



# AESA Prep Academy

## Middle School Course Catalog



2024-2025

AESA Prep Academy

Private College Prep School  
K-12





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

## **ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS: 3**

---

MATHEMATICS:	3
SCIENCE:	3
ENGLISH:	3
SOCIAL STUDIES:	3
GLOBAL LANGUAGES:	3

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL CORE ACADEMIC COURSES 4**

---

<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	<b>4</b>
MATH 6 (1 CREDIT)	4
MATH 7 (1 CREDIT)	4
MATH 8 (1 CREDIT)	4
8TH GRADE ALGEBRA I FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT (1 CREDIT)	4
<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>5</b>
SCIENCE 6 - EARTH SCIENCE (1 CREDIT)	5
SCIENCE 7 - LIFE SCIENCE (1 CREDIT)	5
SCIENCE 8 – PHYSICAL SCIENCE (1 CREDIT)	5
<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>6</b>
ENGLISH 6 (1 CREDIT)	6
READING 6 (1 CREDIT)	6
ENGLISH 7 (1 CREDIT)	6
READING 7 (1 CREDIT)	7
ENGLISH 8 (1 CREDIT)	7
<b>HISTORY</b>	<b>8</b>
HISTORY 6 - WORLD GEOGRAPHY (1 CREDIT)	8
HISTORY 7 - TEXAS HISTORY (1 CREDIT)	8
HISTORY 8 – U.S. HISTORY (1 CREDIT)	8
<b>GLOBAL LANGUAGES</b>	<b>9</b>
MS SPANISH 1 (1 CREDIT)	9
MS SPANISH 2 (1 CREDIT)	9
MS SPANISH 3 (1 CREDIT)	9
MIDDLEBURY MS FRENCH 1 (1 CREDIT)	10
MIDDLEBURY MS FRENCH 2 (1 CREDIT)	10
MIDDLEBURY MS FRENCH LEVEL 3 (1 CREDIT)	10
MIDDLEBURY MS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 1 (1 CREDIT)	10
MIDDLEBURY MS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 2 (1 CREDIT)	11
MIDDLEBURY MS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 3 (1 CREDIT)	11

**FINE ARTS****12**

VISUAL ARTS (.5 CREDIT)

12

PERFORMANCE ARTS (.5 CREDIT)

12

TEXTILE ARTS (.5 CREDIT)

12

DESIGN ARTS (.5 CREDIT)

12

MS INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC THEORY (.5 CREDIT)

13

**HEALTH | SCIENCE | P.E.****14**

MS HEALTH (1 CREDIT)

14

MS MARINE BIOLOGY (1 CREDIT)

14

MS ENGINEERING (1 CREDIT)

14

MS BUILDING AND CODING (.5 CREDIT)

14

MS LEGO MECHANISMS (.5 CREDIT)

14

MATHEMATICS AND MYSTERY (.5 CREDIT)

15

MS PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1, 2, &amp; 3 (1 CREDIT EACH)

15

MS YOGA 1, 2, &amp; 3 (1 CREDIT EACH)

15

MS SAND VOLLEYBALL (1 CREDIT)

15

**COMMUNICATION & LITERATURE****16**

MS DEBATE 1 &amp; 2 (1 CREDIT EACH)

16

MS SPEECH 1 &amp; 2 (1 CREDIT EACH)

16

MS CREATIVE WRITING PLUS (.5 CREDIT)

16

MYTHOLOGY (.5 CREDIT)

16

**MS TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES****17**

MS COMPUTER SCIENCE (1 CREDIT EACH)

17

MS ESPORTS AND DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP (1 CREDIT EACH) (7TH AND 8TH GRADE)

17

**CULINARY ELECTIVES****18**

MS FARM TO TABLE CULINARY PROGRAM: NOURISHING BODY, MIND, AND SOUL (.5 CREDIT)

18

# ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS:

---

**MATHEMATICS:** Our mathematics curriculum satisfies the *National Principles and Standards for Mathematics*, developed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

**SCIENCE:** Our science curriculum satisfies the *Next Generation Science Standards*, developed by the National Science Teachers Association.

**ENGLISH:** Our English curriculum satisfies the *Standards for the English Language Arts*, developed by the National Council of Teachers of English.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** Our social studies curriculum satisfies the *National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies*, developed by the National Council for Social Studies.

**GLOBAL LANGUAGES:** The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages: The council is the only national

organization dedicated to the improvement and expansion of the teaching and learning of all languages at all levels of instruction throughout the United States.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL CORE ACADEMIC COURSES

---

## MATHEMATICS

---

### MATH 6 (1 CREDIT)

---

This two semester one credit course covers addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, mixed numbers and integers. Students will learn to solve for unknown numbers using these functions. Percents, proportions, and algebraic logic will be covered. Area, perimeter, surface area, coordinate planes, and different types of graphs are learned.

---

### MATH 7 (1 CREDIT)

---

This two semester one credit course teaches mathematics as a step-by-step process, including adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals and fractions. Also covers pre-algebraic expressions and equations, number theory, and geometry.

---

### MATH 8 (1 CREDIT)

---

An introductory course covering basic concepts in preparation for Algebra I. Includes adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing whole numbers, decimals, fractions, mixed numbers, and integers. Also, manipulating place value and powers of 10; estimating sums, differences, products, and quotients. Teaches identification of angles and triangles, and use of scientific notation.

---

### 8TH GRADE ALGEBRA I FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT (1 CREDIT)

---

This one-year college preparatory course will help students to view algebra not only as a theoretical tool for analyzing and describing mathematical relationships, but they will also experience the power of algebraic thinking in a context of applications by studying the mathematical modeling of real world problems. In the first semester of Algebra I, students are introduced to functions, using tables and graphs, multiple representations of functions, exploring linear functions, rate of change, the parent function, writing rules, connecting functions to equations and inequalities, using commutative, associative, and distributive properties to simplify expressions, solving simple equations with manipulatives and symbols, solving equations of the Form  $kx + c = b$  and  $kx + c = mx + b$ , looking closer at inequalities and comparing notations and methods. The second semester of Algebra I introduces students to systems of linear equation, solving systems using graphs and tables, solving systems by symbolic methods, area and perimeter functions, the parent function multiplied by a constant, adding and subtracting a constant, multiple changes to the parent function, binomial operations, modeling with quadratic functions, solving quadratic equations, graphs of exponential functions, and modeling inverse variation data. Algebra 1 is designed for 9th grade students but occasionally 7th and 8th grade students are prepared for this level of math course.

Textbook: Larson Algebra 1, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.  
ISBN: 978-0-547-64713-5

# SCIENCE

---

---

## SCIENCE 6 - EARTH SCIENCE (1 CREDIT)

---

Science 6 focuses on six units including light, matter, thermal energy, weather, climate, water cycling, plate tectonics, rock cycling, natural hazards, cells, and systems. Our primary curriculum uses a storyline approach in which students are presented with puzzling phenomena that elicit a variety of questions that motivate the learning in the unit. Phenomena are used to anchor the unit storyline and inspire the development of target disciplinary core ideas, crosscutting concepts, and science and engineering practices. These anchoring phenomena draw students into the storyline by presenting the natural challenge of explaining something or solving a problem. Other phenomena may be introduced at key points in a storyline to maintain interest or push students to delve more deeply. A variety of hands-on, inquiry-based activities, simulations, and experiments are employed.

Textbook: OpenSciEd Science Grade 6 curriculum

---

## SCIENCE 7 - LIFE SCIENCE (1 CREDIT)

---

T Science 7 focuses on six units which build on our units from Science 6. These units include chemical reactions and matter, chemical reactions and energy, metabolic reactions, matter cycling and photosynthesis, ecosystem dynamics, biodiversity, Earth's resources, and human impact. Additional phenomena and complementary topics will be added as time allows. Our primary curriculum is phenomena-based, problem-solving, and driven by student questions. The phenomena investigations are grounded in evidence and use a collaborative, equitable approach. A variety of hands-on, inquiry-based activities, simulations, and experiments are employed.

Textbook: OpenSciEd Science Grade 7 curriculum

---

## SCIENCE 8 – PHYSICAL SCIENCE (1 CREDIT)

---

This course builds on previous knowledge while examining six new units. These units include contact forces, sound waves, forces at a distance, Earth in space, genetics, common ancestry, and natural selection. Additional phenomena and complementary topics will be added as time allows. Units are designed for students to fully explore an anchoring phenomenon and follow a coherent, sequenced storyline to support three-dimensional learning. Each lesson set advances the storyline by investigating one aspect of the anchoring phenomenon through an inquiry cycle. Students ask driving questions and help determine the learning investigations. Students use a variety of hands-on lab activities and simulations to collect data and draw conclusions to prove or disprove claims.

Textbook: OpenSciEd Science 8 curriculum

# ENGLISH

---

## ENGLISH 6 (1 CREDIT)

---

Middle school students will be introduced to the study and organizational skills necessary to build a foundation for success in secondary education. Vocabulary skills are strengthened through weekly reviews and quizzes in the grade 6 Wordly Wise vocabulary workbook. Students will learn the building blocks of the writing process through writing narrative, persuasive, and expository paragraphs, which will be developed into full five-paragraph essays. Enhanced writing skills will be introduced through the Razzle Dazzle writing workbook. Grammar and punctuation skills will be developed as well through weekly instruction and practice.

---

## READING 6 (1 CREDIT)

---

The goal of this course is to produce thoughtful and skilled readers through various literature and informational texts. These texts will include a variety of genres including novels, short stories, poetry, nonfiction, and expository works. A structured literacy teaching model is used that aligns with the evidence presented in the Science of Reading, which emphasizes the systematic and explicit teaching of literacy components. Knowledge and skills covered include reading comprehension, reading fluency, literary analysis, and vocabulary. Students will spend time on essential strategies including analyzing, making inferences, drawing conclusions, interpreting, and summarizing. This class combined with English 6 also aids in the development of the reading/writing connection and strengthens a student's content area reading skills that are necessary in their other core classes. This class serves as a transitional bridge in reading instruction for sixth graders as they leave elementary and enter middle school.

---

## ENGLISH 7 (1 CREDIT)

---

Vocabulary skills are strengthened through weekly reviews and quizzes in the grade 7 Wordly Wise vocabulary workbook. Students will demonstrate proficiency of the writing process through narrative, persuasive, and expository writing in five-paragraph essays incorporating vocabulary words into their writing. Grammar and punctuation skills will be developed as well through weekly instruction and practice.



---

## READING 7 (1 CREDIT)

---

The goal of this course is to produce thoughtful and skilled readers through various literature and informational texts. These texts will include a variety of genres including novels, short stories, poetry, nonfiction, and expository works. A structured literacy teaching model is used that aligns with the evidence presented in the Science of Reading, which emphasizes the systematic and explicit teaching of literacy components. Knowledge and skills covered include reading comprehension, reading fluency, literary analysis, and vocabulary. Students will spend time on essential strategies including analyzing, making inferences, drawing conclusions, interpreting, and summarizing. This class combined with English 7 also aids in the development of the reading/writing connection and prepares students for the content area reading necessary in their other core classes. These seventh graders will be refining their higher-level reading skills as they transition to the ELAR comprehensive English 8.

---

## ENGLISH 8 (1 CREDIT)

---

This course is an introductory survey of literature, with an emphasis on reading, writing, and analytical skills with relevant study of the author's lives. Students utilize critical thinking skills to analyze and interpret reading selections from specific periods, diverse cultures, and various genres of literature including fiction, non-fiction, short stories, novels, and poetry. Vocabulary skills are strengthened through weekly reviews and quizzes in the grade 8 Wordly Wise vocabulary workbook. Students will demonstrate proficiency of the writing process through narrative, persuasive, and expository writing with an introduction to research writing. Grammar and punctuation skills will be developed as well through weekly instruction and practice.

# HISTORY

---

---

## HISTORY 6 - WORLD GEOGRAPHY (1 CREDIT)

---

Sixth Grade's World Geography course will serve as a foundational course for following World Geography and History courses. This course is taught using inquiry-based methods. Students are presented with real-world social scenarios and are encouraged to ask many different questions. With their skills and knowledge about the 5-Themes of Geography, students will locate and describe absolute and relative locations; identify different types of landforms and bodies of water; analyze movements of migration; and interpret historical events that have shaped different continents and nations due to human-environment interaction. To guide their research, students will utilize primary and secondary sources and other impertinent resources to develop and refine their creative and critical thinking skills.

---

---

## HISTORY 7 - TEXAS HISTORY (1 CREDIT)

---

In Texas History, students will learn about various people groups who have lived in Texas and historical events that have shaped the Texas we know of and live in today. Utilizing inquiry-based methods, students will be presented with real-world social scenarios in the ever-changing contexts of the society and land of Texas. Students will engage and interact with primary sources and secondary sources to guide their critical thinking skills to ask many different questions as they research and analyze the evolution of Texas as a Republic and the 28th state of the U.S. Students will be expected to produce creative projects retelling the stories of Texas History from their lens of research and understanding.

---

---

## HISTORY 8 – U.S. HISTORY (1 CREDIT)

---

Eighth Grade American/U.S. History course will explore the historical timeline of America's earliest beginnings starting with indigenous people groups to the end of Reconstruction in 1877. Topics include theories of where and when indigenous groups may have arrived in the Americas; the push/pull factors for European colonialism; the fight for America's Independence; creation of the U.S. Constitution; expansion westward, which leads to sectionalism and the Civil War; and the Reconstruction period. To better understand the connection between America's past to America's present, this course will be taught using inquiry-based methods. Utilizing a variety of primary and secondary sources, students will sharpen their critical thinking skills to evaluate, analyze, create, and articulate their creative perspectives on how America's history impacts America today.

# GLOBAL LANGUAGES

---

## MS SPANISH 1 (1 CREDIT)

---

This fun, interactive course for middle school students is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking, and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices that reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations, and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

## MS SPANISH 2 (1 CREDIT)

---

Students continue their language learning adventure by progressing to the next level of middle school Spanish. Throughout the course students focus on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking, and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations, and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

## MS SPANISH 3 (1 CREDIT)

---

This dynamic and engaging Spanish 3 course is designed for middle school students looking to deepen their understanding and proficiency in Spanish. Building on the foundation established in Spanish 2, this course delves deeper into the four essential areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It offers an optimal mix of language learning methodologies and digital learning experiences. Each unit introduces advanced vocabulary themes and grammatical concepts, alongside reading and listening comprehension activities, enhanced speaking and writing tasks, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities to reinforce vocabulary and grammar mastery.

A pronounced emphasis is placed on contextualizing language concepts and providing conversational examples that students can relate to and use. Students will be encouraged to engage actively in their language learning journey, expanding their vocabulary, mastering more complex grammar structures, participating in detailed conversations, and responding to conversational prompts with increased confidence. They will analyze and compare the cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries more critically. The course also includes frequent assessments to monitor students' progress and ensure language proficiency.

Designed to challenge and inspire students, Spanish 3 has been meticulously aligned with the national standards set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages), preparing students not just for academic success, but for real-world Spanish communication.

---

## MIDDLEBURY MS FRENCH 1 (1 CREDIT)

---

This fun, interactive course for middle school students is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. Students begin their introduction to French by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking, and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations, and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze, and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various French-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

---

## MIDDLEBURY MS FRENCH 2 (1 CREDIT)

---

Students continue their introduction to French by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking, and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations, and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze, and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various French-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

---

## MIDDLEBURY MS FRENCH LEVEL 3 (1 CREDIT)

---

Students continue their language-learning adventure by progressing to this next level of middle school French. Students expand their introduction to French through focus on four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking, and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate simple conversations, and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products and perspectives of various French speaking countries and take frequent assessments to monitor language progression. The course has been aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

---

## MIDDLEBURY MS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 1 (1 CREDIT)

---

This course is designed for students with no knowledge of, or with a weak background in Chinese. An introduction to basic pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and development of communication skills in Chinese. Students will use a variety of authentic text and media resources to acquire and enhance linguistic skills.

---

## MIDDLEBURY MS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 2 (1 CREDIT)

---

In this course, students are expected to be able to engage in basic daily conversation, read simple texts as well as write for daily needs in Pinyin. Accurate pronunciation, tones and grammatical expression are the main focus. The introduction of more advanced grammatical structures and a variety of authentic text and multimedia resources will enhance the students' linguistic skills and sociocultural awareness of the Chinese speaking world.

---

## MIDDLEBURY MS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 3 (1 CREDIT)

---

This course is focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning and ready for HS Mandarin Chinese Level 2. It consists of a lot of reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

---

Please note, new courses are always being created for students depending upon their interests from year to year. Four students is the minimum number for an elective course to be able to make. During course selection students will rank their top three favorite courses.

## FINE ARTS

---

### VISUAL ARTS (.5 CREDIT)

---

In this one-semester course, middle school students will have an introduction to secondary visual arts. Some areas of visual art studies are drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and photography. Students may also participate in critiques of work, art historical works, and dialogues about art. Students learn how visual arts can be a form of personal expression through exercises and dimensional projects that encourage creativity and skill building. Students who are 13 years or older will have the opportunity to create pieces for the Scholastic Arts competition in the fall semester.

### PERFORMANCE ARTS (.5 CREDIT)

---

In this one-semester course, middle school students will have an introduction to secondary performing arts. Some areas of performing arts studies are theater, film, stage crafts, musical theater, comedy, puppetry, and spoken word. Students may also participate in critiques, history, and dialogue of theatrical and film performances. Field trips to have an audience with live performances are also possible, along with the production of their works in front of a school audience.

### TEXTILE ARTS (.5 CREDIT)

---

In this one-semester course, middle school students will have an introduction to secondary textile arts. Some areas of textile arts studies are sewing, weaving, embroidery, quilting, knitting, and crocheting. Textile art, also known as fiber art, is a form of art that uses textiles and fibers to create unique pieces. Some benefits of studying textile design include: nurturing the ability to solve problems, developing numeracy, increasing fine motor skills, and developing critical and creative thinking skills. Students may also study the history of textile arts and specific artists and designers. Students who are 13 years or older will have the opportunity to create pieces for the Scholastic Arts competition in the fall semester.

### DESIGN ARTS (.5 CREDIT)

---

In this one-semester course, middle school students will have an introduction to secondary design arts. Some areas of design art studies are fashion design, architectural design, interior design, floral design, and graphic design. Students will explore the basic elements of these genres and the “high art” principles that apply to these “low art” mediums. They will have an opportunity to create their works and will also study a brief history and works of professional design artists. This course emphasis will be adapted to the interests of the students in the class.

---

## MS INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC THEORY (.5 CREDIT)

---

This course serves as an engaging and comprehensive introduction to the fundamental principles of music theory. Students will develop an understanding of music, its structure, and its expressive capabilities. Emphasizing active participation and hands-on learning, this course aims to cultivate students' musical literacy, critical listening skills, and creativity.

In addition to theoretical instruction, students will engage in practical exercises designed to reinforce concepts learned in class. These exercises may include singing intervals and melodies, playing basic melodies on a keyboard or other instruments, and composing short musical phrases. By actively engaging with musical concepts, students will deepen their understanding and appreciation of music as an art form and a means of expression.

Throughout the course, students will also explore the historical and cultural context of music, gaining insight into how musical styles and conventions have evolved over time and across different cultures. By studying a diverse range of musical examples from various genres and traditions, students will develop a broader perspective on the role of music in society and its significance as a universal language.

## MS HEALTH (1 CREDIT)

---

MS Health will educate students on how to shape their behavior in ways that will keep them healthy and happy. Students will learn appropriate and positive social and behavioral skills that will enhance their lives in a positive way. Students will be introduced to different body systems, First Aid/CPR, family dynamics, social issues, and age appropriate issues. Students will also watch various documentaries that involve emotional, physical, and nutrition wellness. By the end of this course, students will

understand basic health principles. The goal of this course is for students to develop the skills necessary to manage stress healthfully and enhance the quality of their personal, family, and community life.

---

## MS MARINE BIOLOGY (1 CREDIT)

---

Students will learn about the physical structure of the ocean, including the zones, floor structure and shorelines. The class also examines the diversity of ocean life, marine ecology, and the scope and impact of human interactions with the oceans. Students will do numerous hands-on activities and in depth projects. Topics include::

Marine Reptiles and Birds; Marine Algae and Plant Life; Marine Fishes; The Microbial Ocean; Fishing and Fisheries; Marine Invertebrates; The World Ocean; Marine Mammals; Human Impact of the Ocean and more.

---

## MS ENGINEERING (1 CREDIT)

---

This course provides a comprehensive overview of engineering principles. Students will delve into topics such as energy forms, Newton's laws of motion, simple machine mechanics, bridge types, materials properties, tool safety, and basic drafting skills including isometric and orthographic drawing. Through hands-on activities, projects, and multimedia resources, students will develop a foundational understanding of basic engineering principles and their practical applications.

---

## MS BUILDING AND CODING (.5 CREDIT)

---

This course offers a hands-on exploration of robotics using Arduino, a popular microcontroller platform. Students will learn the basics of robotics and mechanics while gaining practical experience in using motors, infrared sensors, and Arduino programming language. Using a robotics building kit, students will assemble various robots such as trucks, line followers, bugs, and Sumo bots.

---

## MS LEGO MECHANISMS (.5 CREDIT)

---

This course introduces students to basic, essential concepts in mechanical engineering through hands-on exploration with LEGO bricks. Topics include simple machines, speed, torque, power, friction, and efficiency. Vehicular concepts including driveshafts, drivetrains, steering, and weight distribution will be covered. Additionally, students will learn about custom mechanical solutions and strategies for reinforcing structures. Gain valuable skills applicable to both LEGO construction and robotics engineering.

---



---

## MATHEMATICS AND MYSTERY (.5 CREDIT)

---

In this class, students will develop their quantitative and spatial reasoning skills through play, creation, and recreation. We will introduce students to the mathematical structures and principles at play in many puzzles, drawings, architecture, and design. While doing so, we will provide students with challenges that will develop their creative problem-solving skills: the course will involve a mixture of analytical and creative thinking skills. Given the wide range of possible topics as well as the differing interests and aptitudes students bring to a course like this, they will be given some autonomy in choosing their assignments and projects.

---

## MS PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1, 2, & 3 (1 CREDIT EACH)

---

This course offers students the opportunity to learn fitness principles, basic sports skills and knowledge through a planned education program aligned with SHAPE America's National Standards & Grade-Level Outcomes for K-12 Physical Education. This course provides opportunities to develop competency in life-long recreational and outdoor pursuits for enjoyment and challenge. Students will participate in activities to improve psychological and sociological concepts that promote self-responsibility, positive social interaction, and group dynamics. Units of activity include cooperative activities and strategies applied in modified games of: volleyball, flag football, soccer, basketball, team handball, ultimate frisbee, frisbee golf, pickleball, tennis, wiffle ball, kick ball, capture the flag, fitness activities, rhythmic activities, and innovative games.

---

## MS YOGA 1, 2, & 3 (1 CREDIT EACH)

---

Course Objective: In this course students will move their body slowly and deliberately into different poses that challenge their strength and flexibility, while at the same time focusing on relaxation and mindfulness. This course will aid in balance, flexibility, breath, core strength and meditation. Each class will conclude with a short time of meditation and mindful reentry into the day, to calm and center the body and mind.

Yoga mats are available and students are welcome and encouraged to bring their own

---

## MS SAND VOLLEYBALL (1 CREDIT)

---

Learn all 6 volleyball skills and strategies for doubles sand volleyball. Train with a national champion and USA High-Performance Volleyball coach, Kurt Hausheer.

# COMMUNICATION & LITERATURE

---

## MS DEBATE 1 & 2 (1 CREDIT EACH)

---

These courses provide instruction and practice in the art of public speaking, with an emphasis on debate. Most of the course focuses on learning two debate styles. Middle School Public Debate Program (MSPDP), a nationally recognized program, and a modified Lincoln-Douglass debate. Each week the students will be expected to research and write up their debate points with credible cited sources. Students are taught case-writing, rebuttals, cross-examination skills, analytical thinking, and political and moral philosophy. Students will utilize instruction by their teacher, in-class notes, handouts, and websites as well as conduct their own independent research in libraries and on the internet to advance their study of debate.

---

## MS SPEECH 1 & 2 (1 CREDIT EACH)

---

Students will examine the communication process, interpersonal communication, group communication, and public speaking. Students will identify, analyze, develop and evaluate communication skills needed for professional and social success in interpersonal situations, group interactions, and personal and service components to this course. Students will be required to give oral presentations.

---

## MS CREATIVE WRITING PLUS (.5 CREDIT)

---

Calling all aspiring authors! This is an introductory course to creative writing in different genres from fiction to nonfiction, poetry, and journalism. Students will read many different samples of great literature including thriller, mystery, and fantasy to learn the style and mechanics of effective writing. Students will write, peer edit, and read to their peers their poetry, essays, and creative fiction and non-fiction to fine-tune their skills and voice as writers. Many of our students will submit their pieces to The Aussie for publication to be shared with the AESA student body.

---

## MYTHOLOGY (.5 CREDIT)

---

Mythology explores the beliefs, cultures, and history of ancient societies from around the world to gain knowledge beneficial to the academic disciplines of literature, philosophy, art, comparative religion, science, anthropology, archeology, and psychology. In this course, students will:

- Interpret myths for their sociological, philosophical, and historical significance.
- Identify various universal archetypes, themes, symbols, and motifs found in myths.
- Analyze the cultural significance and relevance of important ancient stories (including The Iliad, The Odyssey, The Epic of Gilgamesh, the Poetic and Prose Eddas, and other texts).
- Develop a greater knowledge of the world cultures (including Greco-Roman, Norse, Judeo-Christian, Celtic, Mesoamerican, Native American, and Babylonian).
- Improve their communication skills through many classroom discussions, multimedia presentations, and speeches

# MS TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

---

## MS COMPUTER SCIENCE (1 CREDIT EACH)

---

Computer Science I will foster students' creativity and innovation by presenting opportunities to design, implement, and present meaningful programs through a variety of media. Students will collaborate with one another, their instructor, and various electronic communities to solve the problems presented throughout the course. Through data analysis, students will identify task requirements, plan search strategies, and use computer science concepts to access, analyze, and evaluate information needed to solve problems. By using computer science knowledge and skills that support the work of individuals and groups in solving problems, students will select the technology appropriate for the task, synthesize knowledge, create solutions, and evaluate the results. Students will learn digital citizenship by researching current laws and regulations and by practicing integrity and respect. Students will gain an understanding of the principles of computer science through the study of technology operations, systems, and concepts.

---

## MS ESPORTS AND DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP (1 CREDIT EACH) (7TH AND 8TH GRADE)

---

In this class students will be preparing for after-school eSports competitions in the PlayVS Texas League. During the week students will spend time practicing their game with their classmates, watching match replays, and reviewing professional players' footage to learn and improve at their game. PlayVS League competitions take place outside of the class, after-school, for a separate fee. Games included in this league are Super Smash Bros Ultimate, Splatoon 3, and we're always exploring new and emerging competitive games for the future! In extension to this eSports class, we will have time set aside each week to discuss

**Digital Health.** The curriculum is provided by CommonSenseMedia.org and takes students through a variety of topics including: Media Balance & Well-being, Privacy & security, Digital Footprint & Identity, Relationships & Communication, Cyberbullying, Digital Drama, Hate Speech, and News & Media Literacy. There are also weekly discussions about current technology trends and making students aware of the decisions they will need to make concerning emerging technology use in society and in their own personal lives. A separate fee is required for joining the PlayVS league that competes after-school. Game consoles/systems are generally NOT required for some of the competitive games offered. List of competitive games will be made available at the start of each school year. The council is the only national organization dedicated to the improvement and expansion of the teaching and learning of all languages at all levels of instruction throughout the United States.

More information: <https://www.playvs.com>

# CULINARY ELECTIVES

---

## MS FARM TO TABLE CULINARY PROGRAM: NOURISHING BODY, MIND, AND SOUL (.5 CREDIT)

---

In this immersive farm-to-table culinary program, we embark on a holistic journey of nourishment, incorporating gardening, harvesting, menu planning, and culinary exploration to foster a deeper connection with food and wellness.

Led by a passionate chef with a personal journey rooted in transforming his relationship with food, this program is a testament to the transformative power of clean eating and culinary exploration. We begin by cultivating our ingredients through hands-on gardening and harvesting experiences, learning about the seasons, soil health, and sustainable farming practices. As we tend to our gardens, we deepen our appreciation for the natural world and the interconnectedness of food and ecology.

With our freshly harvested produce as our inspiration, we engage in thoughtful menu planning, exploring diverse cuisines and culinary traditions from around the globe. Emphasizing seasonal ingredients and creative flavor combinations, we learn how to craft balanced and nutritious meals that celebrate the bounty of the earth. Through collaborative menu planning sessions, students will have the opportunity to contribute their ideas and preferences, ensuring that every meal reflects the collective wisdom and diversity of our community.

At the heart of this program is a dedication to quality and integrity in every aspect of our culinary practices. From 100% grass-fed and finished meats to wild-caught fish, pasture-raised eggs, and pesticide-free produce, we prioritize the highest standards of nutrition and sustainability.

**NOTES:**

# NOTES:



