WEST VALLEY
VIRTUAL
LEARNING CENTER

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

6TH GRADE COURSES

- Language Arts 6
- Math 6
- Earth Science
- World History I
- Physical Education 6 (semester 1)
- Health 6 (semester 2)

Language Arts 6

This course equips students with the essential language arts skills needed throughout their academic careers. Students read and analyze a variety of informational and fictional texts. Instruction and reading strategies accompany reading selections to help engage students in the text and sharpen their comprehension. Students express their ideas and knowledge using standard (formal) English in written and oral assignments. Writing expressive, analytical, and procedural compositions helps students develop communication skills necessary in today's world. Vocabulary is taught explicitly and through an array of vocabulary acquisition strategies that give students the tools to increase their vocabulary independently. Students study grammar, usage, and mechanics, and practice sentence analysis, sentence structure, and proper punctuation. Setting goals, self- monitoring progress, and reflecting on successes and challenges help students become metacognitive learners. The course includes discussion activities that engage students in the curriculum while creating a sense of community.

Materials Required: Printed items (book, workbook, etc.)

Math 6

In this Grade 6 mathematics course, students deepen their understanding of multiplication and division of fractions to apply their knowledge to divide fractions by fractions, with an additional focus on increasing efficiency and fluency. Students gain a foundation in the concepts of ratio and rate as an extension of their work with whole number multiplication and division, and in preparation for work with proportional relationships in Grade 7. Students also make connections among area, volume, and surface area, and continue to lay the groundwork for deep algebraic understanding by interpreting and using expressions and equations.

Earth Science

The Earth Science curriculum builds on the natural curiosity of students. By connecting them to the beauty of geological history, the diverse landforms around the globe, the nature of the sea and air, and the newest discoveries about our universe, the curriculum gives students an opportunity to relate to their everyday world. Students explore topics such as the fundamentals of geology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy; Earth's minerals and rocks; Earth's interior; plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, and the movements of continents; geology and the fossil record; the oceans and the atmosphere; and the solar system and the universe.

Materials Required: Science lab materials

World History I

In this first part of a survey of world history from prehistoric to modern times, online lessons and assessments complement The Human Odyssey, an eBook series developed and published by K12. This course focuses on the development of civilization across 12,000 years: from the Ice Age to the Middle Ages, from cave paintings to stained glass windows, from crude huts to Gothic cathedrals. The course introduces geography concepts and skills as they appear in the context of the historical narrative.

Physical Education 6

The sixth-grade physical education course introduces students to health-related fitness components, dance, team sports, and lifetime activities. Students learn the essential principles to live a healthy, active lifestyle. The lessons give students exposure to many activities that can be incorporated into their daily lives today, tomorrow, and in the future.

Health 6

The sixth grade health course helps students develop the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions to stay active, safe, and informed, as teenagers and as adults. The lessons and activities introduce important aspects of the main types of health: physical health, social health and wellness, and emotional and mental health. Among other topics, students explore the renal and urinary system, nutrition, food allergies, prevention of common diseases, the influence of the media on health behaviors and buying habits, safety, Internet safety, conflict resolution, bullying, and violence prevention. They also explore topics related to the use and abuse of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol, including the opioid epidemic; environmental health, including a service project; and mental and emotional health and disorders. The course engages students with relevant health and wellness topics, and real-world concepts and health issues. Graded assignments, quizzes, and tests assess student understanding of the various health topics and concepts from the course.

6TH GRADE ELECTIVE OPTIONS

World Art I & II

World Art I is designed to complement World History I. Following the same historical timeline, lessons include an introduction to the artists, cultures, and great works of world art and architecture from ancient through medieval times. Students investigate how artists from different civilizations used various techniques, from painting to mosaic; examine elements of design and styles of decoration, from the spiral to the solar disk; and explore some of the best-preserved works from ancient tombs, including the treasures of Egypt’s King Tut.

World Art II lessons include an introduction to the artists, cultures, and great works of world art and architecture from the Renaissance through modern times. Students will study various works of art from the Renaissance and beyond; discover great works of art and see how they influenced later artists;

compare and contrast works from many civilizations, from paintings to sculpture, architecture, book covers, prints, and more; and create artworks inspired by works they learn about.

Materials Required: Art supplies, music, sewing supplies

Game Design I & II

Game Design I: We love to play video games, but have you ever wanted to build your own? If you are interested in a career in technology but also want a creative outlet, Game Design might be the field for you. Learn how to build a game from the ground up in this interactive and hands-on course that will teach you all the ins and outs of making your own game.

Game Design II: This course is a Project Based Learning course (PBL). Now that you have the basics of game design down, let's use your creativity to develop a game from start to finish! Develop your game creation skills and practice with the tools professionals use to launch your career options in the field of game design. The content of this course also applies to certification exams.

World of Computing

World of Computing is a CodeHS introductory computer science course introducing the basics of programming with Karel the Dog, and the history and impact of computing. Students will learn to code using blocks to drag and drop, but they can switch between blocks and text as desired.

With a unique focus on creativity, problem solving, and project based learning, World of Computing gives students the opportunity to explore several important topics of computing using their own ideas and creativity to develop an interest in computer science that will foster further endeavors in the field.

7TH GRADE COURSES

- Language Arts 7
- Math 7
- Life Science
- Washington State History
- Physical Education 7 (semester 1)
- Health 7 (semester 2)

Language Arts 7

This course continues the development of comprehension and analysis of informational and fictional texts with an ongoing emphasis on reading strategies. Students express themselves using standard (formal) English in written and oral presentations. Analyzing and practicing the form and structure of various genres of writing enhances students' communication skills. Students study a variety of media to understand informational and persuasive techniques, explicit and implied messages, and how visual and auditory cues affect messages. Grammar, usage, and mechanics skills are deepened. Students continue to widen their vocabulary and apply acquisition strategies. Setting goals, self-monitoring progress, and reflecting on successes and challenges help students become metacognitive learners. The course includes discussion activities that engage students in the curriculum while creating a sense

of community.

Materials Required: Printed items (book, workbook, etc.)

Math 7

In this Grade 7 mathematics course, students focus on real-world scenarios and mathematical problems involving algebraic expressions and linear equations and begin to apply their understanding of rational numbers with increased complexity. The course lays the foundation for exploring concepts of angle, similarity, and congruence—more formally addressed in Grade 8—as students work with scale drawings and construct and analyze relationships among geometric figures. Students also develop and apply understandings of proportional relationships.

Life Science

The Life Science curriculum invites students to investigate the world of living things—at levels both large and small—by reading, observing, and experimenting with aspects of life on Earth. Students explore our planet's numerous—and wondrous—organisms, the complex workings of the cell, the relationship between living things and their environments, and discoveries in the world of modern genetics. Practical lesson activities help students discover how scientists investigate the living world. Students perform laboratory activities and a full- unit investigation to learn about the application of scientific methods.

Materials Required: Science lab materials

Washington State History

In this course, students will study the history of the state of Washington with a focus on its earliest inhabitants, development, environment, people, economics & government to understand the Pacific Northwest. Students will study these major areas to understand the complex background of Washington with the goal of having a sound foundation upon which to formulate opinions concerning what is happening now in our state. The course is organized chronologically with the be\low Unit titles. Students complete discussions, projects, and multiple-choice assessments to demonstrate their learning. The units of study include: The State Called Washington, Native Cultures, The Early Explorers & Frontiersman, Settlers & Settlement, Towards Statehood, Years of Growth, From War to War, The Maturing State, The Economy, The People of Washington, and Government.

Materials Required: Printed items (book, workbook, etc.)

Physical Education 7

In the seventh-grade physical education course, students are exposed to diverse activities and learn a wide variety of fitness concepts that they can use in their everyday lives. Students learn skills for lifelong activities, such as strength training and power walking, as well as several options for aerobic activities. They can measure their progress and accomplishments through the completion of fitness tests. On completing this course, students will know how to stay fit and active well beyond middle school.

Health 7

The seventh grade health course helps students develop the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions to stay active, safe, and informed as teenagers and as adults. The lessons and activities introduce important aspects of the main types of health: physical health, social health and wellness, and emotional and mental health. Among other topics, students explore the circulatory system, the benefits of physical activity, nutrition, how to identify and avoid risky behaviors, safety, building character through maintaining healthy relationships, bullying, and violence prevention. They also explore topics related to the use and abuse of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol; environmental health; and mental and emotional health and disorders. The course engages students with relevant health and wellness topics and real-world concepts and health issues. Graded assignments, quizzes, and tests assess student understanding of the various health topics and concepts from the course.

7TH GRADE ELECTIVE OPTIONS

American Art I & II

American Art I includes an introduction to the artists, cultures, and great works of art and architecture of North America, from pre-Columbian times through 1877. Students will study and create various works, both realistic and abstract, including sketches, masks, architectural models, prints, and paintings; investigate the art of the American Indians, and Colonial and Federal America; and create artworks inspired by works they learn about, using many materials and techniques. For example, after studying John James Audubon’s extraordinary paintings of birds, students make bird paintings with realistic color and texture.

American Art II lessons include an introduction to the artists, cultures, and great works of American art and architecture from the end of the Civil War through modern times. Students will investigate paintings done in various styles, from impressionism to pop; learn about modern sculpture and folk art; discover how photographers and painters have inspired one another; examine examples of modern architecture, from skyscrapers to art museums; and create artworks inspired by works they learn about.

Materials Required: Art supplies, music, sewing supplies

Career Explorations

Intended for students in grade 8, this course provides an overview of careers available today and helps students identify careers that may suit them. Course content covers the importance of work to individuals and society; the difference between a job and a career; identifying personal strengths, weaknesses, and interests and applying them to possible careers; the importance of proper work etiquette; and an exploration of various careers in several career clusters. Students complete self-evaluations to determine which careers may be of interest to them. Assignments, including research and interviews, supplement the instructional content and provide a hands-on approach to creating a career plan for the future.

In the second semester, students explore more careers and what it takes to succeed in them. They learn more about what steps to take to prepare for careers and how to compare the pros and cons of different career choices.

Game Design I & II

Game Design I: We love to play video games, but have you ever wanted to build your own? If you are interested in a career in technology but also want a creative outlet, Game Design might be the field for you. Learn how to build a game from the ground up in this interactive and hands-on course that will teach you all the ins and outs of making your own game.

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8TH GRADE COURSES

- Language Arts 8
- Math 8
- Physical Science
- US History Before 1865
- Physical Education 8 (semester 1)
- Health 8 (semester 2)

Language Arts 8

Throughout this course, students engage in literary analysis and close reading of short stories, poetry, drama, novels, and informational texts. The course focuses on the interpretation of literary works, analysis of informational texts, and the development of oral and written communication skills in standard (formal) English. Students read "between the lines" to interpret literature and go beyond the text to discover how the culture in which a work of literature was created contributes to the theme and ideas it conveys. Analyzing the structure and elements of informational texts and media helps students develop the skills needed for academic success and navigating the world. Students continue to acquire knowledge and skills in grammar, usage, mechanics, and vocabulary. Setting goals, self-monitoring progress, and reflecting on successes and challenges help students become metacognitive learners.

The course includes discussion activities that engage students in the curriculum while creating a sense of community.

Materials Required: Printed items (book, workbook, etc.)

Math 8

The Grade 8 mathematics course prepares students for more advanced study in algebra as students solve linear equations and systems of equations, work with radical and integer exponents, gain conceptual understanding of functions, and use functions to model quantitative relationships. To prepare students for more advanced study in geometry, the course emphasizes the Pythagorean theorem and a deepening exploration of similarity and congruence.

Physical Science

The Physical Science curriculum introduces students to many aspects of the physical world, focusing first on chemistry and then on physics. The course provides an overview of the physical world and gives students tools and concepts to think clearly about atoms, molecules, chemical reactions, motion, electricity, light, and other aspects of chemistry and physics. Among other subjects, students study the structure of atoms; the elements and the periodic table; chemical reactions; forces, including gravitational, motion, acceleration, and mass; and energy, including light, thermal, electricity, and magnetism.

Materials Required: Science lab materials

US History Before 1865

This course takes students from the arrival of the first people in North America through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Lessons integrate topics in geography, civics, and economics. Building on the award-winning series *A History of US*, the course guides students through critical episodes in the story of America. Students investigate Native American civilizations; follow the path of European exploration and colonization; assess the causes and consequences of the American Revolution; examine the Constitution and the growth of the new nation; and analyze what led to the Civil War and its aftermath.

Physical Education 8

In the eighth-grade physical education course, students are exposed to various physical activities and fitness concepts that contribute to their overall physical activity level. Students learn a multitude of skills that will accompany them throughout their lives. Skills and concepts include target heart rate, the basics of fitness testing, goal setting, flexibility, aerobic/anaerobic exercise, strength training, and other individual games and activities, as well as team sports. This course gives students fitness knowledge and skills that can be incorporated into their lives now and in the future.

Health 8

The eighth grade health course helps students develop the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions to stay active, safe, and informed as teenagers and as adults. The lessons and

activities introduce important aspects of the main types of health: physical health, social health and wellness, and emotional and mental health. Among other topics, students explore the nervous system, communicable and noncommunicable diseases, online safety, and conflict resolution. They also explore topics related to the use and abuse of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol; environmental health; and mental and emotional health and disorders. The course engages students with relevant health and wellness topics, real-world concepts, and health issues. Graded assignments, quizzes, and tests assess student understanding of the various health topics and concepts from the course.

8TH GRADE ELECTIVE OPTIONS

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Photography

Photographs play an important role in our world today. We photograph to preserve memories, document events, and create artistic works. This course introduces students to the basics of photography, including camera functions and photo composition. Students will learn what it takes to create a good photograph and how to improve photographs of animals, people, and vacations. They will also begin working with their photographs using photo-editing software. Through a variety of assigned projects, students will engage their creativity by photographing a range of subjects and learning to see the world through the lens of their cameras.

Web Design

Web Design is a CodeHS course that teaches students how to build their own web pages. Students will learn the languages HTML and CSS, and will create their own live homepages to serve as portfolios of their creations. By the end of this course, students will be able to explain how web pages are developed and viewed on the Internet, analyze and fix errors in existing websites, and create their very own multi-page websites.

Coding Fundamentals

Students learn about the technology used in day-to-day life as well as explore how the Internet functions. Students are introduced to the basics of computer science and discover how to create and build a website using HTML and CSS. Programming languages such as JavaScript and Python are also explored.