JUNIOR HIGH Curriculum, Grade 7-8
Canyon Grove Academy

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Our ELA Curriculum will be using two online programs in blended learning, with students engaging in person and at home with these programs. Additionally, this will be supplemented by standards aligned materials developed by our in house CGA curriculum specialist.

What is NoRedInk?
NoRedInk is an online learning platform that helps students improve their grammar, writing, and language skills. It's designed for students in grades 5–12 and is commonly used in middle schools.

How does it work?
NoRedInk provides interactive exercises that adapt to each student's skill level. It starts by asking students about their interests—like favorite TV shows, movies, or hobbies—and then uses those to create personalized practice questions.

What does my child do on NoRedInk?

Students work on:

- Grammar and punctuation skills
- Sentence structure and clarity
- Writing full essays and paragraphs
- Revising and editing for correctness and style

Students complete assignments from their teacher, get immediate feedback, and can retry until they master the concept.

What is Actively Learn?
Actively Learn is an online learning platform designed for students in grades 3–12. It enhances reading comprehension and critical thinking across subjects like English Language Arts (ELA), science, and social studies

How Does it Work? .

- Interactive Reading: Students engage with texts that include embedded questions, notes, and multimedia to deepen understanding. Students are assigned full novels and/or informational texts to support comprehension.
- Personalized Support: Features like text-to-speech, translations into over 100 languages, and adjustable fonts cater to diverse learning needs.
- Teacher Integration: Educators can assign readings, monitor progress, and provide real-time feedback, tailoring instruction to individual student needs.

MATHEMATICS CURRICULUM

As a middle school, we will use Zearn Math, which supports students to access grade level math learning and mastery. Additionally, we know that all students are not ready for grade level math. We will support filling "math holes" to allow students to access grade level math with IXL and Aleks.

What is Zearn Math? Zearn Math is an online platform designed to help students in grades 6–8 build a deep understanding of math. It complements classroom instruction by offering interactive digital lessons that align with widely-used curricula like Eureka Math and Illustrative Mathematics .Zearn combines teacher-led instruction with self-paced digital lessons.

Here's how it supports your child's learning:

- Short, Engaging Videos: Lessons begin with concise videos featuring teachers and peers explaining math concepts.
- Interactive Practice: Students engage with digital manipulatives and visual models to explore math ideas.
- Immediate Feedback: The platform provides real-time feedback, helping students learn from mistakes and reinforcing understanding.
- Adaptive Support: If a student struggles, Zearn offers just-in-time support and foundational lessons tailored to their needs .

Why is it beneficial?

- Reinforces Classroom Learning: Zearn's lessons mirror what students learn in class, providing additional practice and reinforcement.
- Supports Diverse Learners: The platform's adaptive features cater to various learning styles and needs.
- Builds Confidence: By allowing students to learn at their own pace and providing immediate feedback, Zearn helps build math confidence.
- Accessible Anywhere: As a web-based platform, students can access Zearn from home or school, making it a flexible learning tool .

What is IXL Math? IXL Math is an online learning platform that helps students in grades K–12 build strong math skills through personalized, interactive practice. It's widely used in schools and at home to support students at all levels, from those who need extra help to those who want to advance.

How does it work? IXL offers thousands of math skills, organized by grade level and topic. Students are asked to take a diagnostic test to determine where they have "math holes" and then can work on mastering specific skills that will support them in grade level math.

- Targeted Practice: Students work on specific math skills based on their grade or needs.
- SmartScore System: Each skill has a SmartScore from 0–100. As students practice, the score increases, reflecting their growing mastery.
- Real-Time Feedback: IXL explains wrong answers immediately, helping students learn from mistakes.
- Adaptive Learning: The platform adjusts the difficulty based on how the student is doing, offering support or challenge as needed. Students are encouraged to work on skills that they struggle with per their diagnostic test.

What is ALEKS Math? ALEKS (Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces) is an online math program for grades 6–12 that provides personalized instruction based on what each student knows—and doesn't know. It's widely used in schools and can also be accessed at home.

How does it work?

ALEKS uses a powerful artificial intelligence (AI) system to:

- Assess Your Child's Knowledge: It begins with a diagnostic test to find out exactly which math concepts your child understands and where they need support.
- Create a Personalized Learning Path: Based on the results, ALEKS builds a customized set of topics for your child to work through.

- Offer Targeted Practice: Students get clear, step-by-step explanations and interactive problems to help them learn new concepts at their own pace.
- Check for Mastery: ALEKS regularly checks to make sure students retain what they've learned and identifies when it's time to review.

How does ALEKS help fill math gaps? This is one of ALEKS's biggest strengths:

- Pinpoints Specific Gaps: The program doesn't just say a student is "behind"—it shows exactly which skills are missing.
- Adapts in Real Time: As your child learns, ALEKS updates the learning path to reflect progress or reteach when needed.
- Ensures True Understanding: Students must demonstrate consistent success before ALEKS considers a topic mastered.

What is Math Nation Math?

Math Nation is an online math learning program and curriculum designed to help students master middle school and high school math—including grades 6–8 math, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. It combines instructional videos, practice tools, workbooks, tutoring support, and teacher resources to make learning math more accessible and effective.

How does Math Nation Work?

- Students watch engaging math videos where instructors explain math concepts step by step. You can choose different instructors whose teaching styles fit your learning preferences.
- Each lesson has corresponding workbooks—either print or digital—where students follow along, take notes, and practice problems. These help reinforce what's taught in the videos.
- After lessons, students can use interactive tools like Check Your Understanding and Test Yourself! to practice and get *instant feedback* on what they've learned.
- Students can post questions and get help from teachers, peers, and expert moderators on forums called "Walls." This is useful for homework help or clarifying tricky parts outside class time.

Utah or US HISTORY CURRICULUM

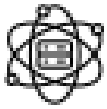
Our middle school students will step into the role of "History Detectives"—asking big questions, examining evidence, and uncovering what we can learn from the past to better understand the present.

We will be using a specially curated and standards-aligned curriculum developed by our own Canyon Grove Academy Curriculum Specialist. This curriculum is rooted in inquiry-based learning and focuses heavily on the use of primary source documents—authentic materials from the past such as letters, speeches, maps, and photographs.

Through this approach, students will:

- Investigate historical events and people using real evidence
- Develop critical thinking and analysis skills
- Make connections between past and present
- Explore multiple perspectives in history

To support learning beyond the classroom, parents will receive a weekly email outlining what is being taught, along with access to the curriculum materials. This will help you continue the conversation at home, encourage thoughtful discussions, and reinforce key concepts in a meaningful way.



SCIENCE CURRICULUM

Our middle school Science and STEM curriculum has been developed by our own CGA Curriculum Specialist and is designed to spark curiosity, foster critical thinking, and help students understand the world through exploration and discovery. Our program is: standards-aligned, inquiry-based, hands-on, rooted in the scientific method, and centered on Phenomenon-Based Learning. We use Science Nation as an additional resource.

Students learn by doing. Through guided investigations, experiments, and real-world problem-solving, students act as scientists—asking questions, forming hypotheses, collecting data, and drawing evidence-based conclusions. Our inquiry-based approach encourages exploration and resilience, helping students build both scientific understanding and confidence.

Science comes alive when it's connected to real, observable events—phenomena—that students can relate to and question.

Examples might include:

- Why does water collect on the outside of a cold glass?
- Why is a dark shirt warmer than a light shirt in the sun?
- Why does moss only grow on certain sides of trees?

By exploring questions like these, students engage in authentic learning experiences that are rooted in three-dimensional instruction:

- Science and Engineering Practices – how scientists investigate and solve problems
- Crosscutting Concepts – themes that connect different areas of science
- Disciplinary Core Ideas – foundational knowledge in physical, life, and earth sciences

This approach helps students not just learn science, but think like scientists.STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) is woven into the curriculum through engineering challenges, coding, data analysis, and technology-based solutions. Students work collaboratively on projects that require them to design, test, and improve their ideas using real-world tools and skills.

As students investigate and explore, they also build the academic language needed to discuss, explain, and present scientific ideas clearly. They'll develop confidence in using scientific vocabulary in both written and spoken formats, preparing them for high school and beyond.Through a balance of structure and discovery, our Science and STEM program equips students with the skills to wonder, investigate, and solve—and to see science not just as a subject, but as a way of understanding the world around them.

What is Science Nation?

Science Nation is an online science learning platform commonly used in middle and high schools to support standards-based science instruction. It combines digital lessons, practice, hands on labs, and assessments in one place and is aligned to state standards (including NGSS-style skills).

How does Science Nation support student learning?

Science Nation supports middle school learning by providing clear, engaging science lessons that reinforce what students are taught in class. The program allows students to practice key concepts at their own pace while receiving immediate feedback, helping them build confidence and correct misunderstandings. It also helps prepare students for assessments by strengthening critical thinking, data analysis, and problem-solving skills.

HEALTH & PE CURRICULUM

Middle school students will participate in Health and PE during their at home days. Students will access course materials through Boost that are standards aligned and written by our own CGA Curriculum Specialist.

Physical Education: Students will learn about BMI, eating healthy, positive self-talk, how to plan a nutritionally balanced meal, how to read labels, and explore online apps that support physical health and activity. Students will log exercise weekly.

Health: We use the Botvin LifeSkills Training Curriculum in conjunction with thoughtfully curated and developed materials written by our own Canyon Grove Academy Curriculum Specialist. Parents will have complete transparency and access to this curriculum in order to have important conversations with their students.

What is Botvin LifeSkills Training Middle School Program? It is a research-based prevention program that helps students develop the skills they need to make healthy choices, resist peer pressure, and build strong personal and social skills. It's often part of a school's health or advisory curriculum.

Rather than focusing just on saying "no" to risky behaviors, Botvin teaches why and how students can make better choices for themselves in all areas of life.

The curriculum covers key areas in three main categories:

Personal Self-Management Skills

- Setting goals and making decisions
- Managing stress and anxiety
- Increasing self-esteem and confidence

Social Skills

- Effective communication
- Assertiveness and resisting peer pressure
- Conflict resolution and healthy relationships

Health and Prevention Skills

- Understanding the consequences of risky behaviors (like substance use)
- Developing refusal skills to avoid drugs, alcohol, and tobacco
- Media literacy and resisting negative influences

Why is it useful for middle school students? Middle school is a time of rapid change—physically, emotionally, and socially. Students are forming their identities, navigating new social dynamics, and becoming more independent. The Botvin program is designed specifically for this age group and helps them:

- Make thoughtful decisions instead of reacting to peer pressure
- Build confidence in social situations
- Cope with stress in healthy ways
- Understand the long-term impact of risky behaviors

Botvin LST is evidence-based, with decades of research showing that this material reduces the likelihood of substance abuse, violence, and other risky behaviors. It is skill-focused and not about lecturing. Students learn practical skills that they can use right away. It is positive and empowering, focusing on what students can do and the strengths that they already have.

COLLEGE & CAREER AWARENESS

We will be using YouScience to support students in learning about College and Career. YouScience is a powerful online tool designed to help students discover their unique talents, interests, and potential career paths. It uses a series of engaging “brain games” (aptitude assessments) and interest surveys to give students personalized insight into how they think, learn, and what careers might be a great fit for them.

What will my student be doing? Your student will complete:

Aptitude Assessments – These are fun, game-like activities that measure how your student naturally thinks and solves problems.

Interest Surveys – Students answer questions about what they enjoy, like working with people, solving problems, building things, etc.

The combination of these tools produces a detailed personal profile that shows: natural strengths (aptitudes), personal interests, and suggested careers that align with both. YouScience helps students to discover their strengths. Many students don’t realize what they’re good at until they see it in action. YouScience highlights skills like problem-solving, spatial reasoning, communication, and pattern recognition. YouScience helps students explore career pathways. It connects their natural talents and interests to real careers, including information on what those jobs are like, how much they pay, and what kind of education or training is needed. YouScience helps students to make informed choices. – Whether your student is thinking about high school electives, future college majors, or career options, YouScience gives them a meaningful, personalized starting point. Finally, YouScience helps students to build confidence. Seeing their unique abilities helps students feel more confident and motivated about their future.

After the assessment, students and parents receive an individualized report with career matches, strengths, and learning styles, tools to explore different industries and career fields, and guidance on types of high school courses or extracurriculars that support their goals.

DIGITAL LITERACY

Middle school students will learn digital literacy on the days that they are in person. Our digital literacy curriculum was written by our CGA Curriculum Specialist.

Digital Literacy is more than just knowing how to use a computer. It’s about helping students become safe, responsible, and effective users of technology in school, at home, and in the future workplace.

In middle school, students are not only growing up in a digital world—they're preparing to use technology to solve problems, collaborate with others, and communicate ideas. The goal of Digital Literacy is to give students the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in a digital society.

The curriculum is organized around key areas: digital citizenship, technology operations and keyboarding, computational thinking and problem solving, information literacy, and communication and collaboration. The goal of the course materials is for students to be able to: stay safe online, communicate effectively, make smart choices about technology use, prepare for high school, college, and future careers, and become thoughtful, responsible digital citizens.

KEYBOARDING

Middle school students will be learning and practicing keyboarding. In today’s digital world, keyboarding is a foundational skill—just like reading, writing, or basic math. Middle school is the perfect time to learn it well, before students begin typing longer assignments, research papers, emails, and even coding. Confident keyboarding skills build efficiency, support academic success, prepare students for high school, college, and careers, promote safe and responsible technology use, and support the development of other digital literacy skills.
