start. No prior music experience is needed. You will learn the fundamentals of music and the basic skills necessary to play a wide variety of music styles. Student guides, Carlos and Summer, will guide you through each step of this journey towards becoming a skilled guitarist and musician.

**Exploring Music**

What comes to mind when you hear the word ‘music’? Do you think about your favorite band or artist? Or do you think about instruments and scales and chords? The word music means something different to everyone. Which is why in this Music course, there’s a little bit of something for everyone! You will learn about how we hear music; how music affects our lives; important elements of music like rhythm, pitch, and harmony; different musical genres; singing and your voice; various instruments; music composition; and the history and culture of music over the years. Tune up your understanding and appreciation for all things music by signing up for this course!

**MS Financial Lit**

“Money makes the world go round,” but that’s only because we move it through exchanges, transactions, and financial tools. In this course, you will examine how our economy works through decisions about spending and saving, lending and borrowing, and how institutions play a key role in moving money. You will also explore how credit and interest work, investing, and what you can expect to earn over the length of your career. Once all the pieces are in place, you’ll discover how you can begin investing in yourself today so your future is everything you dream it can be. Let’s get started!

**MS Digital Savvy**

Digital Savvy is a one-year (two-semester) course covering required topics in most introductory “Information Technology” classes. Students should have minimal computer usage skills (e.g. keyboarding, mouse, and operating system navigation) prior to starting this course.

The course material is designed to appeal to a variety of students, from traditional learners who thrive on written text to audio-visual students who enjoy a multi-media format. All content is delivered through an online system that allows students to work seamlessly both in the classroom and at home.

Every chapter contains one or more hands-on activities that allow students to practice and demonstrate understanding of the lesson topics. A Windows or Mac OS computer is required for completion of the hands-on activities.