

# Grade 6 French I

## Course Description:

In accordance with the 2021 Massachusetts State Standards, this year of learning is described in the following way.

Students demonstrate their proficiency in standards through the target language (French). Likewise, teachers rely almost exclusively upon the target language to deliver the content of the standards and foster classroom environments that facilitate exclusive or near-exclusive student use of the target language.

## Topics Covered:

<b>Students can talk about themselves, to somebody and they can talk about others.</b>	<b>Students learn and talk about Fall Celebrations.</b>	<b>Students learn and talk about school classes, schedules, and routines.</b>  <b>Students can tell and ask for time.</b>
<b>Students can talk about their hobbies and about others' likes and dislikes.</b>	<b>Students learn and talk about Winter Celebrations in French-speaking countries.</b>	<b>Students can talk about their school materials.</b>  <b>Students can go shopping for school supplies.</b>

<b>Students learn and talk about countries and nationalities.</b>	<b>Students learn and talk about close family members, stepfamily, and in-laws using verbs “être”, “avoir” or any other verbs learned so far.</b>	<b>Students can describe their classroom.</b>
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### **Highlights:**

French is used most of the time in class so that students are immersed in the target language from day 1. The teacher often uses gestures to clarify the message conveyed. The instruction is very visual (PowerPoint presentations, videos, etc.) and interactive (all students participate in class several times every day). Games and songs are frequently used in class so that students get to learn as they have fun. Also, students are encouraged to actively use what they learn right away through role plays and projects that they present in front of their peers twice per trimester.

## **Grade 7 French II**

### **Course Description:**

In accordance with the 2021 Massachusetts State Standards, this year of learning is described in the following way.

Students demonstrate their proficiency on standards through the target language (French). Likewise, teachers rely almost exclusively upon the target language to deliver the content of the standards and foster classroom environments that facilitate exclusive or near-exclusive student use of the target language.

### **Topics Covered:**

<b>Students review and add on topics seen in French I: Talk about themselves, to somebody and they can talk about others.</b>	<b>Students learn and talk about French-speaking countries and their traditions.</b>	<b>Students learn and talk about personality and physical appearance.</b>
<b>Students review and add on topics seen in French I: Students can talk about their</b>	<b>Students learn and talk about traveling.</b>	<b>Students learn and talk about their house, their room, their neighborhood, and their city.</b>

<b>hobbies and about others' likes and dislikes.</b>		
<b>Students learn and talk about the weather.</b>	<b>Students learn and talk about animals and their characteristics (physical appearance).</b>	<b>Students can talk about food and recipes.</b>  <b>Students learn about traditional French food.</b>

### **Highlights:**

French is used most of the time in class so that students are immersed in the target language from day 1. The teacher often uses gestures to clarify the message conveyed. The instruction is very visual (PowerPoint presentations, videos, etc.) and interactive (all students participate in class several times every day). Games and songs are frequently used in class so that students get to learn as they have fun. Also, students are encouraged to actively use what they learn right away through role plays and projects that they present in front of their peers twice per trimester.

## **Grade 7 Spanish II**

### **Course Description:**

In accordance with the 2021 Massachusetts State Standards, this year of learning is described in the following way.

Students demonstrate their proficiency on standards through the target language (Spanish). Likewise, teachers rely almost exclusively upon the target language to deliver the content of the standards and foster classroom environments that facilitate exclusive or near-exclusive student use of the target language.

### **Topics Covered:**

<b>Students review and add on topics seen in Spanish I: Talk about themselves, to somebody and they can talk about others.</b>	<b>Students can talk about Fall and Winter Celebrations in Spanish-speaking countries.</b>	<b>Students learn and talk about personality and physical appearance.</b>
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<b>Students review and add on topics seen in Spanish I: Students can talk about their hobbies and about others' likes and dislikes.</b>	<b>Students can talk about school classes, schedules, and routines.</b>  <b>Students can tell and ask for time.</b>	<b>Students learn and talk about close family members, stepfamily, and in-laws using the verbs "ser", "tener" or any other verbs learned so far.</b>
<b>Students learn and talk about different countries and nationalities.</b>  <b>Students learn and talk about Spanish-speaking countries and their traditions.</b>	<b>Students learn and talk about their school materials.</b>  <b>Students can go shopping for school supplies.</b>	<b>Students can talk about food and recipes.</b>  <b>Students learn about traditional French food.</b>

### Highlights:

Spanish is used most of the time in class so that students are immersed in the target language from day 1. The teacher often uses gestures to clarify the message conveyed. The instruction is very visual (PowerPoint presentations, videos, etc.) and interactive (all students participate in class several times every day). Games and songs are frequently used in class so that students get to learn as they have fun. Also, students are encouraged to actively use what they learn right away through role plays and projects that they present in front of their peers twice per trimester.

## Grade 6 Social Studies

### Course Description:

In accordance with the 2018 Massachusetts State Standards, this year of learning is described in the following way.

Grades 6 and 7 form a two-year sequence in which students study regions of the world by examining physical geography, and nations in the region today, and select ancient and classical societies before 1000 CE. Regions for grade 6 are Western Asia, North Africa, and the Middle East; Sub-Saharan Africa; and Central America, the Caribbean, and South America. Students investigate guiding questions such as "How does geography affect how societies develop and interact?" and "How have human societies differed from one another across time and regions?" Additional supporting questions appear under each topic. The questions are included to stimulate teachers' and students' own questions for discussion and research.

### Topics Covered:

<b>1. <u>Studying complex societies, past and present.</u></b>  <i>How Social Sciences contribute to our</i>	<b>4. <u>Sub-Saharan Africa</u></b>  *Modern physical & political geography *Kingdom of Axum
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<i>understanding of the world.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Timbuktu</li> <li>*Ghana</li> <li>*Mali &amp; Songhai</li> <li>*Trans-Saharan trade &amp; spread of Islam</li> </ul>
<b>2. <u>Human Origins, the Paleolithic and Neolithic Eras</u></b>  <i>How did life on Earth begin and why did humans form complex societies?</i>	<b>5. <u>Central America &amp; Caribbean:</u></b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Modern physical &amp; political geography &amp; Indigenous populations</li> <li>*Maya, Olmec, Toltec, Zapotec</li> </ul>
<b>3. <u>The Middle East and North Africa</u></b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Modern physical &amp; political geography</li> <li>*Mesopotamia</li> <li>*Egypt</li> <li>*Phoenicia</li> <li>*Israel and Palestine</li> <li>*Monotheism (Christianity, Judaism, Islam)</li> <li>*Resources and trade</li> </ul>	<b>6. <u>South America:</u></b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Political &amp; physical geography</li> <li>*Chavin, Moche, Nazca</li> </ul>

**Highlights:** Students will develop skills in reading nonfiction texts, note taking, writing, and study skills as they are exposed to content vocabulary and concepts related to each topic. Hard copy and online texts are often used to introduce topics in preparation for projects and many formal assessments. Ultimately, the goal for students is to deepen their understanding of how social science disciplines can be used systematically in studying countries, regions, and the past.

## Grade 7 Social Studies

### Course Description:

In accordance with the 2018 Massachusetts State Standards, this year of learning is described in the following way.

Grade 7 continues the sequence from grade 6, studying the development of ancient and classical civilizations and the physical geography of Asia, Oceania, and Europe. To better understand their world today students learn about the past! Historians ask many questions, three of which are the foundation of history: Who are we? Where are we going? Where have we been? In Ancient Civilizations, you will look at those questions and others such as, “How did the concept of self-government develop?” and “Why do empires rise and fall?” Additional supporting questions appear under each topic. The questions are included to stimulate teachers’ and students’ questions for discussion and research. Students go back in time and look at the ancient and vibrant cultures of India, China, Greece, and Rome.

### Topics Covered:

<b>1) Timelines/Time periods</b>	<b>2) Elements of Civilization</b>	<b>3) India (Indus River Valley) and South (Monsoon) Asia</b>
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<p><i>How do we tell time and chronology and why are our years numbered the way they are?</i></p>	<p><i>What are the key elements of a civilization? How do we know if a society is a civilization?</i></p> <p><i>Concept of G.R.A.P.E.S is covered: Geography, Religion, Achievements, Politics, Economics, Social Structure</i></p>	<p><i>What are the main geographic features of India and how did it impact development there?</i></p> <p><i>What was the most significant contribution of early societies in India and Central Asia to mathematics, science, the arts, and technology to the modern world?</i></p>
<p><b>4) Hinduism</b></p> <p><i>What were the main tenets of Hinduism and how did they shape the cultures of India, South and Central Asia?</i></p>	<p><b>5) Buddhism</b></p> <p><i>What were the main tenets of Buddhism and how did they shape the cultures of India, China South, and Central Asia? Concept of Cultural Diffusion in relation to the spread of Buddhism outside of India.</i></p>	<p><b>6) Ancient China, c. 1600 BCE. - 500 CE</b></p> <p><i>To what degree have Chinese societies been shaped by geography? A look at isolation, The Silk Road, Mandate of Heaven, Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism, and Chinese contributions to art, technology, science, &amp; government.</i></p>
<p><b>7) Ancient Japan and Korea, 300 BCE - 1300 CE</b></p> <p><i>How has Korea served as both a cultural bridge and a battleground between China and Japan?</i></p>	<p><b>8) Europe - Greece</b></p> <p><i>How did Greece's geography impact settlement and its development?</i></p> <p><i>How did the ancient Greek democracy shape and compare to the democracies of today?</i></p> <p><i>How are the accomplishments of the Greeks still seen living in our world today?</i></p>	<p><b>9) Europe - Roman Republic, and the Roman Empire, c. 500 BCE–500 CE</b></p> <p><i>What was the influence and legacy of the Roman Empire on the conquered peoples in the territory it controlled?</i></p> <p><i>What is a republic and how did the Roman Republic influence governments around the world today?</i></p>

**Highlights:** This class will have a strong emphasis on inquiry, group work, and partner work - as students find themselves part of an Empire in Mesopotamia, a Hsing in China, and a City-State in Greece. Students focus on looking at what these Ancient people contributed to the world, and how we have built off their discoveries - discovering along the way - what makes a civilization. There will be readings, projects, artwork, oral presentations, simulated challenges, notes, maps, theater, and, of course, quizzes and tests. Students will also trace the origins of their family names (forename and surname), to learn about their roots. In addition, they will keep a 7th Grade Journal and document their thoughts and feelings about the world around them.

## Grade 8 Social Studies (Civics)

### Course Description:

In accordance with the 2018 Massachusetts State Standards, this year of learning is described in the following way.

The primary purpose of history and social science education is to prepare students to have the knowledge and skills to become thoughtful and active participants in a democratic society and a complex world. "Government of the people, by the people, for the people" is not just a historical phrase from Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address," but an ideal that must be renewed and reinvigorated by each succeeding generation. The future of democracy depends on our students' development of knowledge, skills, and dispositions that will enable them to embrace democracy's potential while recognizing its challenges and inherent dilemmas.

**Topics Covered:**

The philosophical foundations of the United States political system	The development of the United States government
The institutions of the United States government	The rights and responsibilities of citizens
The Constitution, Amendments, and Supreme Court decisions	The structure of Massachusetts state and local government
Freedom of the press and news/media literacy	

**Highlights:**

This course is designed to enable students to become better-informed citizens and learn about and even question the events of our past. Each topic covered will not only involve learning the facts about the United States government but will also involve historical skill building. These skills include distinguishing between primary and secondary sources, improving geography skills and awareness, research/ essay writing, and, at times public speaking. These skills will be put to use throughout the year involving homework, group activities, current events, and research activities.

**Specialists**  
**Course Descriptions**

**ART**

The Middle School Visual Arts course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive introduction to the world of visual expression, creativity, and artistic exploration. Throughout the course, students will engage in various hands-on activities and projects that aim to develop their

fundamental art skills, foster creativity, and cultivate an appreciation for the diverse forms of visual communication.

**Assessment:**

Assessment will be based on class participation, individual and group projects, art journals, and periodic assessments. Emphasis will be placed on effort, creativity, and the development of fundamental art skills.

## **Health Grades 4 & 5**

Welcome to the engaging and informative Health course designed for our 4th and 5th graders! This course is crafted to empower students with essential knowledge and skills to make informed decisions regarding their health and well-being. Throughout this program, students will delve into various aspects of health, fostering a comprehensive understanding of physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Topics will cover nutrition, personal hygiene, physical activity, mental health awareness, and healthy lifestyle choices.

In a supportive and interactive environment, students will explore the importance of a balanced diet, learning about nutritious foods and the significance of hydration. Discussions on personal hygiene will emphasize the importance of cleanliness and its impact on overall health.

Moreover, the curriculum will focus on the significance of regular exercise and its positive effects on the body and mind. Students will discover strategies for managing stress, understanding emotions, and building resilience.

Through engaging activities, discussions, and multimedia resources, we aim to empower students to make healthy choices that positively impact their lives. This course will encourage open dialogue, critical thinking, and practical application of health-related knowledge in daily life.

## **Middle School Health Course Description**

Welcome to the Middle School Health Course, an engaging and comprehensive program designed to promote a holistic understanding of health and well-being among our students. Throughout this course, we aim to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and strategies necessary to make informed decisions that contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

Topics covered in this course will include:



**Physical Health:** Exploring the importance of exercise, nutrition, personal hygiene, and the impact of healthy habits on the body.

**Mental and Emotional Health:** Understanding emotions, stress management techniques, building resilience, and strategies for maintaining positive mental health.

**Social Health and Relationships:** Exploring healthy communication, building positive relationships, conflict resolution, and the importance of empathy and respect.

**Substance Abuse Prevention:** Providing information on the risks associated with substance abuse and emphasizing the importance of making responsible choices.

**Safety and First Aid:** Learning essential first aid skills, safety measures in various environments, and understanding emergency procedures.

Throughout the course, interactive discussions, group activities, projects, and multimedia resources will be utilized to encourage critical thinking, promote healthy behaviors, and empower students to apply their knowledge to real-life situations.

## **Middle School Physical Education**

This dynamic and engaging course is designed to promote well-being through various physical activities, games, and exercises. Students will embark on a journey that emphasizes the development of essential physical, social, and emotional skills, fostering a lifelong appreciation for an active and healthy lifestyle.

Students will participate in a diverse range of activities, including team sports, individual activities, and cooperative games. The curriculum is structured to cater to different interests and abilities, ensuring that each student has the opportunity to thrive and develop their unique strengths.

**Key Focus Areas:** **Physical Fitness:** Students will engage in cardiovascular exercises and flexibility activities to enhance overall physical fitness. Through structured routines, they will learn the importance of regular exercise for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. **Team Sports:** Various team sports such as basketball, soccer, volleyball, and others will be explored. Emphasis will be placed on teamwork, communication, and sportsmanship, providing students with valuable interpersonal skills. **Lifetime Sports and Recreation:** Introduction to activities that can be enjoyed throughout life, such as pickleball, tennis, and recreational sports, will be included. This encourages students to find activities they can continue to enjoy as they grow older.

## **Music**

### 4th and 5th Grade Music

Welcome to 4th and 5th Grade General Music! This course provides an exploration of music, including playing the ukulele and discovering musicians from all around the world. Students will learn the basics of playing the ukulele, including how to play popular songs and a variety of chords. Additionally, we'll explore influential musicians from various genres and cultures, expanding our understanding of the diverse world of music.

#### 4th and 5th Grade Chorus Course Description

Welcome to the 4th and 5th Grade Chorus! This course offers students the opportunity to explore the joy of singing together as a group. Throughout the year, students will learn vocal techniques, sight reading, practice singing in harmony, and develop skills in choral performance. Regular rehearsals and performances will allow students to enhance their individual and group singing abilities.

#### 6th, 7th, and 8th Music Course Description

Welcome to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade music! In this course, students will explore various genres of music and discover musicians from around the world. We'll discuss the historical and cultural contexts of different musical styles and learn about influential musicians. Through listening exercises and class discussions, students will develop a basic appreciation for the diversity of the music world. We will also learn about different facets of music through a variety of group and individual projects.

#### 6th, 7th, and 8th Chorus Course Description

Welcome to 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Chorus! In this course, students will learn the basics of singing, sight-reading, and performing as a group. We'll explore different types of music, from classical to contemporary, and focus on developing strong vocal skills. Through rehearsals and performances, students will work together to improve both individual and group singing abilities.

## **Library**

Library class is intended to introduce students to the fundamental concepts and skills necessary for effective use of the library and information resources. Throughout the semester, students will develop critical thinking, research, and information literacy skills, empowering them to become independent and resourceful learners. Topics will include book care, literary genres, nonfiction resources, and the Dewey Decimal System.

4th and 5th grades will also practice using various text features, including dictionary skills, indexes, glossaries, and table of contents.

6th and 7th grades will have a unit on Digital Citizenship, which will include media balance, responsible social media use, privacy & security, digital footprints, cyberbullying, and identifying reliable sources.

8th grade will incorporate the Civics Project, in cooperation with the 8th grade civics teacher. The goal is to emphasize a student-led civics project grounded in action civics - the process of applying civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions to mobilize change leading to systems impact.

Assessments will be based on in-class activities, projects, and effort/engagement.

### **Makerspace**

Makerspace is a course designed to allow students to creatively implement the engineering design process. From 4th through 8th grade, students will engage in increasingly complex tasks to build on what they did in previous years. The course is designed to be hands-on and give students many opportunities to solve problems in unique ways. We will use a wide range of materials including cardboard, Legos, and fabric as our construction base. Students will also have the opportunity to explore more high-tech construction opportunities through 3D printing. Culminating projects will include self-propelled vehicles, simple machines, bridges/buildings, fabric arts, games, mazes, and other handmade products.

### **Elementary Band (Grades 4 & 5)**

The Fowler Elementary Band program is designed to introduce students to the rehearsal and performance requirements of a wind/percussion/string ensemble. Emphasis is placed on developing correct technique on a band instrument while reading and interpreting music notation. Effective practice, rehearsal, and performance techniques will also be developed. Students in the elementary band program will acquire tools for lifelong learning by recognizing and identifying the following

specific tools, developed through participation in musical performance: teamwork, self-expression, initiative, self-discipline, language, mathematical principles, and acquiring and using information.

### **Middle School Band (Grades 6 & 7 & 8)**

Middle School Band is open to any student, though performance in elementary band is always preferred. The primary focus of the Band is to expose students to new music that offers new and exciting challenges. New rhythms and musical styles, as well as scales and technical studies, will be the backbone of those challenges and our work.

#### Goals

- Students will learn to play a wind or percussion instrument at the highest level each individual can achieve.
- Students will learn fundamental playing skills and musical knowledge that will enable them to achieve future success in the band program at Maynard High School or any other school they may attend.
- Students will grow as musicians by making positive contributions in the ensemble setting, allowing each ensemble to play at the highest level the group can achieve.
- Students will learn ensemble skills through the public performance of quality literature at a high level for their peers, the community, and wider audiences.
- Students will develop an appreciation for quality music, particularly that of the wind band repertoire, through performing outstanding literature at an appropriate level for each ensemble.
- Students will have the opportunity to take their playing experience as far as they would like through optional extras like solo performances, CDMMEA ensembles, private lessons, chamber groups, and other performances.

#### Values

To achieve our goals as a band program, we value high standards for both performance and behavior. Students will learn a **strong work ethic**: to set goals, to evaluate personal progress and adjust based on those observations, to persevere through obstacles or difficult times, and to see things through to completion. Students will learn the value of **teamwork**: to strive together for a common goal, to support other team members, and to treat each other and team leaders with respect. Students will learn to take **responsibility**: for their growth as musicians, for their contribution to their ensemble, for proper care and treatment of personal and community equipment, for attendance at performances and other band events, and for appropriate communication with leaders and fellow students regarding any reasons they might not be able to fulfill their responsibilities. These values will help students achieve success not only in the Fowler School Band Program but in all areas of their lives.

## Grade 4

- **ELA:** The 4th grade curriculum focuses on the following ELA standards: reading comprehension, reading fluency, writing, speaking, and listening. Standards are addressed using a variety of fictional and expository texts across all core content areas. Students engage in context literature and text. Students practice reading accuracy and fluency and engage in higher-order reasoning and questioning. Students work collaboratively to discuss literature and engage in extended writing time using grammar and conventions for various tasks, purposes, and audiences.
- **Math:** The 4th grade *Carnegie* curriculum focuses on teaching key math concepts like multi-digit multiplication and division, fractions, decimals, geometry, and measurement, tailored to the learning abilities of a typical fourth-grader; it often incorporates an interactive, personalized learning approach through their "MATHia" software platform.
- **Spanish Immersion:** Students are exposed to the same curriculum as their peers while also having the opportunity to learn a second language. Cultures are explored while students work and learn together, getting ready for a successful future in the multicultural world in which we live.
- **Social Studies:** The 4th grade social studies curriculum focuses on map skills and North American geography, including the regions of the United States.
- **Science:** The 4th-grade science curriculum focuses on seven core ideas: Earth's place in the universe, Earth's systems, Earth and human activity, organisms and molecules, structures and processes in life science, physical science, energy and waves, and engineering design.

## Grade 5

- **ELA:** The 5th grade ELA course uses interactive read-alouds to enrich students' reading and writing skills. Students will write in various genres including personal journals, poetry, narrative, informational, and opinion pieces.
- **Math:** The 5th grade Math curriculum uses the *Go Math* text. The text is aligned with the Common Core standards. The main focus areas are Place Value to Billions; Decimal Operations; Algebraic Expressions; Order of Operations; All operations with Fractions, Geometry, Measurement, and Data.
- **Spanish Immersion:** Students are exposed to the same curriculum as their ELA peers while also having the opportunity to continue developing their second language skills. Cultures are explored while students work and learn together, getting ready for a successful future in the multicultural world in which we live. The focus is to develop high proficiency levels in Spanish and English, help students achieve grade-level academic performance in Spanish and English, and develop bilingualism, biliteracy, biculturalism, and positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors.
- **Social Studies:** The 5th grade Social Studies course is designed to enrich the understanding of the following: US Geography, Colonization, The Revolutionary War, the US Government, and the Legacy of the Civil War.
- **Science:** The 5th grade Science course studies physical, Earth, and life sciences through inquiry-based, hands-on investigations that promote understanding, collaboration, and critical thinking development.

## Grade 6

- **ELA:** 6th grade ELA explores multiple genres, themes, ideas, and authors' styles/purposes, through reading various texts including novels, short stories, articles, and poetry. We develop narrative, persuasive, and informational writing skills through different activities and learning formats including reading/writing workshops, evidence-based writing, and revising using specific rubrics. The ultimate goal of this class is to engage students in meaningful literature and to empower them as writers.
- **Math:** The year starts with a review of multiplying and dividing decimals, then moves into the same operations with fractions. Major new topics for the grade are the introduction of ratios, rates, and percentages, writing and evaluating variable expressions, and solving one-step equations. Finally, the year ends with an exploration of the area of polygons, the surface area of polyhedrons, and working with data displays for the measures of central tendency (mean, median, and mode).
- **Spanish/French Languages:** These courses introduce students to the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking or French-speaking world. Using their speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills, they will learn to communicate about many topics including describing themselves and others, things they like and don't like, families, animals, and pets.
- **Spanish Immersion:** In 6th and 7th grade Spanish Immersion, students can expect to read short narrative and informational texts and novels in Spanish. Class activities will include discussions, journal responses, vocabulary journals, creative writing, text summaries, and grammar games to help further develop writing skills. Students will practice all language skills, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening in Spanish.
- **Social Studies:** This 6th grade Social Studies course is designed to enrich students' understanding of the following: the First Cultures, the Fertile Crescent, the Nile River Valley, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, and a comprehensive review of basic geography concepts. Additionally, students will be required to complete bi-weekly Current Events.
- **Science:** 6th grade Science focuses on three main areas: Earth and Space Science, Life Science, and Physical Science. The Earth and Space Science unit focuses on Earth's place in the Universe and Earth's Systems. Cells and interactions between human body systems are the topics covered in the Life Science unit. The Physical Science unit focuses on matter and its interactions.

## Grade 7

- **ELA:** In 7th Grade ELA, students actively read and discuss a variety of texts (novels, short stories, poems, plays, articles) and analyze connections between texts across genres and topics. Students write narratives, essays, and poetry to explore how literary elements interact.
- **Math:** The 7th-grade math course focuses on five key concepts: (1) Rates, Ratios, and Proportionality, (2) Integer and Rational Number Operations, (3) Expressions and Equations, (4) Geometry, Area, and Volume of Solids, and (5) Statistics and Proportionality. Students increase critical thinking skills and focus on learning real-world applications.
- **Spanish/French Languages:** This course is designed as a full-year language class where the students are exposed to French or Spanish language from day one. Combining a wide range of strategies

and paying very close attention to their communication skills, they have the chance to actively use the content that they are learning through conversations, oral presentations, games, songs, etc. so that they can talk about a variety of topics such as their families, themselves, their hobbies, the classroom, going shopping, telling time, etc.

- **Spanish Immersion:** In 6th and 7th grade Spanish Immersion, students can expect to read short narrative, informational texts, and novels in Spanish. Class activities will include discussions, journal responses, vocabulary journals, creative writing, text summaries, and grammar games to help further develop writing skills. Students will practice all language skills, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening in Spanish.
- **Social Studies:** In 7th grade, students examine how the perspectives of political science, economics, geography, and history apply to the study of the regions and countries. They study the development of ancient civilizations in China, India, East Asia, Oceania and Europe. Students will take a look at Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism. They will immerse themselves in simulations on Mesopotamia, Dynastic China, and ancient Greece. The course concludes with a study of a government in classical Greece and Rome, which serves as a prelude to the study of Civics in grade 8.
- **Science:** 7th-grade students will be introduced to inquiry-based science units that combine lecture, discussion, use of technology, and lab activities. Students will learn about motion and thermal energy and how these forms of energy interact in Earth's spheres including the hydrosphere, geosphere, and biosphere. Students will also be challenged to incorporate 21st Century Skills including creativity and innovation; critical thinking; problem-solving; communication and collaboration when executing the 7th-grade science curriculum.

## Grade 8

- **ELA:** In 8th grade ELA, students use fiction, nonfiction, plays, and poetry to launch into writing in a variety of formats, including persuasive, informational, and creative writing, in both formal and informal settings. Vocabulary words are dissected into their prefixes, suffixes, and roots to build reading proficiency. Students also take a "deep dive" into grammar, parts of speech, and sentence structure, sharpening the tools needed for strong writing.
- **Math:** This course focuses on five components: (1) The number system, (2) Expressions and Equations, (3) Functions, (4) Geometry, and (5) Statistics and probability.
- **Accelerated Algebra:** This course focuses on the 8th-grade mathematics components as well as (1) writing, graphing, and interpreting linear equations, functions, and inequalities, (2) operations with polynomials, and (3) exponential and quadratic equations and functions.
- **Spanish/French Languages:** Spanish II is aimed at getting the students' communication skills beyond an A1 level (basic level) in the four different activities performed in a language: reading, listening, writing, and speaking. Students will be able to use the language both in written and spoken form in relation to very familiar topics to them. The topics covered are the following: (1) talking about themselves, (2) describing their family, (3) the classroom and school, (4) the house and the neighborhood, and (5) shopping for clothes and ordering at a restaurant.
- **Social Studies:** The 8th grade Social Studies curriculum is designed to deepen students'

understanding of the following: the United States political system (including its development and institutions), the rights and responsibilities of a United States citizen, the structure of the Massachusetts State and local governments, the Constitution (including the Amendments), Supreme Court decisions, freedom of the press and news/media literacy.

- **Science:** In 8th grade Science students begin the year in Physical Science with a focus on matter and its interactions, followed by forces and motion. Mid-year brings students to Earth's place in the universe and Earth Systems, including the geology of Earth's interior. Students will finish the year with Life Science, digging deep into Mendelian Genetics, inherited variation of traits, and biological evolution.