

Middle School
Course of Study

COURSE OF STUDY
GRADE 6

Required Courses For The Year

English 6
Mathematics 6
History 6
Science 6
Physical Education/Health 6

ELECTIVES

World Language

Intro to German	Semester
Intro to Latin	Semester
French 1	Year
German 1	Year
Latin 1	Year
Mandarin Chinese 1	Year
Spanish 1	Year
French 2	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of LS French program)
Spanish 2	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of LS Spanish program)

***New students to Providence Day School with previous year-long language instruction will be assessed for appropriate placement by the Middle School Department Chair.

Chorus 6	Semester or Year
Band 6	Year – (Prerequisite – Prior Band Experience)
Strings 6	Year – (Prerequisite – Prior Strings Experience)
Creative Writing 6	Semester
Art 6	Semester
Theater 6	Semester
Introduction to Engineering	2 nd Semester
Study Hall	1 st Semester and/or 2 nd Semester

COURSE OF STUDY
GRADE 7

Required Courses

English 7	Year
Math 7	Year
Algebra Topics 7	Year (Department Recommendation)
Advanced Pre-Algebra	Year (Department Recommendation)
Science 7	Year
U.S. History 7	Year
Physical Education/Health 7	Year

ELECTIVES

Fine Arts

Art Foundations	Semester
Advanced MS Art	Semester (Prerequisite – Art Foundations)
Advanced MS 3-D Design	2 nd Semester – (Prerequisite – Art Foundations)
Chorus 7/8	Semester or Year
Band 7/8	Year – (Prerequisite – Prior Band Experience)
Strings 7/8	Year – (Prerequisite – Prior Strings Experience)
Theater I -7/8	Semester
Theater II – 7/8 - Performance	Semester – (Prerequisite – Theater I)
Stagecraft 7/8	Semester

World Language

French 1	Year
German 1	Year
Latin 1	Year
Mandarin Chinese 1	Year
Spanish 1	Year
French 2	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of French A)
German 2	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of German A)
Latin 2	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of Latin A)
Mandarin Chinese 2	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of Mandarin Chinese A)
Spanish 2	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of Spanish A)
French 3	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of French B)
German 3	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of German B)
Latin 3	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of Latin B)
Mandarin Chinese 3	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of Mandarin Chinese B)
Spanish 3	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of Spanish B)

Science

Engineering The Future 7/8	1 st Semester
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Computer

Middle School Computer Applications 7/8	Semester
Middle School Web Design 7/8	Semester
Robotics 7/8	1 st Semester

Study Hall

1 st Semester and/or 2 nd Semester
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COURSE OF STUDY
GRADE 8

Required Courses

English 8	Year
Algebra Topics 8	Year
Algebra I-8	Year (Prerequisite Algebra Topics 7)
Advanced Algebra I	Year (Prerequisite Advanced Pre-Algebra)
Science 8	Year
World Geography	Year
Physical Education 8	Semester

ELECTIVES

Fine Arts

Art Foundations	Semester
Advanced MS Art	Semester (Prerequisite Art Foundations)
Advanced MS 3-D Design	2 nd Semester – (Prerequisite – Art Foundations)
Advanced Middle School Painting	1 st Semester – (Prerequisite – Art Foundations)
Chorus 7/8	Semester or Year
Band 7/8	Year – (Prerequisite – Prior Band Experience)
Strings 7/8	Year – (Prerequisite – Prior Strings Experience)
Theater I – 7/8	Semester
Theater II – 7/8 - Performance	Semester – (Prerequisite – Theater I)
Stagecraft 7/8	Semester

Computer

Middle School Computer Applications 7/8 -	Semester (Graduation Requirement Course)
Middle School Web Design 7/8	Semester
Robotics 7/8	1 st Semester

History (8th Grade Only)

Contemporary Global Issues	Semester
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World Language

French 1	Year
German 1	Year
Latin 1	Year
Mandarin Chinese 1	Year
Spanish 1	Year
French 2	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of French A)
German 2	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of German A)
Latin 2	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of Latin A)
Mandarin Chinese 2	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of Mandarin Chinese A)
Spanish 2	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of Spanish A)
French 3	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of French B)
German 3	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of German B)
Latin 3	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of Latin B)
Mandarin Chinese 3	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of Mandarin Chinese B)
Spanish 3	Year (Prerequisite—Successful completion of Spanish B)

Science

Engineering The Future 7/8	1 st Semester
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Study Hall

	1 st Semester and/or 2 nd Semester
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COURSE OFFERINGS

6 - 8

REQUIRED COURSES

COURSE OF STUDY - GRADE 6

The sixth grade curriculum consists of daily instruction in the areas of English, Mathematics, History, Science, and Physical Education/Health.

English 6 - Year

Sixth grade English lays a foundation of skills for the cultivation of effective communicators. The responsive, flexible curriculum attends to the needs of students as they study novels, poetry, short stories, and non-fiction selections. Students practice active listening, meaningful reflection, and self-assessment. They learn vocabulary in context, utilize grammar and mechanics as tools of effective and efficient writing, and interact with literature through developing habits of observation and inference. Sixth graders also gain an understanding of the function and makeup of a paragraph and begin to recognize transitions and purpose for multi-paragraph pieces. Audience and purpose shape and motivate the writing process.

Mathematics 6 - Year

The sixth grade math program includes the seven elements that serve as the foundation for the program -- number skills, measurement, geometry, patterns and functions, statistics and probability, logic and algebra -- and their applications in typical, real-world activities of sixth grade students. Special emphasis is placed on problem solving, estimation, mental arithmetic, computational skills, and the use of the calculator. Calculators will be used to enhance problem-solving strategies.

History 6 - Year

The sixth grade history course focuses on the history of selected cultures of the ancient and medieval world. Teachers use student-centered learning and stress skills such as listening, note taking, writing, reading, comprehension, research, organization, map reading and cooperative learning. Students learn to appreciate, understand, and compare early civilizations and world religions.

Science 6 - Year

Sixth grade science is the first part of an integrated, inquiry-based approach to middle school science. An integrated approach to teaching science is one that includes topics from the major domains of science each year of middle school. Inquiry-based methods maximize hands-on experiments by students and questioning strategies by teachers to elicit deep learning. Major units of the sixth grade science curriculum are properties of matter (basic chemistry) and organisms (basic biology). Lessons and activities within each unit meet National Science Education Standards by following curricula written by the National Science Resources Center of the Smithsonian.

Physical Education/Health 6 - Year

The landscape of adolescence is littered with pit falls, challenges and tough decisions that, on a daily basis, try the will of kids and in the process help form skills and habits that will potentially stay with them for life. With this in mind, the course is designed to help educate our students and equip them with the necessary life skills they will need as they grow and mature. Not only will the students explore the benefits of physical activity and sports, but they will also spend time discussing personal safety, tobacco, drugs, alcohol, self-esteem and conflict resolution, nutrition and infectious/noninfectious diseases. The Fitness Gram Test will be administered each semester. At all times, the values of sportsmanship, fair play and hard work will be taught and modeled.

WORLD LANGUAGE ELECTIVES - GRADE 6

The World Language Department is committed to teaching according to the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Proficiency Scale within the modes of communication (Interpersonal Communication, Presentational Speaking, Presentational Writing, Interpretive Listening, and Interpretive Reading). Students will learn to engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions. They will learn to understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics, and they will work to be able to present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics. Students will learn language structures in context and use them to convey meaning. Language structures will be addressed in as much as they serve the communicative task and not as the end goal unto themselves. The core program includes years 1 through 4. Year 5 is a pre-AP course, and Year 6 is an elective-style course that can be taken before or after the AP course. As a requirement for graduation, students must complete two sequential years in the Upper School of one language. There is no World Language requirement for middle school students.

Please note that as French, German, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish are modern languages, their descriptions differ from those of Latin, our classical language offering.

Intro to Latin – Semester *Available to 6th grade students only: This course is for beginning language students who would like to start exploration of the culture surrounding the language as well as preliminary language instruction. Following the adventures of a little mouse, Minimus, students explore the fascinating era of the Romans, a world where the men wear togas, children write on wax tablets, and gladiators entertain in the amphitheater. With a strong emphasis on reading Latin in the context of amusing stories, this class gives students access to a rich tapestry of vocabulary, grammar, and Roman culture. With Minimus as a guide, students also investigate the classical myths and legends essential to Roman literature. There is no pre-requisite for this course.

Intro to German –Semester *Available to 6th grade students only: This course is for beginning language students who would like to start exploration of the culture surrounding the language as well as preliminary language instruction. Basic topics such as greetings and expressions of courtesy, weather, classroom objects, animals, clothing, food and family are taught. Cultural units provide a taste of the art, music, and literature of Germany and the German-speaking world. A geographical unit will help students to understand the relationship of Germany and the German-speaking countries within Europe. The class is also involved in two extended in-class projects—Oktoberfest and Grimm Brothers' fairy tales. There is no prerequisite for this course.

French, German, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish 1 – Year: These courses are for beginning language students working towards achievement of benchmarks for the Novice Mid proficiency level, i.e. becoming able to use short, memorized phrases to express likes and dislikes, exchange information, produce and interpret basic information in written form surrounding familiar topics such as “Who am I?,” “Let’s go shopping!,” “What do you like to do?,” “My family,” and “Let’s Go Out to Eat!” There is no prerequisite for this course.

Latin 1 – Year

This course provides an introduction to the Latin language. The primary text, Cambridge Latin Course, offers dramatic stories set in ancient Pompeii. Through these stories, students will enlarge their vocabulary, hone their reading comprehension skills, learn basic Latin Syntax, and explore cultural aspects of ancient life. There will be a secondary focus on Latin derivatives and cognates in English. There is no prerequisite for this course.

French and Spanish 2 – Year: These courses build upon the foundation set in Year 1 as students work towards achievement of benchmarks for the Novice High proficiency level, i.e. being able to understand information from and produce sentence-length speech in basic personal and social contexts where there is contextual support. Students are able to understand speech dealing with areas of practical need such as highly standardized messages, phrases, or instructions. Themes include: “Going Out,” “Traveling,” “Vacation,” “Activities,” “My Routine,” and “Health.”

Year 2 course prerequisite: Successful completion of the Lower School World Language Program in the corresponding language.

OTHER ELECTIVES - GRADE 6

Art 6 – Semester

Art 6 explores observational drawing and compositional techniques in dry media and collage. Students are introduced to some art history topics and art criticism. With emphases on creativity and craftsmanship, each assignment in Art 6 is simultaneously challenging and fun. Also, the process of self-evaluation begins in this course with the introduction of critique sessions.

Creative Writing (Grade 6) – Semester

In this class, students have the opportunity to work together as writers. They will read works of their own choosing and respond to them creatively. They will write a personal narrative, a short story and a variety of poems. Using the writing process, these young writers will learn to develop their ideas and to accept useful responses from each other as they polish their pieces. The class will become a community of writers who provide an encouraging audience for one another.

Introduction to Engineering – 2nd Semester

This course appeals to the budding scientist entering middle school who wants to develop and hone their problem-solving and project-based skills. It is designed to pique the interests of 6th graders who want a hands-on science experience, and introduce the student to the world of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

Theater 6 – Semester

This course introduces students to the tools and skills needed for successful theatrical performances, including: concentration, observation, imagination, self-confidence, vocal production and expression, physical movement, and collaboration. The basic elements of acting techniques are studied and demonstrated through the performance of scenes and various other dramatic presentations. Students in this course read plays, act in a variety of types of theatrical performances, practice playwriting, assist in creating props, set and other production elements for a PDS production, and engage in games and exercises that teach good performance habits as well as build confidence and encourage positive collaboration. **Special requirement:** Students are required to attend one live theatrical performance produced at PDS during the semester they are in the class.

Chorus 6 – Semester or Year

Students in Chorus 6 study and perform choral literature of various genres. They learn proper vocal technique while learning elements of musical structure and basic music theory. Students are involved in several performances throughout the year. Concert attire for girls in Chorus 6: black dress pants, black shoes, and white shirt. Concert attire for boys in Chorus 6: black dress pants, black shoes, and white dress shirt with PD tie.

Band 6 – Year – (Prerequisite – Prior Band Experience)

Band 6 is for students with approximately one year of music instruction or experience playing a band instrument. Students work in an ensemble setting to explore, rehearse, and perform repertoire written for wind band, to foster an appreciation for a variety of musical styles within the wind band repertoire, to enhance the development of fundamental musical skills in the areas of rhythmic interpretation, technical development, and the reading of musical notation, and to enhance the development of individual performance in the areas of intonation, articulation, balance, and blend. Band 6 performs several times each year. Concert attire for girls in Band 6: black dress pants, black shoes, and white shirt. Concert attire for boys in Band 6: black dress pants, black shoes, and white dress shirt with PD tie.

Strings 6 – Year – (Prerequisite – Prior Strings Experience)

Strings 6 is for students with at least one year instruction on an orchestral stringed instrument. The curriculum reinforces and introduces a variety of technical skills for the performance of string orchestra repertoire. Several performances are planned throughout the year. Students need access to an instrument and method book. Concert attire for girls in Strings 6: black dress pants, black shoes, and white shirt. Concert attire for boys in Strings 6: black dress pants, black shoes, and white dress shirt with PD tie.

Study Hall – 1st Semester and/or 2nd Semester

This class is a supervised, quiet period in which students are expected to work on homework, reading, reports, or projects. This class will meet in the library or teacher's classroom.

COURSE OF STUDY - GRADES 7 - 8

ENGLISH

English (Grade 7) - Year

Seventh grade English emphasizes both written and verbal expression through the study of literature, composition, and writing mechanics. The focus is on writing as a process, emphasizing all steps: invention (prewriting), drafting, and revising. Students are introduced to writing a thesis statement, using textual evidence to support a thesis, and crafting a formal research paper. Mechanics and usage are taught in conjunction with writing instruction. The literature program includes the study of selections ranging from Shakespeare to modern poetry and prose. Organization and responsibility for completing and submitting assignments on time are stressed.

English (Grade 8) - Year

Eighth grade English students learn to synthesize the skills, terms, and concepts to which they have been introduced in English 6 and 7. In this culminating year of middle school, students write analytical essays on several genres of literature, using literary terminology. Students learn to analyze a text independently, and they employ new and familiar concepts in their own descriptive and narrative writing. Grammar lessons treat mechanics and usage as vital elements of clear and effective expression. The ultimate goal is for eighth graders to build a strong sense of self through becoming independent writers and thinkers.

MATHEMATICS

Placement for mathematics in 7th grade is made after careful consideration of the most appropriate level for each individual. Course assignment is based on concept mastery, assessment performance, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendations. Parents will be notified in writing in the spring as to their child's assignment.

Math (Grade 7) - Year

The traditional seventh grade math course emphasizes continuous and recurring practice on the basic mathematical concepts and operations of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. Students work with percentages, ratio and proportion, powers and roots, geometry, graphing, signed numbers and probability. In addition, they explore math study skills, the use of the calculator and problem-solving strategies.

Algebra Topics (Grade 7 or 8) – Year (Department Recommendation Required for 7th Graders)

Algebra Topics reinforces the basic mathematical concepts and serves as an introduction to Algebra. It includes a thorough study of the number system, percents, linear equations and inequalities. Graphing linear equations and inequalities are explored and topics such as geometry are discussed. The application of these topics through problem solving is emphasized. Calculators will be used to strengthen problem-solving strategies. Algebra Topics - a traditional eighth grade course - is offered to seventh grade students whose past performance in class and on standardized tests shows the ability for an accelerated program.

Advanced Pre-Algebra (Grade 7) – Year (Department Recommendation)

Advanced Pre-Algebra is offered to those students whose past record and aptitude in mathematics indicates a readiness for advanced work. This course extends the traditional Pre-Algebra curriculum and includes such enrichment topics as linear functions, polynomials, combinatorics, and probability and statistics. A special emphasis is placed on developing problem-solving skills and using algebra to solve word problems.

Algebra I-8 (Grade 8) – Year (Prerequisite – Algebra Topics 7)

Algebra I is available to those students who have completed Algebra Topics. The principles learned in this course serve as a foundation for the entire sequence of Upper School mathematics courses and emphasize the structure of our number system, algebraic manipulations, and the solution of various equations and inequalities. Topics include algebraic expressions, linear and quadratic equations, systems of equations, inequalities, absolute value, graphing, factoring, rational expressions, radicals and the application of these concepts to word problems. Students will use graphing calculators to discover and reinforce relationships and function concepts and to extend problem-solving strategies.

Advanced Algebra I (Grade 8) – Year (Prerequisite Advanced Pre Algebra)

Advanced Algebra I is similar to Algebra I but puts more emphasis on proofs, applications, and mathematical thinking and reasoning. Topics include algebraic expressions, linear and quadratic equations, systems of equations, inequalities, absolute value, graphing, factoring, rational expressions, and radicals. In addition, there is a strong emphasis on word problems and the development of problem-solving skills. Calculators will be utilized for understanding the graphing of various functions and to strengthen problem-solving techniques.

SCIENCE

Science 7 - Year

Seventh grade science is the second part of an integrated, inquiry-based approach to middle school science. An integrated approach to teaching science is one that includes topics from the major domains of science each year of middle school. Inquiry-based methods maximize hands-on science learning by students. Major units of the seventh grade science curriculum include catastrophic events (earth science) and energy, machines, and motion (basic engineering and physics). Lessons and activities within each unit meet National Science Education Standards by following curricula written by the National Science Resources Center of the Smithsonian.

Science 8 - Year

Eighth grade science is the final part of an integrated, inquiry-based approach to middle school science. An integrated approach to teaching science is one that includes topics from the various domains of science each year of middle school. Inquiry-based methods maximize hands-on science learning by students. Major units of the eighth grade science curriculum include human body systems (basic anatomy and physiology) and electrical energy/circuit design (basic engineering and physics). Lessons and activities within each unit meet National Science Education Standards by following curricula written by the National Science Resources Center of the Smithsonian.

Engineering the Future 7/8 – 1st Semester

This course is designed to introduce students to the world of technology and engineering. Students in 7th and 8th grades will be involved in labs and hands-on activities that promote the concepts of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). Special emphasis is given to engage students in engineering activities which will provide benefits to the local and global community.

HISTORY

United States History 7 - Year

This course provides an in-depth study of issues integral to the formation and development of the United States. By examining major themes and events from the Constitution to civil rights, students gain an understanding of the social, geographic, political, and economic forces that continue to shape our nation and world today. In addition, students learn to relate the past to the present through an ongoing analysis of current events. This course also provides an introduction to study skills and effective thinking methods that may be applied to other disciplines.

World Geography (Grade 8) - Year

The curriculum examines countries, landforms, resources, climates, resources, peoples, cultures, religions, and governmental systems. Students strive to develop an appreciation of diverse cultures, enhance global awareness about political events and physical locations, and understand maps, globes, statistics, and graphs. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, organizational, reading, and study skills.

Contemporary Global Issues (Grade 8 only) – Semester

The goal of this class is to help students think beyond themselves in an ever-changing world. In this course, students investigate selected current events and issues from around the world in depth. Through multiple projects and assignments, the students learn the historical context of the issues and apply that knowledge to the present, allowing them to make predictions and formulate solutions to problems. The teacher chooses the content based on the most interesting and significant current events.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education/Health 7 - Year

In this course students will explore the importance of careful decision-making and the physical impact daily choices have on us. Time is spent on the athletic fields and courts learning the fundamentals, strategies and rules of both individual and team sports and in the classroom discussing health topics. More specifically, the students will study drugs, tobacco, alcohol, stress management, emotional health, nutrition, human growth and development and physical fitness. The Fitness Gram Test will be administered each semester. At all times the values of sportsmanship, fair play and hard work will be taught and modeled.

Physical Education 8 - Semester

This course is designed to build upon the foundation of physical, social, and sports related skills taught in 6th and 7th grade. Beyond this, the students are introduced to the Wellness Center and explore the benefits and demands of varying forms of resistance training. As always, the students assess and work toward improving their level of physical fitness.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Middle School Computer Applications (Grades 7 & 8) – Semester (Graduation Requirement Course)

Students who elect to take this course will receive intensive keyboard training on the computer. The fundamentals of word processing, spreadsheets, desktop publishing, and presentation software will be taught giving the students the necessary background to use the computer to enhance their academic work. With a grade of C or better, this course will satisfy the computer literacy requirement for graduation.

Middle School Web Design (Grades 7 & 8) - Semester

This course will expose students to the power, usefulness and fun of the Internet. Each student will create several HTML projects using a variety of publishing tools. They will learn to use the World Wide Web for research and in turn publish their results in a variety of ways. Further, they will use the input devices available IPAD, digital camera, etc. - to add excitement and interest to their work.

Robotics (Grades 7 & 8) – 1st Semester

Being introduced to applied physics and mathematics concepts, as well as computer programming will have students “thinking out of the box” as they design a robot and learn to program it. They use conditional statements, loops, variables, timers, and sensors. Students will work in teams to solve projects.

WORLD LANGUAGE ELECTIVES

GRADES 7 & 8

The World Language Department is committed to teaching according to the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Proficiency Scale within the modes of communication (Interpersonal Communication, Presentational Speaking, Presentational Writing, Interpretive Listening, and Interpretive Reading). Students will learn to engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions. They will learn to understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics, and they will work to be able to present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics. Students will learn language structures in context and use them to convey meaning. Language structures will be addressed in as much as they serve the communicative task and not as the end goal unto themselves. The core program includes years 1 through 4. Year 5 is a pre-AP course, and Year 6 is an elective-style course that can be taken before or after the AP course. As a requirement for graduation, students must complete two sequential years in the Upper School of one language. There is no World Language requirement for Middle School students.

Please note that as French, German, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish are modern languages, their descriptions differ from those of Latin, our classical language offering.

French, German, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish 1 – Year:

These courses are for beginning language students working towards achievement of benchmarks for the Novice Mid proficiency level, i.e. becoming able to use short, memorized phrases to express likes and dislikes, exchange information, produce and interpret basic information in written form surrounding familiar topics such as “Who am I?,” “Let’s go shopping!,” “What do you like to do?,” “My family,” and “Let’s Go Out to Eat!”

There is no prerequisite to register for this course.

Latin 1 – Year

This course provides an introduction to the Latin language. The primary text, Cambridge Latin Course, offers dramatic stories set in ancient Pompeii. Through these stories, students will enlarge their vocabulary, hone their reading comprehension skills, learn basic Latin Syntax, and explore cultural aspects of ancient life. There will be a secondary focus on Latin derivatives and cognates in English.

There is no prerequisite for this course.

French, German, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish 2 – Year: These courses build upon the foundation set in Year 1 as students work towards achievement of benchmarks for the Novice High proficiency level, i.e. being able to understand information from and produce sentence-length speech in basic personal and social contexts where there is contextual support. Students are able to understand speech dealing with areas of practical need such as highly standardized messages, phrases, or instructions. Themes include: “Going Out,” “Traveling,” “Vacation,” “Activities,” “My Routine,” and “Health.”

Year 2 course prerequisite: Successful completion of Level A.

Latin 2 – Year

Students travel from one end of the Roman Empire to the other by reading Latin stories set in the unruly, newly-formed province of Britannia to the exotic, cultured world of Egyptian Alexandria. Students strengthen their Latin vocabulary base and their knowledge of grammar concepts through increasingly complex sentence structure.

Latin 2 Prerequisite: Successful completion of Latin A.

French, German, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish 3 – Year: These courses build upon the foundation set in Year 2 as students work towards achievement of benchmarks for the Intermediate Low proficiency level, i.e. being able to handle successfully a limited number of uncomplicated communicative tasks by creating with the language in straightforward social situations, restricted to the concrete exchanges and predictable topics necessary for survival in the target-language culture. Speakers at this level can express personal meaning by combining and recombining what they know and what they hear into short statements and discrete sentences.

Intermediate Low speakers can generally be understood by sympathetic listeners, particularly by those accustomed to dealing with non-natives.

Year 3 course prerequisite: Successful completion of Level B.

Latin 3 – Year

Latin 3 includes a review of elementary grammar and vocabulary and introduces new participles, infinitives, deponent verbs, and several uses of the subjunctive mood. The development of high reading proficiency is the primary emphasis of this course. The reading selections and culture studies explore military and civilian life during the first century, A. D.

Latin 3 prerequisite: Successful completion of Latin B.

World Language courses are year courses and cannot be dropped after the drop/add period ends.

OTHER ELECTIVES (GRADES 7 - 8)

Art Foundations (Grades 7 & 8) - Semester

This course is exploratory in nature. The objectives of the instruction are in the major areas of painting and drawing, three-dimensional work, design, and print-making, with emphasis on drawing skills. Students may take this course only once.

Advanced Middle School Art (Grades 7 & 8) – Semester

The experienced middle school artist demonstrates originality and creativity in all assignments. Imagination, manipulation of media, and effective self-evaluation are vital parts of this course. Students verbally discuss their work and those of their classmates in critique sessions. Major units of study include drawing, painting, clay hand building, and printmaking techniques and processes. Students may enroll in this course only once in middle school. Several art projects include art historical references.

Advanced Middle School Painting (Grade 8 Only) (Prerequisite – Art Foundations) – 1st Semester

While exploring various painting techniques and processes, major units of study in this course include acrylic, watercolor, and mixed media. Student work is created on a variety of materials including canvas, paper, and wood panels. All assignments integrate art historical references including contemporary art and artists from diverse cultures.

Advanced Middle School 3-D Design (Grades 7 & 8) (Prerequisite – Art Foundations) – 2nd Semester

Student-artists explore various three-dimensional art media, techniques, and processes. This course challenges students to creatively solve three-dimensional assignments in a variety of media including wire, paper-mache, and clay. At least one assignment will be collaborative. Projects integrate art historical references including contemporary art and artists from diverse cultures.

Chorus 7/8 – Semester or Year

Students in Chorus 7/8 study and perform choral literature of various genres. They learn proper vocal technique while learning elements of musical structure and basic music theory. Students are involved in several performances throughout the year. Concert attire for girls in Chorus 7/8: black dress pants, black shoes, and white shirt. Concert attire for boys in Chorus 7/8: black dress pants, black shoes, and white dress shirt with PD tie.

Band (Grades 7/8) – Year – (Prerequisite – Prior Band Experience)

Band 7/8 is for students with approximately one year of music instruction or experience playing a band instrument. Students work in an ensemble setting to explore, rehearse, and perform repertoire written for wind band, to foster an appreciation for a variety of musical styles within the wind band repertoire, to enhance the development of fundamental musical skills in the areas of rhythmic interpretation, technical development, and the reading of musical notation, and to enhance the development of individual performance in the areas of intonation, articulation, balance, and blend. Band 6 performs several times each year. Concert attire for girls in Band 7/8: black dress pants, black shoes, and white shirt. Concert attire for boys in Band 7/8: black dress pants, black shoes, and white dress shirt with PD tie.

Strings (Grades 7/8) – Year – (Prerequisite – Prior Strings Experience)

Strings 7/8 is designed for students with more than one year's instruction on a stringed orchestral instrument. Students rehearse and perform a variety of intermediate and advanced repertoire, as they continue to refine musical and technical skills. Several performances, including off-campus trips are planned throughout the year. Concert attire for girls in Strings 7/8: black dress pants, black shoes, and white shirt. Concert attire for boys in Strings 7/8: black dress pants, black shoes, and white dress shirt with PD tie.

Theater I – 7/8 – Semester

The curriculum for this course builds on the basics introduced in Theater 6 and focuses primarily on modern performance. The techniques and mechanics of acting are studied, including vocal production and exploring physicality and character psychology. Students interpret and analyze plays, concentrating on characters and their portrayal. Scenes and other dramatic presentations are produced. Some of the units in this course include pantomime, improvisation, stage combat, character analysis, monologues, duet scenes, and musical theater. A final showcase is produced at the end of the semester. **Special requirement:** Students are required to attend one live theatrical performance produced at PDS during the semester they are in the class.

Theater II – 7/8 Performance - Semester – (Prerequisite – Theater I)

The students in this course review the acting techniques and stage conventions learned in Theater 6 and Theater 7/8 I. They use this foundation to aid them in mounting a one-act play. Students are involved in every aspect of the rehearsal process and essential steps in play production, including: acting, creating props, costumes, and set pieces, and are involved in sound and lighting choices. The students travel with this show and perform it as part of a one-act play competition in addition to performing it for an audience at PDS. **Special requirement:** Students are required to attend one live theatrical performance produced at PDS during the semester they are in the class. They are also required to attend a minimum of one week's rehearsal after school. Participation in the one-act competition is not optional, so students must be available the weekend of the competition.

Stagecraft – 7/8 – Semester

This course is an introduction to the mechanisms and personnel involved in the art of live theater. The basic elements involved in the production of a live performance will be presented, discussed, demonstrated, and examined. The students will actively participate in all aspects of design including costume, makeup, sound, lighting, and set design. They will help create props and dress the set for a PDS production, as well as help publicize it. **Special requirement:** Students are required to attend one live theatrical performance produced at PDS during the semester they are in the class. (Semester)

Study Hall – 1st Semester and/or 2nd Semester

This class is a supervised, quiet period in which students are expected to work on homework, projects, reports, or reading. This class will meet in the library or the teacher's classroom.