



Hill-Murray School

The Catholic Benedictine Prep School, Grades 6-12

MIDDLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION GUIDE 2018 - 2019

Proud of our Lasallian and Benedictine heritage.

Known. Loved. Respected.

Hill-Murray School Mission & Vision

Hill-Murray's student-focused environment is dedicated to educating the whole child and fostering spiritual, academic, physical, emotional, and social growth. The Hill-Murray Middle School community is committed to preparing our students to be responsible, contributing members of our global community in service to others. The Christian morals and intellectual foundation we provide enable students to respond to God's call with their whole hearts, minds, and souls and to love their neighbor as themselves (Matthew 22:36-39).

Children between the ages of 10 and 14 are unique in intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth. Recognizing that these children are also strikingly different from each other, the middle school is designed to meet the needs of a child as well as an adolescent during the transition from the elementary to the high school.

In a caring and secure environment, our Middle School program ensures that all students experience challenge and success. The curriculum is based upon the developmental needs of the young adolescent, with the following goals:

- Mastering basic skills within an interdisciplinary context.
- Acquiring a fundamental body of knowledge and the critical thinking skills necessary for its interpretation and application.
- Developing and maintaining a positive self-image.
- Accepting increased social, personal, and academic responsibilities.
- Exploring a diversity of curricular and extracurricular activities.
- Developing an increased awareness of individual differences and respect for others.
- Participating responsibly in the school community.

The key to the success of our program is a flexible and creative staff that enthusiastically chooses to work with students at this age level. Hill-Murray Middle School Faculty and Staff believe:

- The students are the focus of the school.
- All students can learn if given the opportunity.
- To achieve educational excellence, there has to be a commitment by staff, students and parents.
- Each member of the school community is responsible for his or her performance.

- It is essential for success that staff, parents and students work cooperatively.
- Continuous planning, evaluation, and change are necessary for improvement.
- Clearly articulated goals and open communication among groups (staff, parents and students) are essential.
- Caring for others and service to the community are integral parts of the school program.
- The Hill-Murray Middle School philosophy has an effect on all school programs and decisions.
- The administration's main role is to create an environment where teachers teach and students learn.

Middle School Course Registration

Middle school students take required courses in English, Math, Physical Education, Religion, Science and Social Studies. In addition to required courses, students will take two to four electives each year.

Math placement for incoming students is determined by the Math Department. The decision is based on placement exam scores, previous teacher recommendations, prior coursework, grades and other factors. Math placement for returning students is determined by that student's current year's progress and current teacher's recommendations.

Course Registration Policy

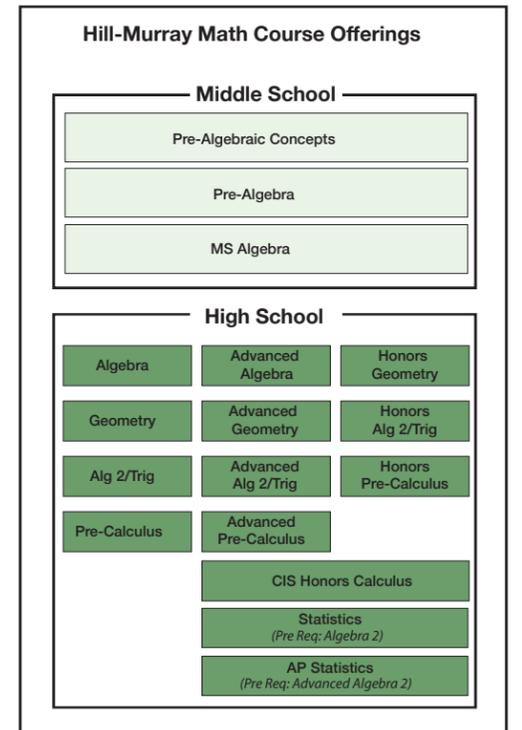
Care in the selection of courses is encouraged to avoid schedule changes. In the event that a course is not offered due to insufficient enrollment, or enrollment exceeds course capacity, a student's alternate choices listed on registration materials will be used to complete the schedule. Therefore, it is important that students list alternate choices they sincerely wish to take. In the event that a course registration change needs to be made, the change needs to be initiated with the student's counselor and approved by a parent/guardian. Requests for specific teachers or to change teachers or hours will not be honored. This policy helps maintain Hill-Murray's high academic standards and encourages students to maintain the consistent level of hard work and effort that is required to be successful.

Course Selection Planning for Middle School

This worksheet should be used to help you plan your course selections for Middle School. It is not turned in with your registration materials. Begin by locating the section below that lists the grade you are entering next year. Required courses for each year are already listed, so fill in your elective choices in the open spaces. You are ready to begin registration when you have all four blocks filled in for each semester.

Required courses are listed period 1-5. Choose the two electives you want to fill the other two periods.

		GRADE 6		GRADE 7	
HR		1st Semester	2nd Semester	1st Semester	2nd Semester
1		Religion 6 / Phy Ed 6	Phy Ed 6 / Religion 6	Religion 7 / Phy Ed 7	Religion 7 / Phy Ed 7
2		Lit. & Language Arts 6	Lit. & Language Arts 6	Lit. & Language Arts 7	Lit. & Language Arts 7
3		Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
4		Science & Engineering 6	Science & Engineering 6	Life Science 7	Life Science 7
5		Global Social Studies 6	Global Social Studies 6	Social Studies 7	Social Studies 7
6		Homebase / Lunch	Homebase / Lunch	Homebase / Lunch	Homebase / Lunch
7					
8					
		GRADE 8		MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE CHOICES	
HR		1st Semester	2nd Semester		
1		Religion 8 / Phy Ed 8	Phy Ed 8 / Religion 8	Advanced Computer App.	Media Literacy
2		Lit. & Language Arts 8	Lit. & Language Arts 8	Computer Science Foundations	Middle School Art
3		Mathematics	Mathematics	Creative Dramatics	Middle School Band
4		Earth & Space Science 8	Earth & Space Science 8	Creative Writing	Middle School Choir
5		Social Studies 8	Social Studies 8	Exploring World Languages	MS Graphics and Digital Photo
6		Advisory / Lunch	Advisory / Lunch	Film & Media Studies	Orchestra
7				French I	Reading Enrichment
8				French II	Spanish I
				Intro to Musical Theatre	Spanish II
				It's My Future	STEM Basics
				It's My World	Strategic Study Lab
					Me, Myself and My Brain

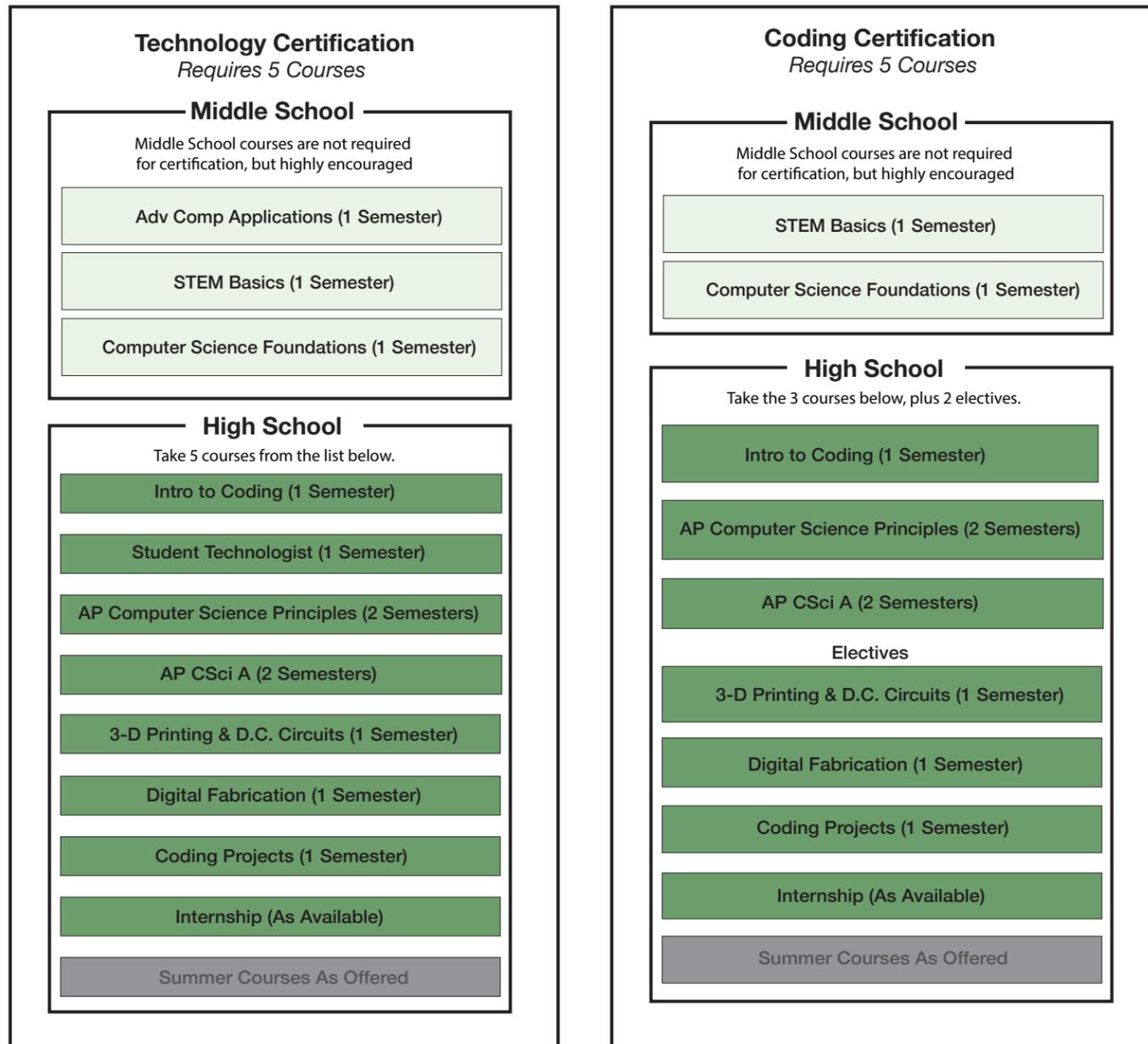


ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY CERTIFICATION PATHWAYS

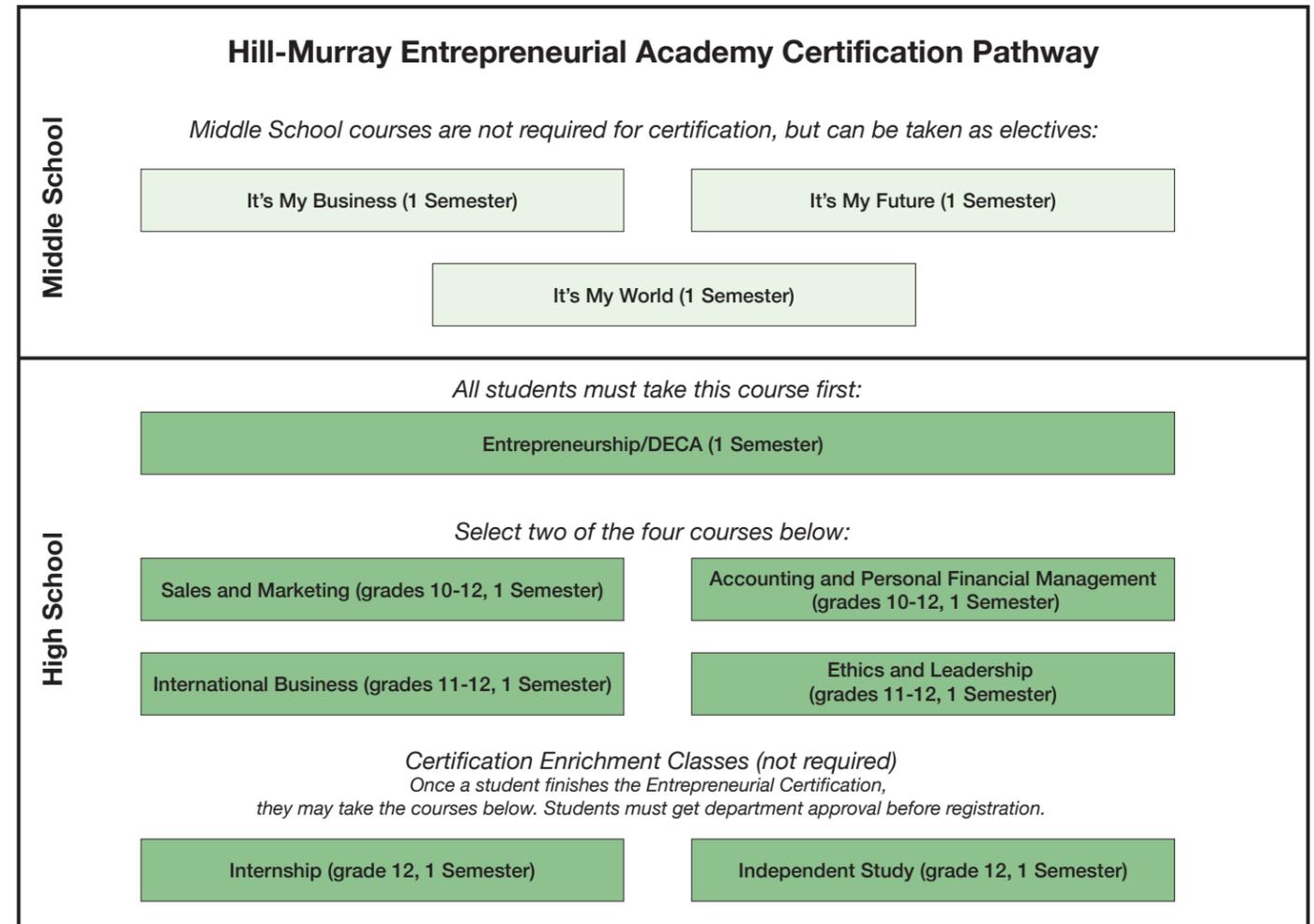
Hill-Murray School offers two comprehensive Technology Academy Pathways, giving students the opportunity to gain experience with STEM curriculum, computational thinking, 3D printing and design, web development, and coding. Both the Technology Academy Certification, and the Technology Academy Coding Certification, offer courses that will introduce students to advanced technology topics, and develop their technical skills with industry-standard software. Our Coding Certification Pathway takes it to the next level, and prepares students for AP Computer Science testing (and obtain college credits), and develops students' foundational and advanced coding skills. Completing these pathways will help set students apart from their peers in both college and the workforce at large. See diagram below for required courses to complete the two certification pathways.

Hill-Murray Technology Academy Certification Pathways



ENTREPRENEURIAL ACADEMY CERTIFICATION PATHWAY

Hill-Murray School offers a comprehensive Entrepreneurial Academy Pathway, giving students the opportunity to gain experience with career exploration, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, accounting and international business. This pathway offers courses that will introduce students to advanced business topics, and develop their interpersonal and problem solving skills by working in collaborative teams. Our Entrepreneurship Certification Pathway takes it to the next level, and prepares students for the Enterprise Business Internship which will allow students to gain experience in a professional business setting. Completing this pathway will help set students apart from their peers in both college and the workforce at large. See diagram below for required courses to complete the certification pathway.





Hill-Murray Pioneer Summer Experience

Pioneer Summer Experience provides enriching exploration and remediation in Hill-Murray students' lives. Through these summer programs, students can build up their ACT skills, learn how to fly a plane, keep up on their math or reading skills or choose from many other exciting opportunities. Registration is online and is posted in early spring of 2018. If you would like to learn more about the program, please contact Juli Baecker at 651-748-2232.

In addition to for-credit classes, students can also take experiential courses as well. Some of these enrichment classroom experiences include:

- Intro to Aviation
- Virtual Reality Explorers
- Camp Invention
- The Art of the Printing Press
- Drawing Bootcamp
- Summer Pops Orchestra
- Digital Music Production Lab
- Summer Theatre
- Many Athletic Camps for all students; hockey, soccer, basketball, and football, to name a few

Look for our full summer directory coming out February 2018!

SUMMER COURSES FOR CREDIT

Another option for students in need of credits or to create space in their schedule for other course work is Pioneer Summer Experience for credit courses. These courses are offered through the Pioneer Summer and can be added into a student's graduation plan. Space is limited within these course and priority is given to Seniors in need of coursework to graduate.

Please contact your counselor if this is a option you are looking at putting into your graduation planning.

0603 SUMMER SPANISH SUCCESS

M-TH | June 18th - 28th and July 9th - July 19th |

8:00am - 11:00am

1 Credit for incoming 7th-12th grade students

Do you have knowledge of basic Spanish vocabulary such as numbers, telling time, dates, weather, and family? Are you familiar with basic verb forms, such as soy, es, tengo, estoy, and estás? This course is for students who have studied Spanish but need to develop stronger foundational skills before advancing to

a more rigorous high school Spanish 2 class. It is also for students who have a love for Spanish and simply want to maintain their skills over the summer. This summer class will provide students the opportunity to review essential high school Spanish 1 grammar concepts. At the end of this course, incoming 8th-12th grade students may choose to take Hill-Murray's placement test to determine whether they are ready for a high school Spanish 2 course.

This four-week course will be taught in two parts, Monday through Thursday, from 8:00am to 11:00am. Part one will be from June 18th through June 28th. Part two will be from July 9th through July 19th.

Each student will need access to their own internet-capable device (laptop, smart phone, iPad, etc).

Through the Nicholas Center, Hill-Murray is able to meet the need of a very neurodiverse student population. The Nicholas Center is able to provide coursework that provides enriching interventions for students to meet their individual needs. The prescriptive coursework is leveled based off of a student's individual cognitive needs and has built in assessments to measure growth. Currently, The Nicholas Center provides classes to support students who may have a diagnosed emotional or learning difference in multiple areas. To find out more about The Nicholas Center and how the program may work with your son or daughter, please contact the Director of The Nicholas Center, Brent Johnson, at 651-748-2450.

TUTORING

Students that need assistance in core classwork or who are looking for an additional boost in their preparation can be helped within The Nicholas Center. Tutoring can be offered before or after school to meet a student's needs. Please contact Rita Albert at 651-748-2201.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

All Middle School students enrolled at Hill-Murray have a Chromebook. Based off a student's needs, programs can be installed to assist a student in their area of need. Examples of assistive technology accommodations include dictation software, audio enhancement, etc.

ACADEMIC STUDY SKILLS

0239-A (SEM 1) STRATEGIC STUDY LAB 6-7

0239-B (SEM 2) STRATEGIC STUDY LAB 6-7

FULL YEAR

0241-A (SEM 1) STRATEGIC STUDY LAB 7-8

0241-B (SEM 2) STRATEGIC STUDY LAB 7-8

Full Year

Elective 6-8 approval of The Nicholas Center

This is more than just a study hall! This strategic study lab will be staffed with people who are there to help students learn in the way that's best for that student. Using learning specialists, as well as current content teachers, this course will support the development of organizational skills, study skills, reading for content strategies, writing, math and science support. Students will be assigned to this class based on their academic needs.

READING

0203-A (SEM 1) MIDDLE SCHOOL READING ENRICHMENT

0203-B (SEM 2) MIDDLE SCHOOL READING ENRICHMENT

Full Year

Elective 6-12, approval of The Nicholas Center

Students in this course will improve reading proficiency with instruction in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Students will read leveled, high interest literature for both academic and recreational purposes. A strong emphasis will be placed on non-fiction for college prep and real world applications. Students will be encouraged and motivated to have a love for reading through realistic and individualized goal setting. Achieve 3000 is a computer based program that is utilized within Reading Enrichment to ensure students are reaching learning goals. Students will be assigned to this class based on their academic plan.

0210-A (SEM 1) WILSON JUST WORDS®

0210-B (SEM 2) WILSON JUST WORDS®

2 Semesters, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total

Elective 6-12 approval of The Nicholas Center

Full Year

The Wilson Just Words program is a fast-paced, sophisticated, study of word structure that provides direct and explicit teaching of "how English works" for both decoding and spelling automaticity. It is appropriate for students in grades 6-12 who need a brush-up on basic word analysis skills, suffixes, prefixes and roots.

0211-A (SEM 1) WILSON READING SYSTEM®

0211-B (SEM 2) WILSON READING SYSTEM®

2 Semesters, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total

Elective 6-12 approval of The Nicholas Center

Full Year

Students whose basic reading and spelling skills are significantly below their academic potential may request remediation with the Wilson Reading System®. The Wilson Reading System consists of 12 steps of direct, systematic, code-based, interactive, multi-sensory instruction. It emphasizes total word construction. For students of all ages and ability levels, it provides the skills necessary to decode (read) words accurately and fluently, and to encode (spell) as they learn to decode.

GRADE 6: REQUIRED COURSES

GRADE 6		
HOUR	1st Semester	2nd Semester
1	Religion 6 / Phy Ed 6	Phy Ed 6 / Religion 6
2	Lit. & Language Arts 6	Lit. & Language Arts 6
3	Mathematics	Mathematics
4	Science & Engineering 6	Science & Engineering 6
5	Global Social Studies 6	Global Social Studies 6
6	Homebase / Lunch	Homebase / Lunch
7		
8		

Required courses are listed period 1-5. Choose the two electives you want to fill the other two periods.

ENGLISH

0201 LITERATURE & LANGUAGE ARTS 6

Full Year

In this course, fundamental writing, literature, reading, and communication skills are intertwined throughout the year. Students will focus on reading comprehension, vocabulary development, the writing process, literary study, language development, and lifetime study skills. Collaborative strategies are used to build knowledge, skills, and to help students become independent readers, thinkers, and writers in an effort to foster success in middle school.

MATHEMATICS

Sixth grade students are placed in Pre-Algebraic Concepts unless they qualify for Pre-Algebra or Algebra through our spring placement test.

0301 PRE-ALGEBRAIC CONCEPTS

Full Year

This course continues the study of mathematics. Topics include: numbers and their operations, beginning algebra, beginning geometry and data analysis and probability. Technology applications are integrated throughout the course to make concepts more meaningful. The emphasis of this class is to prepare students for Pre-Algebra.

0304 PRE-ALGEBRA

Full Year

This course provides a full year of reinforcement in the fundamentals of integers, fractions, percent and measurement. At the same time, basic abstractions of beginning algebra are introduced and integrated. This course should ensure an easy transition to a first course in algebra.

0306 ALGEBRA I - MS

Full Year

This first course in algebra will enable the student to represent problem situations with expressions, equations, inequalities and graphing. The focus will be the introduction of algebraic techniques for application in various situations.

PHY. ED.

0006 PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6

One Semester

Students will participate in team and individual activities that will help develop hand-eye coordination, speed, muscular resistance, flexibility, and team building. Student participation in learning cross training movements will be emphasized. Students will have access to our newly upgraded activity areas.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

0106 RELIGION 6

One Semester

This course introduces students to Benedictine Spirituality, the Bible, Old Testament stories, and selected saints who serve as Christian role models in the world today. Students are encouraged to support each other in their communal faith journey.

SCIENCE

0501 SCIENCE & ENGINEERING 6

Full Year

Students explore physical science principles through hands-on experiments, activities, STEM applications, and classroom demonstrations. Laboratory processes emphasize the use of the scientific method and inquiry as students study: matter, motion, force, and energy. Students will also investigate the impact engineering has had on society.

SOCIAL STUDIES

0401 GLOBAL SOCIAL STUDIES 6

Full Year

Students will study the ancient civilizations of Asia, Africa, and Europe. Students will explore the role of geography in the development of human civilization, and how ancient societies identified and solved the problems that faced them. Reading strategies, writing, note-taking, and test-taking skills will be a special focus of students in this course.

NOTES

GRADE 7: REQUIRED COURSES

GRADE 7		
HOUR	1st Semester	2nd Semester
1	Religion 7 / Phy Ed 7	Religion 7 / Phy Ed 7
2	Lit. & Language Arts 7	Lit. & Language Arts 7
3	Mathematics	Mathematics
4	Life Science 7	Life Science 7
5	Social Studies 7	Social Studies 7
6	Homebase / Lunch	Homebase / Lunch
7		
8		

Required courses are listed period 1-6. Choose the two electives you want to fill the other period.

ENGLISH

0200 LITERATURE & LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Full Year

This course involves an integrated approach to reading, writing, speaking, and listening building upon the fundamentals of 6th grade. Language studies include the conventions of English. Composition includes the development of paragraphs and multi-paragraph essays integrating the writing process, grammar, and mechanics. Literature studies encourage an appreciation for the short story, novel, poetry, and drama. The primary goal of the course is to foster independent learners and encourage in-depth exploration of content and develop excellence in academic study skills habits.

MATHEMATICS

The majority of seventh graders are typically placed in one of two full-year math courses, Pre-Algebra or Algebra I-MS. To be placed in Algebra I-MS, incoming students must take the placement exam.

0304 PRE-ALGEBRA

Full Year

This course provides a full year of reinforcement in the fundamentals of integers, fractions, percent and measurement. At the same time, basic abstractions of beginning algebra are introduced and integrated. This course should ensure an easy transition to a first course in algebra.

0306 ALGEBRA I - MS

Full Year

This first course in algebra will enable the student to represent problem situations with expressions, equations, inequalities and graphing. The focus will be the introduction of algebraic techniques for application in various situations.

PHY. ED.

0001 PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7

One Semester

This class is activity-centered and is designed to meet the needs of the students in two important ways: exposure to a variety of lifetime sports and an emphasis on CrossFit movements. Students will have access to our newly upgraded activity areas.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

0107 RELIGION 7

One Semester

Students will learn about the foundational aspects of the New Testament including the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, and the Epistles. This course will also examine the life of the Church in terms of its mission and structure, and celebration of liturgy and Sacraments. This course will also highlight the lives of selected saints who serve as role models.

SCIENCE

0500 LIFE SCIENCE 7

Full Year

This course introduces students to the study of living things. Topics include: the scientific method, measurement, cell structure and function, classification, characteristics of plants and animals and humans' relationship with the environment. Emphasis is on organization and note-taking, hands-on experimentation, problem solving, and discussion. Students will also be attending an Environmental Camp and participating in a middle school science fair.

SOCIAL STUDIES

0420 SOCIAL STUDIES 7

Full Year

Seventh graders will be introduced to basic social studies skills including: multi-cultural studies, geography, civics and economics. These skills will be taught within the American History timeline of European exploration through the era of Reconstruction.

NOTES

GRADE 8: REQUIRED COURSES

GRADE 8		
HOUR	1st Semester	2nd Semester
1	Religion 8 / Phy Ed 8	Phy Ed 8 / Religion 8
2	Lit. & Language Arts 8	Lit. & Language Arts 8
3	Mathematics	Mathematics
4	Earth & Space Science 8	Earth & Space Science 8
5	Social Studies 8	Social Studies 8
6	Homebase / Lunch	Homebase / Lunch
7		
8		

Required courses are listed period 1-6. Choose the two electives you want to fill the other period.

ENGLISH

0202 LITERATURE & LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Full Year

The primary goal of this course is to continue to build knowledge and skills that help students transition into high school by becoming independent readers, writers, and thinkers. Literature focuses on wider reading opportunities that develop students' higher order and critical thinking skills ranging from folk tales to modern stories. Composition continues to build on more sophisticated sentence structure and multi-paragraph development with expository and creative assignments. Study skill instruction and fostering independent learners are critical in bridging to high school success.

MATHEMATICS

The majority of eighth graders will be placed in one of following math courses:

0306 ALGEBRA I - MS

Full Year

This first course in algebra will enable the student to represent problem situations with expressions, equations, inequalities and graphing. The focus will be the introduction of algebraic techniques for application in various situations.

0307 - A ADVANCED ALGEBRA I (Sem 1)

0307 - B ADVANCED ALGEBRA I (Sem 2)

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total

This class is similar to the 0306 Algebra I course. However, it is designed for students who have had previous experience in algebra. It will quickly review beginning algebra topics and include additional topics including statistics and probability, trigonometry, matrices, and graphing and calculator techniques. Students will demonstrate algebraic problem-solving strategies and understand the means to apply algebraic transformations using expressions, equations, inequalities and graphing.

0312-A (Sem 1) ADVANCED GEOMETRY

0312-B (Sem 2) ADVANCED GEOMETRY

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total

Prerequisite: Intermediate Algebra I or Approval of Math Department

This course thoroughly covers basic Euclidean geometry. Objects are studied on the plane and in space. Reasoning and proof are used throughout the course to solve or prove geometric problems. Several different types of proofs are taught. Drawing of plane and solid objects is also studied to enhance students' spatial perception skills and understanding. This course also includes lessons on basic right triangle trigonometry. Algebra skills are used throughout the course.

0314-A (Sem 1) HONORS GEOMETRY

0314-B (Sem 2) HONORS GEOMETRY

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total

Prerequisite: Approval of Math Department

This course is intended to be for those students who are capable of dealing with more mathematical theory and structure. It is a traditionally formal approach to Euclidean geometry and logical reasoning. Algebra skills and concepts are incorporated and strengthened throughout the year.

PHY. ED.

0002 PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

One Semester

This class is activity-centered and is designed to meet the needs of the students in two important ways: exposure to a variety of lifetime sports and an emphasis on various CrossFit movements. Students will have access to our newly upgraded activity areas.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

0108 RELIGION 8

One Semester

Students will learn about the foundational aspects of Christianity and the Roman Catholic Church, including forms of prayer, morality, Catholic Social Teaching, and church history. Students will develop an understanding of how each foundational aspect relates to their own faith experiences.

SCIENCE

0502 EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE 8

Full Year

This course explores the interactions and formation of Earth's main systems. Students will investigate the geosphere, atmo-sphere, and hydrosphere and how these systems interact daily with the biosphere. Additionally, students will explore astronomical phenomena surrounding Earth and navigate big questions and theories regarding what we see and cannot see in the universe. The capstone project for 8th graders will be participation in the science fair process where students will follow the scientific method to perform an experiment with a topic of their choice. Through this capstone project, students have qualified to compete at regional, state, and even national levels.

SOCIAL STUDIES

0421 SOCIAL STUDIES 8

Full Year

Students continue the study of American History from Reconstruction to the present time period. Students apply and develop critical thinking skills in a variety of learning situations. Methods used include debates, discussions, group and individual projects, role-plays, videos and individual papers.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE COURSES

ART

0835 MIDDLE SCHOOL ART

One Semester

Students will focus on developing skills, which include drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and collage. They will have the opportunity to experiment and refine skills using a variety of art media. Elements and principles of design will be emphasized in each project. This course will develop an understanding of skills and concepts in art. Hands-on activities will provide students an opportunity to practice creative and critical problem solving. Students will explore different mediums and art techniques while creating two-dimensional and three-dimensional art projects.

0811 MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPUTER GRAPHICS & DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

One Semester

The purpose of this course is to allow students to explore the ever-growing world of digital imaging and enable students to develop awareness of visual communication concepts and graphic design techniques. Students will develop an understanding of basic digital camera functions and photo composition. Students will learn what it takes to create a good photograph and how to improve photographs. Throughout the semester, students will learn some of the basics in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign.

BUSINESS

0700 IT'S MY BUSINESS!

One Semester

This course introduces students to basic business and marketing concepts. Students will learn about consumer needs and wants. Students will be able to manage their own virtual business through an online simulation. They will explore business opportunities and create a basic business plan for their dream business. This class will stretch students' imaginations and creativity by allowing them to create three imaginary companies. Personal finance concepts will be explored and students will become familiar with credit, debit, opportunities and risks. Students will be challenged to think creatively, collaborate and make wise financial and business decisions.

0704 IT'S MY FUTURE

One Semester

Through this course, students will be able to identify their personal brand. Students will determine their skills, values and interests which will help them recognize potential future career opportunities. Students will identify both their technical and soft skills. Students will participate in a personal soft skills evaluation, and students will be able to develop and practice soft skills throughout the semester. Students will recognize numerous jobs within communities, and will appreciate the value each brings to the economy.

0705 IT'S MY WORLD!

One Semester

Throughout this course, students will experience the worldwide interdependence of producers, consumers, and the global workforce. Students will gain an appreciation for cultural business practices around the world. The pros and cons of international trade will be presented and trade barriers will be discussed. Students will recognize currency exchange rates, and will participate in an international business multi-cultural project.

ENGLISH

0227 CREATIVE WRITING

One Semester

Students will be introduced to the writing process through journal writing, as well as the writing of short stories and poetry. Techniques for brainstorming and idea development will be emphasized. One-act plays, internet activities and descriptive and persuasive writing are some of the assignments that students will explore. Writing for the 21st century will be emphasized.

0228 MEDIA LITERACY

One Semester

Media literacy empowers students with the tools needed to understand the digital world we live in. They will recognize and explore marketing ploys that seek to manipulate consumers. The students in the course will analyze the benefits and drawbacks of various

media. Students will use critical thinking skills, prepare speeches to explain and persuade, hold impromptu speeches and discussion, work on creative projects and interactive listening.

0244 MIDDLE SCHOOL FILM STUDIES

One Semester

In this introductory film studies course, the students will develop and demonstrate skills in technological, cultural, and media literacy, as well as critical thinking and problem solving. A hands-on approach will allow the students to understand the cinematic choices made by filmmakers and practice the filmmaking techniques studied through the viewing and critical unpacking of films from the silent film era to contemporary films.

MUSIC

0824-A MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (Sem 1)

0824-B MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (Sem 2)

One Semester or Full Year

This performing ensemble stresses basic fundamentals of instrumental technique, music reading and overall musicianship. Large group rehearsals are augmented by sectionals, individual assignments, as well as periodic written work. Attendance at concerts is required of all members.

0822-A MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR (Sem 1)

0822-B MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR (Sem 2)

One Semester or Full Year

This course is designed to provide a positive learning environment in which students can discover musical talents and skills. The Middle School Choir will perform at four concerts during the school year and at school Masses.

0840-A ORCHESTRA (Sem 1)

0840-B ORCHESTRA (Sem 2)

1 Credit each semester - 2 credits total, can be taken one semester or full year | Elective 6-12

This performing ensemble will learn music of varying difficulty that will be arranged as dictated by student needs. Musical concepts will be discussed and many different styles of music will be performed. No audition is required. All string students are accepted. The Orchestra will perform several concerts throughout the year. Attendance at all performances is a requirement of the course.

SOCIAL STUDIES

0402 ME, MYSELF AND MY BRAIN

One Semester, Elective 7-8

In this activity-based elective, students will examine how the development of their brain affects learning, memory, decisions, and emotions. In addition, students will develop skills to navigate their changing relationships and practice positive social skills.

TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING

0905 STEM BASICS

One Semester

This is a project-based course in which students will delve into topics related to technology, engineering, and robotics. Students will develop basic competencies in computer aided drafting software and programming languages. Students will have access to a 3D printer that will allow them to put their designs into production. Students will then use the parts they create and programs they write to drive small robots to perform simple tasks.

0722 ADVANCED COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

One Semester

In this fast and ever-changing world of technology, students need to learn how to effectively work, collaborate and create in a digital

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE COURSES

world. Students will develop typing skills, which will save hours of time down the road. Students will be introduced to Digital Citizenship, online footprints and safety. Students will learn to create presentations and content using the most advanced productivity applications, and learn to communicate and collaborate effectively using digital mediums, and how to organize and effectively use their digital resources for learning.

0727 COMPUTER SCIENCE FOUNDATIONS

One Semester

(An Introduction to Computational Thinking and Coding.)

Students will begin the semester engaged in “unplugged” games and activities designed to hone their skills in computational thinking. Computational thinking skills are directly related to structures commonly found in computer code including: giving clear directions that can be followed correctly every time (algorithms), choosing the most efficient way to give directions when repetition is involved (loops), and providing a decision making structure when there are multiple options (if/else statements). Students will then move into doing block-coding in Scratch, which was developed by MIT and is used in settings around the world to teach basic coding, and Code.org, which is one of the leading members of the worldwide “Hour of Code” movement to teach all students computer science and computer coding. Students will also complete a research project related to the history of computers and the evolution of technology.

THEATRE

0850 CREATIVE DRAMATICS

One Semester

Creative Dramatics is a combination of theater games, exercises and story-telling techniques. Student skills are strengthened in creativity, imagination, sensory awareness and problem solving. This course improves social skills such as self-control, ability to work in groups, self-image, self-confidence and overcoming shyness. Theater skills developed include pantomime, improvisation and dialogue.

0851 INTRO TO MUSICAL THEATRE

Grades: 7-8 | One Semester | Prerequisite: Creative Dramatics

Introduction to Musical Theatre is a continuation of the Creative Dramatics class, but now with a focus on studying, picking, designing, rehearsing and putting on a Middle School Musical. Students will extend their knowledge about the theatre and strengthen their creativity, imagination, self-image and self-confidence through their work on a musical production.

WORLD LANGUAGES

All Middle School students are able to take the Exploratory elective. It's a great way to experience both languages, French and Spanish, through games, activities, food, song, and culture in a semester-long elective! Eighth graders who are ready for a full year language course may enroll in our High School World Language courses. Most incoming 8th graders register for level 1. However, students who have had a full year or more of a World Language may take a placement test to determine their readiness for levels 2 and higher. Schedule permitting, students will be registered for the appropriate level of their chosen language.

0604 EXPLORING WORLD LANGUAGES

One Semester

This semester-long elective course will be offered to all Middle School students (grades 6-8). The goal of the course is to introduce World Languages and cultures to students, as well as to excite them about taking a World Language in the future. Students will spend one half of the semester exploring each language (French and Spanish) through basic vocabulary, conversational skills, cultural information and geography. Students will also experience authentic art, music and cuisine. This elective may be taken only once during Middle School.

0608-A FRENCH I (Sem 1)

0608-B FRENCH I (Sem 2)

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total | Elective 8-12

This high school-level course is open to students in grade 8, schedule permitting. It is an introduction to the French language. A beginning development of real-life skills is the basis of language learning through reading, writing, speaking and listening, as well as an

introduction to the culture. Main topics include: greetings and introductions, expressing likes and dislikes, describing self and others, shopping for food and clothing, pastimes, sports, hobbies and future plans.

0610-A FRENCH II (Sem 1)

0610-B FRENCH II (Sem 2)

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total | Elective 8-12

Prerequisite: In order to ensure that students are prepared for French II, they must earn a C- or better in a high school French I course OR give an adequate demonstration of knowledge on Hill-Murray's Language Placement Exam.

This high school-level course is open to students in grade 8, schedule permitting. The student's abilities to listen, speak, read and write are further developed in a guided and structured manner. Students are continually infusing French culture into their studies, including presentations of their cultural research projects.

0624-A SPANISH I (Sem 1)

0624-B SPANISH I (Sem 2)

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total | Elective 8-12

This high school-level course is open to students in grade 8, schedule permitting. It is an introduction to the Spanish language. A beginning development of real-life skills is the basis of language learning through reading, writing, speaking and listening, as well as an introduction to the culture. Main topics include: greetings and introductions, expressing likes and dislikes, describing self and others, shopping for food and clothing, pastimes, sports, hobbies and future plans.

0626-A SPANISH II (Sem 1)

0626-B SPANISH II (Sem 2)

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total | Elective 8-12

Prerequisite: In order to ensure that students are prepared for Spanish II, they must earn a C- or better in a high school Spanish I course OR give an adequate demonstration of knowledge on Hill-Murray's Language Placement Exam.

This high school-level course is open to students in grade 8, schedule permitting. Students continue to expand on their communication through oral, written, verbal and listening activities. Students learn about Spanish-speaking cultures through readings and units on markets, restaurants, professions, daily life and more. Students also read a chapter book in Spanish. Vocabulary, grammar concepts and cultural material from the textbook are reinforced.

CONTACT US

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