



Monument Academy

Middle School Course Descriptions & Requirements

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All Middle School Grades: During each year of middle school, every student must take the four core classes consisting of Science, Math, History, and Language Arts.

Sixth Grade Requirements: Cores listed above. Sixth grade Writing course (year long). Physical Education Course (one semester of Physical Education or Theatrical Movement). Introduction to Technology (one semester). Fine Arts course(s) (two semesters or a year long course).

Seventh Grade Requirements: Cores listed above. Fine Arts course(s) (two semesters or a year long course). Additional requirements found under “Other Requirements” below.

Eighth Grade Requirements: Cores listed above. Fine Arts course(s) (two semesters or a year long course). Additional requirements found under “Other Requirements” below.

Other Requirements: Logic Course (one semester during 7th or 8th grade year). Physical Education Course (one semester during 7th or 8th grade year). Theatrical Movement, or Show Choir (if prerequisites are met). Foreign Language (one full year course of Spanish or Latin during 7th or 8th grade year).

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS

6th Grade Language Arts - Literature: Full-year commitment

The focus of this course is to build a solid foundation in the basic skills of reading, vocabulary, and discussion. Literature is a prominent part of our curriculum as well. Projects are assigned to coincide with the requirements from the Core Knowledge Sequence Guide and the Colorado State Standards for education in sixth grade. Literature will focus on mythology, *The Iliad*, poetry, and historical fiction.

6th Grade Language Arts - Writing and Grammar: Full-year commitment

The focus of this course is to build a solid foundation in the basic skills of writing, vocabulary, spelling, Greek and Latin roots, grammar, research, and discussion. Projects are assigned to coincide with the requirements from the Core Knowledge Sequence Guide and the Colorado State Standards for education in sixth grade.

7th Grade Language Arts: Full-year commitment

The focus of this course is to build a solid foundation in the basic skills of reading, vocabulary and roots, spelling, grammar, writing, research, and discussion. Several types of literature will also be covered such as poetry, fiction, nonfiction, drama and autobiography. Projects are assigned to coincide with the requirements from the Core Knowledge Sequence Guide and the Colorado State Standards for education for seventh grade.

8th Grade Language Arts: Full-year commitment

The focus of this course is to build on a solid foundation of reading, writing, speaking, and phonological awareness by being exposed to and familiar with a multitude of literature genres, spelling, vocabulary, and studying root words. The students' language arts acquisition will be achieved through projects and assignments that will adhere to the Core Knowledge Sequence Curriculum with fidelity. This course will meet the standards required by the state of Colorado's Department of Education for eighth grade students.

Honors English: Full-year commitment

8th Grade only

Requirements: Application and teacher appointed

8th Grade Honors English will consist of reading, writing, grammar, and word study with a concentrated emphasis on literature and writing. Honors students will be exposed to multiple genres of literature, including advanced-level novels. Students will synthesize and interpret text to gain contextual understanding. There will be a continual focus on refining the student's mastery of writing. Grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and root word study will be combined to provide a solid foundation in the English language.

Logic: Semester

7th or 8th grade

Requirements: Application and teacher appointed

The focus of this course is to provide an introduction to the most important informal fallacies. Students will learn to identify a "bad argument" and how to turn it into a great argument through their writing as well as hands-on projects. This course also teaches students to participate civilly and productively in group discussions as well as to present a well-organized and well-supported argument in front of an audience.

MATH

Math Connects 1: Full-year commitment

Emphasis is placed on attainment of 6th grade level standards in this course. In addition to basic operations involving whole numbers, fractions, mixed numbers and decimals, Math Connects 1 includes word problem solving, numerical and algebraic expressions, ratios and rates, percentages, equations, integers, exponential expressions, the coordinate plane, perimeter and area, volume, and statistics.

Math Connects 2: Full-year commitment

Emphasis is placed on attainment of 6th grade level standards in this course. This includes: powers and exponents; add, subtract, multiply, and divide integers, fractions, and decimals; terminating and repeating decimals; mathematical properties of operations; algebraic representation and one and two-step equations, linear relationships, and inequalities; unit rates, ratios and proportions, and percent; the coordinate plane and graphing ordinate pairs; units of measure for length, angles, area, and volume; modeling geometric shapes; area, volume and surface area of two- and three-dimensional objects composed of triangles,

quadrilaterals, polygons, cubes, and right prisms; the formulas for area and circumference of a circle; statistical analysis of samples as well as comparing samples and computing and predicting probabilities.

Math Connects 3: Full-year commitment

A preparatory to Pre-Algebra course that in addition to attaining 7th grade level standards, includes the study of operations with real and rational numbers, proportions and similarity, percent applications, geometry, measurement and spatial reasoning, algebraic thinking, equations and inequalities, data analysis, probability and statistics.

Pre-Algebra: Full-year commitment

This course is designed to prepare students for the study of Algebra. Major concepts include: operations with real and rational numbers, proportions and similarity, applications of percent, geometry, measurement and spatial reasoning, algebraic thinking, including equations and inequalities, data analysis, probability and statistics. Emphasis will be placed on attainment of grade level standards as well as strengthening the foundation for high school mathematics. Teacher recommendation is required for students wishing to take it in 6th and 7th grade.

Algebra I: Full-year commitment

A problem solving approach to Algebra concepts with emphasis on real-world applications. Major concepts include: solving linear equations, analyzing linear functions, simultaneous equations, inequalities, absolute value equations, polynomials and nonlinear functions, radical expressions, rational expressions and equations. Teacher recommendation is required for this class.

Geometry: Full-year commitment

A course in Euclidean Geometry with emphasis on problem solving and logical proofs. Major concepts include: Perpendicular and parallel lines, congruent and similar triangles, inequalities in triangles, quadrilaterals and their properties, right triangles and trigonometry, and circles. Throughout the year special topics include coordinate geometry, area and volume, transformations, and geometric constructions and review of Algebra I content. Teacher recommendation is required for this class.

HISTORY

6th Grade History: Full-year commitment

This is a broad and sweeping course that looks at some of the major eras of both World and American history and the connections between them. From Greece and Rome to the Enlightenment, from the French Revolution to the American Gilded Age, this course is truly broad in its scope. It also covers geography of deserts around the world and South America, as well as studying some of the major religions of the world.

7th Grade History: Full-year commitment

This is a survey course detailing World History from World War I (including the Russian Revolution), the 1920's, the Great Depression, and World War II. This course also offers an overview of World Geography.

8th Grade History: Full-year commitment

This is a survey course detailing the major issues of the 20th Century through United States and World History. The main focus concerns topics such as the decline of European Colonialism, the rise of communism, the Cold War (including the Korean and Vietnam Wars), the Civil Rights Movement, social-political-economic aspects of the 1950's through the 1980's. This course also covers the Constitution and the development of the American Government.

SCIENCE

6th Grade Science: Full-year commitment

Science content at Monument Academy follows the Core Knowledge Sequence and Colorado State Standards while practicing the science and engineering skills set forth in The Next Generation Science Standards. In sixth grade, students experience the following topics organized here by discipline:

Physical Science: energy, energy transfer, electrical energy resources, heat transfer and changes in matter

Life science: make up of human body systems, and the immune system

Earth Science: oceanography, hydrology, Earth systems, plate tectonics, and astronomy

7th Grade Science: Full-year commitment

Science content at Monument Academy follows the Core Knowledge Sequence and Colorado State Standards while practicing the science and engineering skills set forth in The Next Generation Science Standards. In seventh grade, students experience the following topics organized by discipline:

Physical Science: atomic structure, periodic table, chemical bonds, chemical reactions, and acids and bases

Life Science: cell structure, cell division, genetics, reproduction, natural selection, evolution theory, and ecology

Earth Science: Earth history, geological time scale, absolute dating, relative dating, and fossils

8th Grade Science: Full-year commitment

Science content at Monument Academy follows the Core Knowledge Sequence and Colorado State Standards while practicing the science and engineering skills set forth in The Next Generation Science Standards. In eighth grade, students experience the following topics organized by discipline:

Physical Science: motion, force, density and pressure, waves, sound, and light

Life Science: metabolism, including photosynthesis and cellular respiration

Earth Science: Earth's climate and weather

Honors Science: Full-year commitment

8th Grade only

Requirements: Application and teacher appointed

Science content at Monument Academy follows the Core Knowledge Sequence and Colorado State Standard while practicing the science and engineering skills set forth in The Next Generation Science Standards. In honors science, students experience the following topics organized here by discipline:

Physical Science: motion, force, density and pressure, waves, sound, and light

Life: metabolism, including photosynthesis and cellular respiration

Earth: Earth's climate and weather

Students enrolling in honors science must possess a strong work ethic, and be able to work independently.

Algebraic manipulation is used frequently to explore applied mathematics used in many of our physics units.

Algebra 1 or geometry is highly recommended. In addition, every student will complete an independent exploration of a topic of their choice. This will be done through participation in the Pikes Peak Regional Science Fair or completion of an independent research project.

FINE ARTS

Theatrical Movement: Semester course

6th-8th Grades

In this course students will act through movement, practicing the basic techniques of mime, theatrical dance choreography, and safely rehearsed stage combat. Students gain confidence in purposefully moving within a space, demonstrating action and emotion without words, determining the mood in music to create artful dance, and developing a sense of awareness for others and environment. This course fulfills a P.E., Art, or Music credit.

Concert Singers: Semester course

6th-8th Grades

No experience necessary and no audition required to join. This class is designed to teach students the basic elements of singing through working on proper vowels, good breathing, precise diction and more. The goal of the class is to not only provide students with a strong foundation of vocal techniques, but to also teach them how to work in a group setting to achieve excellence.

Concert Choir: Semester course OR Full-year commitment

7th and 8th Grades (6th Grade students may be added in January after successfully completing Concert Singers during 1st Semester)

Prerequisite: 1 semester of choir experience

This choir class will build on the basic elements of singing introduced in Concert Singers with continued focus on choral singing elements and working on more difficult levels of choral music. This class not only provides students with a strong foundation of vocal techniques, but also teaches them how to work in a group setting to achieve excellence.

Bella Voces: Full-year commitment

7th and 8th Grades

Prerequisite: 1 Full year of choir experience

This class is for intermediate level female singers and it focuses on more challenging repertoire and increased development of vocal technique, music reading, and aural skills. Students will perform a variety of song selections and are encouraged to audition for various solo parts throughout the year to enhance development as an independent, confident vocalist.

Advanced Choir: Full-year commitment

8th Grade (with High School students)

Prerequisite: 1 Full year in choir experience

Requirements: Vocal Audition

This class is an *audition-only* select group of singers that focuses on challenging repertoire, high school prep work in theory and aural skills, advanced vocal techniques, and the opportunity to perform high quality music. All students are highly encouraged to audition for All State Choir to continue developing independent musicianship. The Advanced Choir as a group also has the opportunity to perform in multiple venues as an ambassador group, representing our school and choral program.

Show Choir: Full-year commitment

7th & 8th Grades

Prerequisite: 1 Full year in choir experience

Requirements: Vocal and Choreography Auditions

This audition-only class will explore multiple genres of vocal “pop” music in the context of dance and choreography. Students must have a strong foundation of music reading and aural skills as a large portion of instruction in this class will be focused on developing dance skills. More than any other choir class, students are expected to practice their vocal parts outside of class in order to maintain the high level of music performance required for an advanced level ensemble. May be used as a PE class, Art, or a Music, but not all.

Concert Band: Full-year commitment

6th-8th Grades

This class is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who wish to play an instrument for the first time in band. All 5th grade band students will migrate to this ensemble. Students will improve the basics of playing their instruments as well as foundational musical skills which consist of rhythm, pitch, tone, balance, and blend, to name a few. Students will also perform songs at their skill level for an audience at concerts throughout the school year (1 concert per quarter). The focus of this group is to prepare students for the intermediate level band.

Intermediate Band: Full -year commitment

6th-8th Grades

Requirement: Audition only

This class is for musicians who have enough experience on their instruments to move from a beginning or concert level to the intermediate level. The focus of this class is on the continued learning of musical concepts and technique on your instrument by practicing and performing pieces of music at the intermediate skill level. You must already be proficient at both reading music and playing your instrument to be in this more advanced group.

Symphonic Band: Full-year commitment

7th-8th Grades

Requirement: Audition only

This is the highest level traditional ensemble at Monument Academy. As such, expectations are demanding. Self discipline and motivation are primary factors when being chosen to participate in this ensemble. Symphonic Band will perform several times throughout the year, learning a large body of music along the way. Our class will sometimes serve as an ambassador for MA, representing our school as we perform for and serve our community.

Jazz Band: Full-year commitment

7th-8th Grades

Requirement: Audition only

Jazz Band is a unique class that only accepts the most dedicated, accomplished, and motivated music students at Monument Academy. In this class, we will learn about different styles of jazz music (from blues to funk to jazz and everything in between), as well as improvisation and other advanced playing techniques. Due to the nature of this class it is imperative for everyone to put in extra effort outside of regular class time.

Taking private lessons is HIGHLY ADVISED. Like the Symphonic Band, this group will occasionally have opportunities to perform outside the school for the community at large, and it is important we represent ourselves and Monument Academy as best we can. All middle school students who participate in Jazz Band are required to perform in the Intermediate or Symphonic Band, therefore, Jazz Band can be used as an Art credit.

Allegro Orchestra: Full-year commitment

6th Grade

This orchestra class is for sixth grade violin, viola, cello or string bass students (also available to students in grades 7-12 with less than 1 year of experience). Students in this daily orchestra class will strengthen their fundamental skills, including playing technique, music reading, listening and performance skills, and will learn to play string orchestra music in a variety of styles. Students will demonstrate progress as an ensemble at concert performances during the school year, and may compete in a festival competition.

Con Brio Orchestra: Full Year Commitment

7th Grade

Requirement: MA Allegro Orchestra, or by Audition*

This orchestra class is for seventh grade violin, viola, cello or string bass students who have completed MA Allegro Orchestra (also available to students in grades 8-12 who demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills in an audition). Students in this class will continue to strengthen their fundamental skills, including playing technique, music reading, listening and performance skills, and will learn to play advancing string orchestra music in a variety of styles. Students will demonstrate progress as an ensemble at concert performances during the school year, and may compete in a festival competition.

Lynx Orchestra: Full-year commitment

8th Grade

Requirement: MA Con Brio Orchestra, or by audition*

This orchestra class is for eighth grade violin, viola, cello and string bass students who have completed 1 year in the MA Con Brio Orchestra (also available to students in grades 9-12 who demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills in an audition). Students in this class will continue to strengthen their fundamental skills, including playing technique, music reading, listening and performance skills, and will learn to play more complex string orchestra music in a variety of styles. Students will demonstrate progress as an ensemble at concert performances during the school year, will represent MA in public performances, and may compete in a festival competition.

*Auditions: All auditions for MA Orchestras will take place by request only. Audition music for each instrument will be made available for one week prior to an audition. Email Mrs. Patterson at cpatterson@monumentacademy.net to request an audition. Please review the course descriptions above to determine if an audition is necessary.

Intro to Drama: Semester course

6th-8th Grades

Level I drama course for first year drama students.

This course approaches theater through its early origins. Students will be exposed to basic terminology, stage direction, characterization, and technique. Projection and stage presence are key elements of Greek and Roman theater. Students will practice firsthand the challenge of playing to an audience in the round while also gaining an appreciation for the choral lyricism of some of history's most powerful plays. Italian theater introduces the whimsical art of pantomime, improvisation, and early melodrama. Students will focus on expressive movement instead of voice to portray character, building upon their creations through mask work, makeup, and costume. It is the perfect course for students taking their first steps into performance art, providing them a strong foundation on which to deepen their practice.

Fundamentals of Acting: Semester course

6th-8th Grades

Prerequisite: Intro to Drama is recommended

Level II drama course.

This course further explores performance as an artform, delving into Shakespearean drama and scene study of classic and contemporary American theater. Students will hone their acting skills through a more refined practice in character development, voice and articulation, performance critique, and monologue preparation for audition. Through meaningful study of the language of some of our greatest playwrights, active listening/responding games, and improvisation, students will grow in their ability to deliver an authentic, honest performance. This course is strongly recommended in preparation for Monument Academy's fall and spring performances.

Drama Performance: Semester course

7th & 8th Grades

Prerequisite: Intro to Drama or Acting

Requirement: Teacher approval based on performance in prerequisite class. Potential for a teacher requested audition.

Level III drama course.

Students experience all stages of producing and performing in a Monument Academy Main Stage production. The most rigorous and rewarding culmination of performance artwork is the show itself! Students will be expected to audition, rehearse with intention, participate in tech/dress rehearsals, and, finally, perform 1-2 shows for a full audience! Students enrolled for the Fall semester will be cast in a play. Students enrolled in the Spring semester will be cast in a musical and will be required to demonstrate singing ability.

Middle School Art: Semester course

(No prerequisite. Combined 6th - 8th grade class. Student can only take 1 semester of art a year)

The visual arts 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional course will cover the theory, planning process and evaluation of 2D and 3D works of art. In this course, students begin their understanding and use of the elements of art. Students also begin the process of personal discovery while producing art work and are introduced to personalizing the creative process. The emphasis in this course is in the design and execution of various 2-d and 3-d media. Two-dimensional units might include watercolor, color pencil drawing, graphite drawing and charcoal drawing. Three-dimensional units might include clay, origami, and painting using technology. Students will have the opportunity to work with materials including but not limited to hot glue guns, Xacto knives, a variety of glue, paint, clay, fibers, pliers, hammers, wood burning tools, files, sewing needles, paper, markers, ink, plaster, glass, metal, foam, and more.

Students will study the Core Knowledge artwork from a variety of time periods.

Supplies Needed:

- Sketch book spiral bound or book bound 50 pages or more that is no larger than 12 inches long and no smaller than 9 inches wide.
- Graphite Drawing Pencils (4H through 4B or higher)
- Drawing erasers (stiff and kneadable)
- 12 inch ruler
- Container to store art pencils and erasers

*New students will need a spiral or book bound sketchbook, drawing pencils, and erasers.

*Previous art students should continue in the same sketchbook from previous classes if possible.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Beginning Spanish A: Full-year commitment

7th & 8th Grades

This year-long course focuses on introductory Spanish at the novice level, covering language skills deemed as essential by the American Congress of Foreign Language Teachers (ACTFL), and the Colorado Department of Education. Emphasis is placed on the proper use of grammar, practical, personalized vocabulary in written and oral use of the language and cultural information. Lessons cover the varied use of the present tense for verbs. The simple past tense is introduced after students have had significant practice with the present tense. Students are exposed to various cultural themes relevant to Spanish speaking countries. Literature, and real life listening samples are introduced as well. The goal of this course is to encourage students to become (at a novice level) effective communicators in the Spanish language.

Beginning Spanish B: Full-year commitment

8th Grade

Prerequisites: A passing grade of 70% or higher (or teacher approval) in Beginning Spanish A

Beginning Spanish B continues the development of novice-low to novice-mid level, enhancing and expanding the learning and skills that were introduced in Beginning Spanish A. Students continue to expand their vocabulary and cultural knowledge base while demonstrating their increasing ability to read, write, speak, and listen in the target language. Scoring standards are based on the Colorado State Standards for World Language Learners–Novice level. Students will be given a placement test at the end of the school year to determine whether they should be recommended for Spanish I, or Spanish II when entering the 9th grade.

Beginning Latin (A): Full-year commitment

7th & 8th Grades

In this course, students begin mastering fundamental Latin vocabulary and grammar. They read stories in Latin that are written or adapted for beginning Latin scholars. The course also introduces cultural topics concerning the ancient Roman world and explores aspects of Roman history and Greco-Roman mythology. Students develop a deeper understanding of English by comparing and contrasting the structure of Latin with the structure of English and connecting Latin vocabulary to related English words. This introduction to Latin provides an excellent foundation not only for further study of Latin and other ancient languages, but for the study of the Romance languages that evolved from Latin, including Spanish, French, and Italian. The goal of this course is for students to read Latin at a novice level.

Beginning Latin (B): Full-year commitment

8th Grade

Prerequisites: A passing grade of 70% or higher in Beginning Latin I, or teacher approval.

Students strengthen and expand their mastery of fundamental Latin vocabulary and grammar. They read Latin texts created or adapted for advanced beginners in Latin. As students increase their reading proficiency in this course, they encounter more advanced grammatical constructions and widen their base of vocabulary. The goal of this course is for students to broaden their Latin reading proficiency and develop the skills needed to read passages of classical Latin literature. When appropriate, students begin to read short passages of unadapted classical Latin texts. Students who pass Beginning Latin B with an 80% or higher will be recommended to enroll in High School Latin 2 as freshmen.

ELECTIVES

Introduction to Technology: Semester course

Required for 6th grade

Introduction to Technology is designed to teach every middle school student at Monument Academy the necessary technology skills that will enable them to succeed in school and beyond. Topics include: keyboarding, Google Drive, productivity apps and basic coding.

Tech and Photo: Semester course

7th-8th grades

Prerequisite: Introduction to Technology

Tech & Photo is an iPad based course where students learn the fundamentals of composition, lighting, aperture, depth of field and editing in a variety of formats, including: portrait, landscape, forced perspective, studio and action.

Introduction to Programming: Semester course

7th – 8th grades

Prerequisite: Introduction to Technology

Intro to Programming introduces the student to principles of programming using the Python language. Students will understand how formal programming languages are structured and how to plan and create small, useful programs to solve problems. Students will master concepts common to most programming languages, such as conditional execution and repetition.

Intro to Web Design: Semester course

7th – 8th grades

Prerequisite: Introduction to Technology

Intro to Web Design introduces the student to basic principles of web design using a variety of tools including WordPress, HTML, and CSS. Students will design, develop, and arrange functional and captivating web content which is organized into pages and site collections. At the end of this course, students will comfortably create basic web pages and sites.

Computer Science Discoveries: Semester Course

7th – 8th Grades

Prerequisite: Introduction to Technology

CS Discoveries is an introductory computer science course which familiarizes the student to an array of computer science concepts. The course utilizes interactive labs, challenges, and real world scenarios to practice the concept learned in class. These include topics such as web design, programming, physical computers, and artificial intelligence.

Yearbook/Journalism: Full-year commitment

Elective for 8th grade

Prerequisite: Introduction to Technology

Requirement: Interview and instructor permission

This cross-disciplinary class teaches writing skills, layout and design, advanced computer skills, teamwork, photography, and media literacy. The major concentration is producing a yearbook for middle school.

Physical Education: Semester course

6th - 8th grades

Requirement: All students must take PE a minimum of one semester each academic year

PE may be used as an elective for an additional semester.

Physical Education will be the foundation of many disciplines. It includes but is not limited to team and individual sports and activities, foundational human movement patterns, strength and mobility development, nutrition, and other wellness focuses.

Introduction to Nutrition: Semester course

7th-8th grade

An introductory nutrition course for 7th and 8th grade students. This class is designed for students who have an interest in learning the basics of nutrition, how food affects the body, and food preparation. Students will be exposed to basic nutrition terminology, fad diets, micronutrients, sustainability practices and evidenced-based personal nutrition habits. Students will be exposed firsthand to basic information about factors influencing nutritional requirements and the food sources to meet them. Emphasis will be on the application of basic biological principles in the students' own diets and their lives, while also providing laboratory opportunities to learn food preparation techniques. This program encourages students to apply what they've learned in class to become agents of healthy change for their families, school, and communities.

Astronomy: Semester course

6-8th grades

This course is designed to cover introductory concepts within the scope of astronomy. Students will learn about the sun, stars, galaxies, and planets. They will also learn about other astronomical objects like asteroids, comets, and meteors. Students taking this astronomy course can expect to learn about the physical universe through labs, lectures, and projects. This course will help students deepen their understanding of science, history, and technology.