

JFWA MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

<p>FINE ARTS</p> <p>*Students will be enrolled in either Art or Strings during both Middle School years.</p>	<p><u>ART: GRADES 5-8</u> Duration: Year Long Prerequisite(s): None Recommended Grade Level: 5-8 Eligible Grade Level: 5-8 Course Description: This foundations class is a fundamental tool used to provide students the ability to gain confidence in the reasoning and applications of artistic principles. The classes are designed to work progressively, building on prior applications and understanding, while exploring new media and methods. Multiple strategies are utilized to meet learners’ needs on many levels, through a variety of projects. Learners learn to recognize and use art as a means to express personal strengths and interests, and develop an understanding of the relationships between Art and the core disciplines.</p>	<p><u>STRINGS I, II, III, IV</u> Duration: Year Long Prerequisite(s): No prerequisite for Strings I Recommended Grade Level: It is recommended that you begin Strings I as early as possible, but it is open to grades 5-12. Eligible Grade Level: 5-12 Course Description: Strings courses occur in a progression and increase in difficulty as time goes on. The description for Strings I, therefore, is essentially the same for Strings IV. Complexity depends on the skill level of the class. In the category, “The Science of Sound,” the following concepts will be taught: vibrations & the production of pitch; the shape of string instruments and differences between their sounds; the science of sound, pitch, and harmony. In the category, “The Language of Music,” the following concepts will be taught: reading and interpreting the way music is printed on the page; various musical symbols that tell us what to do; theory of scales, keys, rhythms, etc. In addition, students will learn to develop correct hand and physical body positions. This is a never ending task and requires constant attention. Students will also learn the etiquette of orchestra playing and how things are done in rehearsals and concert settings. Students may play solos, duets, and field orchestrations, cementing an appreciation through the playing of pieces from various styles of music from Baroque to modern. Finally, students will perform in appropriate school/community functions throughout the year.</p>
<p>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</p> <p>*Students will take Phys Ed during both Middle School years.</p>	<p><u>GRADES 5-8 PHYSICAL EDUCATION</u> Duration: Year Long Prerequisite(s): None Recommended Grade Level: 5-8 Eligible Grade Level: 5-8 Course Description: In Physical Education class the focus is to teach the students respect for other players, both teammates and non-teammates. Another main goal is to implement good sportsmanship into each student’s mental attitude. Through playing both individual and team sports in class, the students learn what it is like to be a part of a team and to help each other reach a common goal.</p>	

<p>SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES</p>	<p><u>THE ANCIENT WORLD (7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES)</u> Duration: Block/Semester Prerequisite(s): Prior Grade Level Social Studies Recommended Grade Level: 7 Eligible Grade Level: 7 or 8</p> <p>Historical Time Frame and Units Emphasized: Prehistory through The Early Middle Ages</p> <p>Unit Specifics: Civilization (Development of, definition of, and Indicators of); Different Forms of Government in the World (Beginning with theories on the formation of government and primitive types of governments); Five Major World Religions and the Foundation of Religion; River Civilizations (with emphasis on Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Indus River Valley); Ancient Greece; Ancient Rome; The Early Middle Ages; Pre-Columbian American Civilizations</p>	<p><u>EARLY AMERICA (8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES)</u> Duration: Block/Semester Prerequisite(s): Prior Grade Level Social Studies Recommended Grade Level: 8 Eligible Grade Level: 7 or 8</p> <p>Historical Time Frame and Units Emphasized: Eras: Colonial America through the American Civil War</p> <p>Possible Additional/In-Depth Units: Basic U.S. Government Concepts; Revolutionary Ideals and the American Revolution; Slavery in the U.S.</p>
<p>SCIENCE COURSES</p>	<p><u>MIDDLE SCHOOL LIFE SCIENCE (7TH GRADE)</u> Duration: Block/Semester Prerequisite(s): Prior Grade Level Science Recommended Grade Level: 7 Eligible Grade Level: 7 Units and Concepts Emphasized: Cells and Heredity: Cellular Structure, Processes, and Chemistry; Genetics and Theories of Evolution Diversity of Living Things: Introduction to All Forms of Living Organisms Human Biology and Health: Over View of Human Anatomy and Physiology Ecology: Populations, Communities, Ecosystems, Biomes, and Conservation of Living Resources</p>	<p><u>MIDDLE SCHOOL EARTH SCIENCE (8TH GRADE)</u> Duration: Block/Semester Prerequisite(s): 7th grade Life Science Recommended Grade Level: 8 Eligible Grade Level: 8 Course Description: Earth Science is a <i>laboratory science course</i> that explores origins and the connections between the physical, chemical, and biological processes of the earth system. Students experience the content of Earth Science through inquiry-based laboratory investigations and focus on topics associated with matter, energy, crystal dynamics, cosmic evolution, and structure, cycles, geochemical processes, and the expanded time scales needed to understand events in the earth system. Earth Science provides the knowledge, skills, and habits of mind needed for problem solving and ethical decision making about scientific and technological issues.</p>
<p>MATHEMATICS COURSES</p>	<p><u>PRE-ALGEBRA</u> Duration: Year Long Prerequisite(s): Prior Grade Level Math Recommended Grade Level: 7 Eligible Grade Level: 7 Course Description: The goal of Pre-Algebra is to develop fluency with rational numbers and proportional relationships. Students will extend their elementary skills and begin to learn algebra concepts that serve as a transition into formal Algebra and Geometry. Students will study fractions, decimals, percents, positive and negative integers and rational numbers. They will become more proficient in</p>	<p><u>ALGEBRA 1A & 1B</u> Duration: Block (1 block for each class, 1A and 1B) Prerequisite(s): Pre-Algebra (unless previous school does not offer pre-algebra) Recommended Grade Level: 8 Eligible Grade Level: 8-9 (must complete this course by the end of freshman year) Course Description: Algebra is the language by which most mathematics is communicated. Problem solving situations will provide all students with an environment that promotes communication and fosters connections within mathematics to other disciplines and the real world. Students will use physical models to represent, explore, and develop abstract concepts. The use of appropriate technology will help students apply mathematics in an</p>

	<p>using ratios, proportions and solving algebraic equations. Students will learn to recognize and generate equivalent expressions and solve single-variable equations and inequalities. Students will investigate and explore mathematical ideas and develop multiple strategies for analyzing complex situations as well as analyze situations verbally, numerically, graphically, and symbolically. Students will apply mathematical skills and make meaningful connections to life's experiences. Through creativity and analysis, students will develop and expand problem solving skills in order to solve word problems. Successful completion of this course prepares students for success in Algebra I.</p>	<p>increasingly technological world.</p>
<p>ENGLISH COURSES</p>	<p><u>7th GRADE LITERATURE</u> Duration: Block/Semester Prerequisite(s): 6th grade English Recommended Grade Level: 7 Eligible Grade Level: 7 Course Description: This course will focus on exposure to a variety of literature. We will read a variety of short stories and poems, academic writing and plays, as well as one or two novels. Students will consider ideas such as theme, purpose, symbolism, metaphor/simile, and allegory.</p>	<p><u>7th GRADE GRAMMAR & WRITING</u> Duration: Block/Semester Prerequisite(s): None Recommended Grade Level: 7 Eligible Grade Level: 7 Course Description: This course will focus on grammar and good academic writing. Students will look at all aspects of writing a strong paper, from the foundations of thought organization to the production of a grammatically correct, critical paper. Students will have practice on all different types of academic writing as well. (Persuasive, Compare/Contrast, Cause and Effect, Research, etc.). Emphasis on spelling and grammar will be key.</p>
	<p><u>GRAMMAR & WRITING</u> Duration: Year Long Prerequisite(s): None Recommended Grade Level: 8 Eligible Grade Level: 8 Course Description: This course will focus on improving the student's grammar and developing skills that will be used in academic writing. Students will learn how to create a strong critical paper, from the conceptual stages to drafting and revising. A variety of academic styles will be covered, such as persuasive and comparison/contrast, and students will gain experience in researching and citing sources.</p>	