

# LET YOUR CURIOSITY LEAD

AT HILL-MURRAY SCHOOL



2023-2024 **MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**CURRICULUM GUIDE**



# WELCOME TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

AT HILL-MURRAY



## PORTRAIT OF A HILL-MURRAY GRADUATE

Every Hill-Murray student will be an

**INQUISITIVE,  
RESILIENT, AND  
COMPASSIONATE  
LEADER**

grounded in the teachings of Christ.

When you enter Hill-Murray for your middle and high school years, you are joining generations of PIONEERS who all pursued their passions during their time on campus. As a Hill-Murray student, you will be given the opportunity to think, create, work, and pray every day in a community with individuals who will challenge you, and more importantly, support you.

Our academic offerings in this guide are intentionally designed to open your mind and heart to new and exciting ideas while completing your graduation requirements.

Hill-Murray is not your typical school experience. At our core is a commitment to discovering every individual's potential where students routinely push the faculty to redefine and rethink perceived boundaries of learning and fun!

By design, the student body is large enough that we're able to provide a broad range of opportunities but small enough that the only limiting factor for student participation is time. You can be a varsity athlete and in the acapella group; you can be on the robotics team and in a school musical; you can be a sculptor and in a mock trial; you can participate actively in service-learning and machine learning.

I challenge you to take full advantage of the offerings in this curriculum guide and all the other opportunities in athletics, activities, clubs, campus ministry, and service. At Hill-Murray, we encourage you to try as much as possible and to take full advantage of the opportunities as only a PIONEER would.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Melissa Dan".

Melissa Dan, Ed.S.

President

# IDENTITY

Hill-Murray is an independent, Catholic, co-educational, college, and life-preparatory school serving students in grades 6-12. Rooted in our Benedictine and Lasallian traditions, we embrace the journey of each student and are committed to the growth and well-being of each member of our community.

# MISSION

Hill-Murray empowers students to reach their fullest potential by inspiring them to utilize their God-given strengths to become leaders who will make a positive difference in the world.

# VISION

Hill-Murray will become the preeminent school that partners with families to develop transformational leaders grounded in the teachings of Christ.



## **Fulfill Your Promise. Serve Others. Transform the World.**

We're an educational leader in the Twin Cities — an independent, Catholic, forward-looking school rooted in strong values. We provide academic, physical, social, emotional and spiritual support to every student. We focus on personalized learning that empowers students to embrace their journey and make a positive difference in the world. Our staff is dedicated to addressing the strengths and challenges of each student and creating a space where compassion, service and excellence are the priorities.

# FIND YOUR CALLING

This Middle School Curriculum Guide is designed to aid you in planning your course selections at Hill-Murray. This guide is a catalog of all the courses to be offered for the 2023-2024 school year.

Listed by grade, you will find a brief description of each course including the semester(s), prerequisites, and other pertinent information you might need. If during the process you and your student aren't seeing a course you are interested in, please reach out to your guidance counselor (following page.)

## A Curriculum Designed to Awaken Curiosity.

The Hill-Murray curriculum will engage your mind, express your creativity, and expand your knowledge of God and the world around you by exploring the rich history of human thought and endeavor.

**HILL-MURRAY ACADEMICS** Our academic curriculum is designed to reward your passion and develop your capacity for critical thinking and creative problem-solving to pave the way for a lifetime of learning and leadership.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL** H-M's Middle School addresses the distinctive needs of students in Grades 6 through 8. We appreciate and understand their joys, challenges, and developmental changes. We also recognize their vulnerability and learning differences in this remarkable transitional period. Our program provides the support and guidance that allow students to develop independent thinking, intellectual integrity, and physical, personal, and social maturity.

## HILL-MURRAY SCHOOL GRADING SYSTEM

### College Prep

A = 4.00	A- = 3.67	
B+ = 3.33	B = 3.00	B- = 2.67
C+ = 2.33	C = 3.00	C- = 1.67
D+ = 1.33	D = 1.00	D- = 0.67

### Honors/AP/CIS/PACC

A = 4.50	A- = 4.17	
B+ = 3.83	B = 3.50	B- = 3.17
C+ = 2.83	C = 2.50	C- = 2.17
D+ = 1.83	D = 1.50	D- = 1.17

HILL-MURRAY SCHOOL GRADING SYSTEM

## HM PIONEER SUMMER 2023



Pioneer Summer offers a variety of experiences in three main categories:

- Academic: Credit and enrichment classroom experiences - contact your assigned counselor for recommendations.
- Arts & Activities: Fine arts and experiential learning
- Athletics: Sport development camps

These summer classes are designed to help you explore, try something new, meet friends, and have FUN!

**Information coming soon for Pioneer Summer 2023.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE REGISTRATION

Middle school students take required courses in English, Math, Physical Education, Theology, 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

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.

TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY  
CERTIFICATION PATHWAYS

Details on page 16.

ENTREPRENURIAL ACADEMY  
CERTIFICATION PATHWAY

Details on page 17.

MATH OFFERINGS

Hill-Murray School offers a comprehensive Math Course Offering, giving students the opportunity to gain experience with our math curriculum. Completing these courses will help set students apart from their peers in both college and the workforce at large.

MATHEMATICS COURSE OFFERINGS		
MIDDLE SCHOOL	Pre-Algebraic Concepts	
	Pre-Algebra	
	Middle School Algebra	
HIGH SCHOOL	High School Algebra	
	Intermediate Algebra	Honors Intermediate Algebra
	Geometry	Honors Geometry
	Algebra II/Trig	Honors Algebra II/Trig
	CIS College Algebra	
ELECTIVES	Pre-Calc	Honors Pre-Calc
	Statistics	Honors Statistics
	Calculus Basics	CIS Honors Calculus
ADDITIONAL MATH AVAILABLE	AP Honors Calculus BC	
	Discrete Mathematics	

GUIDANCE & COUNSELING SUPPORT SERVICES

An effective Counseling Department recognizes individual growth and that learning takes place in all aspects of one's life: intellectual, social, emotional and physical. Supporting this growth and development is essential in helping students make healthy and beneficial decisions.

Academic goals and post-secondary planning are also critical. The Hill-Murray Counseling Department is staffed by Licensed School Counselors, College Counselors, and a Clinical Psychologist.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Lisa Valentine      lvalentine@hill-murray.org      651-748-2224

REGISTRAR

Mary McPherson      mmcpherson@hill-murray.org      651-748-2428

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST\*

Dr. Julie Robinson      jrobinson@hill-murray.org      651-748-2414

*\*For student referrals, please start with the student's counselor.*

Counseling services include academic, personal-social development, as well as post-secondary planning. Services available to all students: personal counseling | individual post-secondary planning | mental health education | monitoring of academic progress.





## Resources That Foster Success.

Hill-Murray established The Nicholas Center (YNC) to provide individualized support to learners who need additional help. This resource helps students work to their strengths and develop personal learning strategies and capabilities needed to thrive. TNC helps them succeed in Hill-Murray's academically challenging environment.

**TNC PROGRAMS** address the strengths and challenges of each individual student, assisting them with organization, planning, time and material management, mathematics and reading skills.

**GUIDANCE & COUNSELING** supports students and families to make important decisions such as course selection, career exploration and post-secondary options.

**PEER TUTORS** meet with students who would like help in any core subject area during WIN Time.

**CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST** On-campus services are available to students. Dr. Julie Robinson, Ph.D., L.P. provides psychological assessments for students with learning differences and other cognitive or psychological concerns. She also works closely with H-M staff to screen for mental health issues, provide therapy or other interventions and is available to help parents seek external therapeutic or medical resources as needed.

# THE NICHOLAS CENTER AT HILL-MURRAY

Through the Nicholas Center, Hill-Murray can meet the needs of neurodiverse students where they are in their educational journey. The Nicholas Center can provide coursework that provides enriching interventions for students to meet their individual goals. The prescriptive coursework is based on the 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, contact **Brent Johnson, Director of The Nicholas Center at 651-748-2450.**

## ACADEMIC STUDY SKILLS

### STRATEGIC STUDY LAB 6-7

*Full Year, 2 Semesters, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total  
Elective 6-7, approval of The Nicholas Center*

### STRATEGIC STUDY LAB 7-8

*Full Year, 2 Semesters, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total  
Elective 7-8, 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.

## 0252 MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDY SKILLS

*One Semester - Full Year*

This course will focus on developing vital study skills for middle school students that they can apply and practice in their content area classes. Students will work to develop test-taking skills, increase their reading speed, and use various study strategies. In addition, students will work to apply literacy strategies (e.g. using context clues, identifying main ideas and details) to content. After taking this course, students should feel better equipped to handle the organizational and cognitive challenges of middle school classes and beyond.

## READING

### MIDDLE SCHOOL READING ENRICHMENT

*Full Year, 2 Semesters, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total*

*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.

### WILSON JUST WORDS®

*Full Year, 2 Semesters, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total - Elective 6-12, approval of The Nicholas Center*

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.

### WILSON READING SYSTEM®

*Full Year, 2 Semesters, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total - Elective 6-12, approval of The Nicholas Center*

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.

## THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME BEGINS HERE

### READING ENRICHMENT

#### READING ENRICHMENT

The Nicholas Center offers the Wilson Reading System® program to assist students who are reading below grade level or who have a language-based learning disability. We assist students with vocabulary development with the Just Words® program and Achieve 3000® helps boost reading comprehension.

### MATH ENRICHMENT

#### MATH ENRICHMENT

We offer a three-year Algebra and Geometry program using the Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces (ALEKS) System®, a web-based assessment and learning system that determines what a student needs to know in a course and then designs instruction around that content.

### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

#### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

All Hill-Murray students receive either a Chromebook (Middle School) or a MacBook Air (High School), and our Assistive Technology program helps students maximize the capabilities of these machines. This program is available by individual request.

# 6TH GRADE

## NEW BEGINNINGS

The worksheet below can be used to help plan your course selections. Required courses are already listed, so fill in your elective choices in the open spaces.

GRADE 6 // SCHEDULE		
HR	1ST SEMESTER	2ND SEMESTER
1	Theology 6 / Phy Ed 6	Theology 6 / Phy Ed 6
2	Lit. & Language Arts 6	Lit. & Language Arts 6
3	Mathematics	Mathematics
4	Earth and Space Science	Earth and Space Science
5	Minnesota History	Minnesota History
	Lunch	Lunch
6	_____	_____
7	_____	_____

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

### PORTRAIT OF A HILL-MURRAY GRADUATE

#### INQUISITIVE

Driven by curiosity, an independent thinker and lifelong learner

A critical thinker and innovator willing to take risks

A problem solver with the intellectual courage to consider new perspective



## 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 and skills, as well as, 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 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*

Topics in this course include: operations with positive and negative rational numbers, algebra, geometry, and data analysis. The focus of this course is proportional reasoning.

## **0306 MS ALGEBRA**

*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 on linear functions and algebraic techniques for application in various situations.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## **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.

# THEOLOGY

## **0106 THEOLOGY 6**

*One Semester – Required for Grade 6*

This course introduces students to the foundational beliefs of the Catholic faith through the framework of the Nicene Creed. Students will gain an understanding of the main Mysteries of Faith, such as the Trinity, God the Father, Creator of everything, the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, and finally how the Holy Spirit is present and leading the life of the Church.

# SCIENCE

## **0502 EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE 6**

*Full Year*

This course explores the interactions and formation of Earth's main systems. Students will investigate the geosphere, atmosphere, and hydrosphere and how these systems interact with each other. Additionally, students will explore astronomical phenomena surrounding Earth and navigate big questions and theories regarding what we see and cannot see in the universe..

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## **0401 MINNESOTA HISTORY 6**

*Full Year*

What is it about Minnesotans - beyond geography - that binds them together? The answer lies in the stories of Minnesotans, from the first inhabitants to today's immigrants. Students will explore the rich heritage of the state's longest residents, the Dakota and Ojibwe, and how the arrival of European traders impacted their lives, the impact of the Civil War on the state of Minnesota and the U.S. Dakota War; and the new immigrants whose cultural mosaic has enriched our state. Minnesota History students will also engage in a History Day research project that will challenge the skills the course works toward: writing, discourse with peers, and the ability to formulate an opinion based on facts.

# 7TH GRADE

## FEELING CONFIDENT

The worksheet below can be used to help plan your course selections. Required courses are already listed, so fill in your elective choices in the open spaces.

GRADE 7 // SCHEDULE		
HR	1ST SEMESTER	2ND SEMESTER
1	Theology 7 / Phy Ed 7	Theology 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
	Lunch	Lunch
6	_____	_____
7	_____	_____

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

### PORTRAIT OF A HILL-MURRAY GRADUATE

#### RESILIENT

Demonstrates perseverance and grit—to keep going when it gets hard—A PIONEER!

Acts with the courage to navigate the challenges they know are a part of the journey

Develops the muscles of their body, mind, and spirit, which they know only get built by discomfort, mistakes, and the productive struggle inherent to growth



## ENGLISH

### 0200 LITERATURE & LANGUAGE ARTS 7

*Full Year*

This course builds upon the fundamentals of 6th grade through an integrated approach to reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Literature studies include analyzing key ideas and details, as well as, examining craft and structure in novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and non-fiction texts. Students will read widely to understand multiple perspectives, including those from diverse cultures. Language studies include developing the writing process in order to produce clear and coherent writing. Another primary goal of the course is to foster independent learners and encourage in-depth exploration of content.

# MATHEMATICS

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

## **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*

Topics in this course include: operations with positive and negative rational numbers, algebra, geometry, and data analysis. This focus of this course is proportional reasoning.

## **0306 MS ALGEBRA**

*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 on linear functions and algebraic techniques for application in various situations.

## **0307-A SEM 1 INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA**

## **0307-B SEM 2 INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA**

*Full Year, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total*

This course is a continuation of MS Algebra. The focus will

be on quadratic functions, exponential functions, and will include data analysis and probability.

## **0308-A SEM 1 HONORS INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA**

## **0308-B SEM 2 HONORS INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA**

*Full Year, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total*

This course is a continuation of MS Algebra. The focus will be on quadratic functions, exponential functions, and will include data analysis and probability. This course has more rigor than Intermediate Algebra, moves at a faster pace, and includes more topics.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## **0001 PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7**

*One Semester - Required for Grade 7*

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..

# THEOLOGY

## **0107 THEOLOGY 7**

*One Semester*

Through this course, students will understand the journey and process of a person practicing the Catholic faith. We will cover the seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church; learning about the ceremonies, requirements, and graces involved. We will spend time discussing why rituals and ceremonies are important practices for human beings to experience. We will also look at how these Sacraments relate to a person's life as they grow from infancy to late adulthood and how the Church can be involved with a person's experience of life throughout their time on earth.

# 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.



# 8TH GRADE

## LOOKING AHEAD

The worksheet below can be used to help plan your course selections. Required courses are already listed, so fill in your elective choices in the open spaces.

GRADE 8 // SCHEDULE		
HR	1ST SEMESTER	2ND SEMESTER
1	Theology 8/Phy Ed 8	Theology 8/Phy Ed 8
2	Lit. & Language Arts 8	Lit. & Language Arts 8
3	Mathematics	Mathematics
4	Physical Science 8	Physical Science 8
5	Social Studies 8	Social Studies 8
	Lunch	Lunch
6	_____	_____
7	_____	_____

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

### PORTRAIT OF A HILL-MURRAY GRADUATE

#### COMPASSIONATE

Sees the face of Jesus in everyone they meet  
- We Welcome All Guests As Christ.

Demonstrates personal courage, empathy,  
and uses their voice to help others

Acts with humility and considers how their  
actions affect the world around them



## 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. Reading focuses include: fiction, drama, poetry, non-fiction, and technical writing. Students have opportunities to self-select texts for personal enjoyment, interest, and academic tasks. Writing includes: perfecting the short answer paragraph and practicing multi-paragraph essays, short research papers, creative short stories, and technical writing. Grammar, vocabulary, media literacy, and speech are included as well.

## MATHEMATICS

### 0306 MS ALGEBRA

*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 on linear functions and algebraic techniques for application in various situations.

**0307 - A SEM 1 INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA****0307 - B SEM 2 INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA**

*Full Year, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total*

*Prerequisite of completion of MS Algebra*

This course is a continuation of MS Algebra. The focus will be on quadratic functions, exponential functions, and will include data analysis and probability.

**0308-A SEM 1 HONORS INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA****0308-B SEM 2 HONORS INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA**

*Full Year, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total*

*Prerequisite: MS Algebra and approval of the Math Department*

This course is a continuation of MS Algebra. The focus will be on quadratic functions, exponential functions, and will include data analysis and probability. This course has more rigor than Intermediate Algebra, moves at a faster pace, and includes more topics.

**0312-A SEM 1 GEOMETRY****0312-B SEM 2 GEOMETRY**

*Full Year, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total*

This course covers basic Euclidean geometry. The focus will be reasoning and proof. Topics include triangle properties, right triangle trigonometry, polygons, circles, and solids.

**0314-A SEM 1 HONORS GEOMETRY****0314-B SEM 2 HONORS GEOMETRY**

*Full Year, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total*

*Prerequisite: Approval of the Math Department and completion of Intermediate Algebra or equivalent.*

This course covers basic Euclidean Geometry. The focus will be reasoning and proof. Topics include: triangle

properties, right triangle trigonometry, polygons, circles, and solids. This course has more rigor than Geometry, moves at a faster pace, and includes more topics.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**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.

## THEOLOGY

**0108 THEOLOGY 8**

*One Semester*

This course exposes students to both the Christian tradition of prayer, which they will have the opportunity to put into practice, as well as, the basic tenets of Christian morality. Students will be exposed to prayer in various forms such as: the Our Father, Adoration, Meditation, Lectio Divina, Ignatian Prayer, and others. Students will also learn about the foundational aspects of Christian morality including: the Old and New Law, Sin, Virtue, and Catholic Social Teaching.

## SCIENCE

**0502 PHYSICAL SCIENCE 8**

*Full Year*

Physical Science focuses on matter and its interactions with the environment. The students will demonstrate their understanding through labs, models, and hands-on inquiry activities. Students will work on developing explanations of natural phenomena and design solutions to problems.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

**0421 SOCIAL STUDIES 8**

*Full Year*

Students will study the social sciences (history, economics, political science, anthropology, sociology and geography) through thematic units from the 20th and 21st Century: Identity and Membership, Strengthening Democracy, Power and Privilege, Social Justice and Civil Rights, and Media Literacy. Students will apply and develop critical thinking skills in a variety of learning situations. Methods used include: Socratic seminars, discussions, group and individual projects, role-plays, videos, and individual papers.

## ART

### 0835 MIDDLE SCHOOL ART 1

*One Semester - Elective Grades 6-8*

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.

### 0839 MIDDLE SCHOOL ART 2

*One Semester - Elective Grades 6-8*

Students will have the opportunity to build upon their creative experiences in Middle School Art 1 by creating a portfolio of artwork for the first time. Students will learn more sophisticated techniques with drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, and collage, and gain more exposure to contemporary and historical artists and their work. They will have freedom to follow their artistic interests and use the elements and principles of design to refine artwork and express their creative visions. Students will develop skills to produce quality photos of their finished work and assemble them into a digital portfolio which can grow and expand should they choose to take more visual arts courses in both middle and high school. Students must complete Middle School Art 1 before enrolling in Middle School Art 2.

### 0811 MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPUTER GRAPHICS & DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

*One Semester - Elective Grades 6-8*

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 - Elective Grades 6-8*

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 develop innovative ideas. 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 - Elective Grades 6-8*

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. They 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 globally, and will appreciate the value each brings to the economy.

### 0705 IT'S MY WORLD!

*One Semester - Elective Grades 6-8*

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 global trade will be presented and trade barriers will be discussed. Students will recognize currency exchange rates, and will participate in a global international business multi-cultural project.

## ENGLISH

### 0227 CREATIVE WRITING

*One Semester - Elective Grades 6-8*

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.



# MATH

## 0350 MATH RESOURCE

*Semester Elective Class for Students Enrolled in Pre-Algebraic Concepts or Pre-Algebra*

This semester long elective reinforces concepts students may not have for Pre-Algebraic Concepts and Pre-Algebra classes. Students receive group and individualized learning based on math needs. Students will set goals along with a math specialist to work on math concepts that may need to be strengthened. This is a pass/fail class that may be taken for one or two semesters.

# MUSIC

## 0824-A MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND SEM 1

## 0824-B MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND SEM 2

*One Semester or Full Year - Elective Grades 6-8*

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. Most performances happen outside the school day. Prior playing experience is not necessary and we accept beginners.

## 0822-A MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR SEM 1

## 0822-B MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR SEM 2

*One Semester or Full Year - Elective Grades 6-8*

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 MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA SEM 1

## 0840-B MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA SEM 2

*1 Credit each semester - 2 credits total, can be taken one semester or full year - Elective 6-8*

This performing ensemble stresses basic fundamentals of string technique, music reading and overall musicianship. Full group rehearsals are augmented by sectionals, individual assignments and periodic written work. All string students in grades 6-8 are accepted. Attendance at all concerts is required of all members.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## 0007 MOVEMENT & WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

*One Semester - Elective Grades 6-7*

This course will allow 6th grade students to explore and participate in a variety of physical activities that will provide opportunities for cross-training benefits. Students will participate in activities that require problem-solving, cooperation, skill development, and teambuilding. The course will focus on different aspects of personal fitness, including: muscular strength, cardiorespiratory

endurance, muscular endurance, flexibility, and agility. Student preferences will be considered when choosing individual, dual, and team sports, and fitness activities.

## 0004 MOVEMENT & WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

*One Semester - Elective Grades 7-8*

This course will allow students to explore and participate in a variety of physical activities that will provide opportunities for cross-training benefits. Students will participate in activities that require problem-solving, cooperation, skill development, teambuilding, and competition, including tournament play. The course focuses on different aspects of personal fitness, including: muscular strength, cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular endurance, flexibility, and agility. Student preferences will be considered when choosing individual, dual, team sports, and fitness activities.

# SCIENCE

## 0503 EXPLORERS OF THE GALAXY

*One Semester - Elective Grades 6-8*

Students will look deeper at Earth's role and place in our solar system as well as our universe. They will investigate the earth-moon-sun system, the planets in our solar system, stars in our universe, and other galaxies. Students will research and discover what benefits we have gained in our daily lives through space exploration. Students will also apply content covered in their core science classes and see how its real-life applications impact space. This course will be hands-on, collaborative, and technology based. We will use computer models, virtual reality as well as manipulatives to better understand Earth's role in our universe. Students will use interactive notebooks to record labs and activities.

**PORTRAIT OF A  
HILL-MURRAY  
GRADUATE  
LEADER**

Lives their values and leads by example

Embraces their journey and awareness of being created in God's image

Understands their strengths and weaknesses

Empowers those around them

Seeks to live out their faith by building bridges and serving others

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### 0402 ME, MYSELF AND MY BRAIN

*One Semester - Elective Grades 7-8*

Why do we sleep? What are feelings? How do we make decisions, and how do we learn from them? Psychology helps us ask and answer these big questions about ourselves, others, and the world around us. This exciting elective introduces 7th and 8th graders to the science of psychology, including units on the brain, personality, intelligence, emotions, social relationships, and more. With lots of hands-on experiments and activities, there's no better way to dive into the fascinating science of the mind.

## TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING

### 0905 STEM 1

*One Semester*

A project-based course in which students will delve into topics related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. They will develop basic competencies in computer-aided drafting software and design principles. Having access to 3D printers, vinyl cutters and a laser cutter allows them to put their designs into production. Students will also keep a log and develop practices for documenting their ideas, designs, and data.

### 0906 STEM 2

*One Semester - Prerequisite: STEM 1*

STEM 2 is a project-based course where students

will explore topics related to technology, engineering, and robotics. Students will continue to develop proficiencies in computer-aided drafting software and programming languages learned in STEM 1. They will have access to 3D printers, EV3 Mindstorms, a CNC LASER Cutter, and a vinyl cutter. Students will apply mechanical and mathematical concepts to reflect on the performance of their designs. Projects will vary from year to year to reflect the interests of the students/instructor.

### 0722 ADVANCED COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

*One Semester*

In this fast world of technology, students need to learn how to effectively work, collaborate and function in a digital world. Students will be introduced to Digital Citizenship, online footprints and safety. They'll learn to create presentations and content using the most advanced productivity applications, and learn to communicate and collaborate using digital mediums, and how to organize use their digital resources for learning.

### 0727 COMPUTER SCIENCE FOUNDATIONS- AN INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTATIONAL THINKING AND CODING

*One Semester*

Students begin the semester engaged in "unplugged" games and activities designed to hone their skills in computational thinking. These skills are directly related to structures commonly found in computer code including: giving clear directions to be followed correctly every time (algorithms), choosing an efficient way to give directions when repetition is involved (loops), and providing a decision making process when there are multiple options.

Students move into doing block-coding in Scratch, (developed by MIT) and is used 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 students computer science and computer coding. Students will complete a research project related to the history of computers and the evolution of technology.

## THEATRE

### 0850 CREATIVE DRAMATICS

*One Semester - Elective Grades 6-8*

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.

### 0853 MOVEMENT FOR THEATER

*One Semester - Elective Grades 6-8*

Students will improve their sense of rhythm, facial expressions, coordination, muscle memory, flexibility, and balance. There will be an overall focus on the importance of safety and caring for the body. This class will offer sections in stage combat, musical theater dance, animal behaviors and age studies.

## **0852 INTRODUCTION TO STAGECRAFT**

*One Semester - Elective Grades 6-8*

Step behind the scenes to discover tools, techniques, and skills required in a theatrical production. This is an introduction to the technical theatre disciplines such as lighting, scenic construction, painting, costumes, props and design. The class will assist in the production of a Hill-Murray Theatre musical or play, aiding in the set construction and painting. Along the way, students will also learn theatrical terminology and history as they pertain to technical theatre.

## **WORLD LANGUAGE**

All Middle School students are able to take the Exploring World Languages elective. It's a great way to experience world languages and cultures through games, activities, food, song, and more in a semester-long elective. Students in 8th grade who are socially and academically mature enough may register for Spanish 1 or French 1. Each is a full-year Middle School Language Course that uses the High School Curriculum. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to register for Spanish 2 or French 2 as freshmen.

## **0604 EXPLORING WORLD LANGUAGES**

*One Semester - Elective 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 explore the world through French, Spanish, Chinese, and Latin basic vocabulary, 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 SEM 1 FRENCH I**

### **0608-B SEM 2 FRENCH I**

*Full Year, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total - Elective Grade 8*

This middle school course uses the high school level 1 curriculum. It is open to students in grade 8. It is an introduction to the French language. 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.

## **0644-A SEM 1 HERITAGE SPANISH 8-12**

## **0644-B SEM 2 HERITAGE SPANISH 8-12**

*Full Year, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total - Elective in grades - Prerequisite: placement by language proficiency test score and discussion with a member of our Spanish Department.*

This year-long elective course is intended for students who speak Spanish at home or who have completed a Spanish immersion program. This course will focus on building the students' academic literacy and understanding of grammatical structures. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be eligible to register for Spanish III or higher. The final decision on which course will be most appropriate will be determined by the instructor.

### **0624-A SEM 1 SPANISH I**

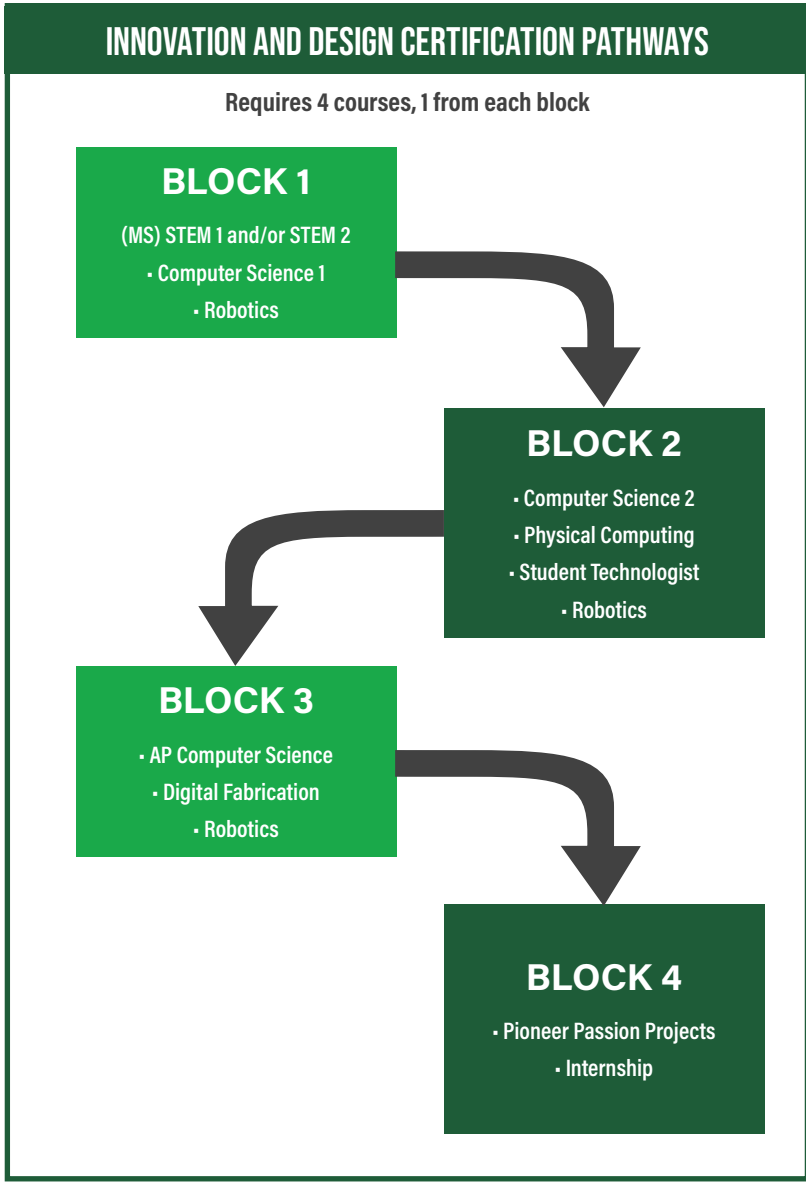
### **0624-B SEM 2 SPANISH I**

*Full Year, 1 Credit each semester - 2 Credits total - Elective Grade 8*

This middle school course uses high school level 1 curriculum. It is open to students in grade 8. 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 may include: greetings and introductions, expressing likes and dislikes, describing self and others, shopping, food, clothing and pastimes.



# INNOVATION AND DESIGN PATHWAYS



## INNOVATION AND DESIGN CERTIFICATION PATHWAYS

Hill-Murray School offers pathways to certification in Innovation and Design, giving students the opportunity to gain experience in a comprehensive science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curriculum. This includes hands-on experience with computational thinking, engineering, 3D printing, fabrication, design, and computer programming. Courses

in this pathway introduce students to innovative and cutting-edge topics and allow them to develop their technical skills with industry-standard software and tools. The pathway culminates with a capstone research or design project in the Pioneer Passion Projects course. As students work toward this pathway certificate, they will develop creativity, problem solving skills, and technical abilities that are vital for success in college and beyond. See the diagram for course requirements to complete the pathway.

## NOTES

*This is your journey, make the best of it!*

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## ENTREPRENEURIAL PATHWAYS

## ENTREPRENEURIAL ACADEMY CERTIFICATION PATHWAY

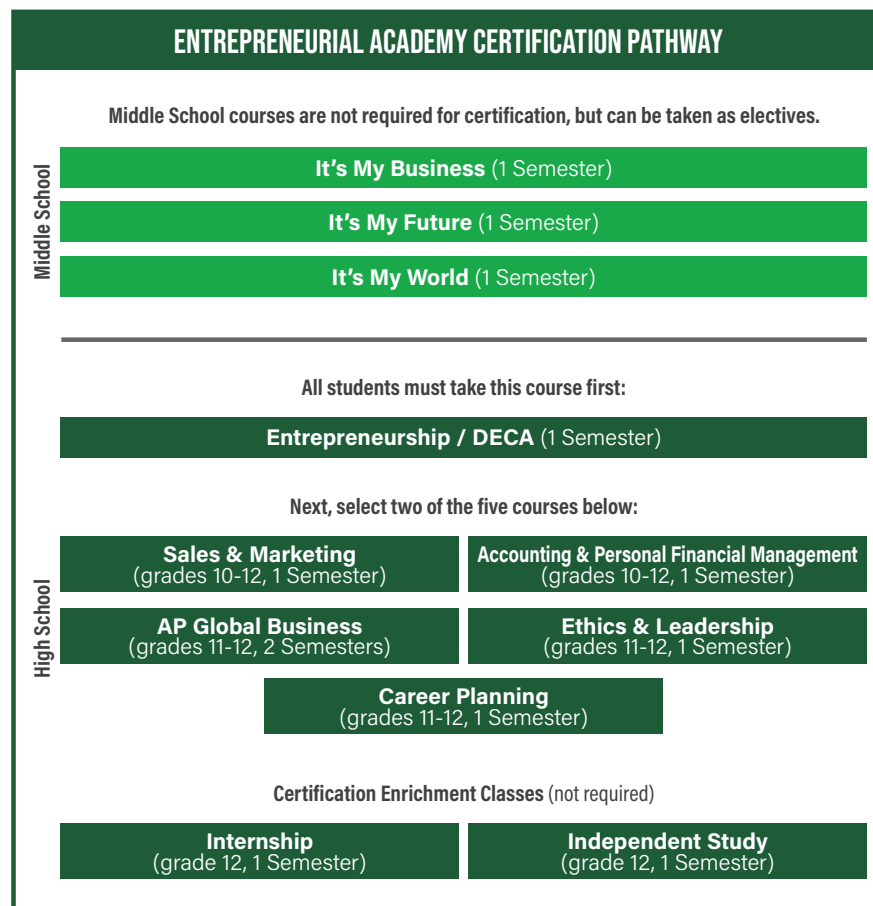
Hill-Murray School offers a comprehensive Entrepreneurial Academy Pathway giving students the opportunity to gain experience with career exploration, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, accounting and international business. These courses introduce students to advanced business topics, and develop their interpersonal and

problem-solving skills by working in collaborative teams. See chart below.

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.

## NOTES

Be the light for others to see!

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