

**LET YOUR
CURIOSITY
LEAD**



Hill-Murray School
The Catholic Benedictine Prep School

2026–2027

**Middle School
Curriculum Guide**

WELCOME TO MIDDLE SCHOOL



Welcome to the Hill-Murray community! The middle school years are among the most transformative in a young person's life, and at Hill-Murray, we are honored and excited to walk alongside you during this remarkable season of growth. Our Middle School invites you to embrace these years as a time of discovery, exploration, service, and joy. A time when your story begins to take shape in extraordinary ways.

Rooted in the Pioneer Way, our culture is grounded in empathy, the ability to understand and value the perspectives of others, and in the courage to choose what is right, even when it is difficult. These qualities guide our students as they navigate a period filled with change, new experiences, and new challenges. At Hill-Murray, you will be surrounded by peers who support one another and by faculty who serve not only as teachers but as mentors and coaches, encouraging you to grow confidently into who you are becoming.

As a PIONEER, you will be encouraged to try new things, embrace new ideas, and take bold steps toward your future. Every day on our beautiful campus offers a chance to explore exciting pathways that only Hill-Murray can provide, whether in academics, the arts, athletics, leadership, or service. Middle school is a time of transformation, and here, that transformation is nurtured by a deep sense of faith, community, and belonging.

Our Catholic faith guides everything we do, creating an environment where every student is welcomed, valued, and known. As you take on greater responsibility and independence, we will be right beside you, celebrating your growth, challenging you to rise to your potential, and equipping you with the compassion, courage, faith, and integrity you will carry with you into high school and beyond.

Welcome to Hill-Murray Middle School. Your journey as a PIONEER begins here, and the possibilities ahead are endless.

Melissa Dan, Ed.S. President

A handwritten signature of Melissa Dan in green ink.

— PORTRAIT OF A HILL-MURRAY GRADUATE —

Every Hill-Murray
student will be an

**INQUISITIVE,
RESILIENT, AND
COMPASSIONATE**

leader grounded in the
teachings of Christ.

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 are 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 faculty are 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 2026–2027 school year courses.

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 you are interested in a course that you do not see, please reach out to your School Counselor.

A CURRICULUM DESIGNED TO AWAKEN CURIOSITY

The Hill-Murray curriculum will engage your mind, encourage you to 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.

COURSE REGISTRATION

Middle School students take required English, Math, Physical Education, Theology, Science, and Social Studies courses. In addition to required courses, students will take two to five electives each year and a required Pioneer Pathway course.

The Math Department determines math placement for incoming students. 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 the current teacher's recommendations.

COURSE REGISTRATION POLICY

If a course is not offered due to insufficient enrollment or enrollment exceeding course capacity, a student's alternate choices listed on registration materials will be used to complete the schedule. Therefore, students must list alternate choices they sincerely wish to take.

PIONEER INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Pioneer Institute for Health and Wellness (PIHW) is an initiative exclusive to the Hill-Murray Community. Programming and support are provided to students through various modes designed to strengthen and challenge their physical, spiritual, social and emotional growth journey. Students will learn the skills, mindsets and beliefs that will endure over time. By participating in the PIHW, students learn essential life skills that help them navigate personal and social challenges effectively. We focus on cultivating emotional intelligence, interpersonal skills, stress management, self-awareness and self regulation in the context of a faith based education. Components of the PIHW include curriculum in the Pioneer Pathway courses, special speakers and presentations in grade level sessions during WIN, opportunities to engage in innovative PE elective offerings, tools that support the development of executive function along with opportunities to participate in stress management activities. The PIHW also strengthens the connection between the school and parents/guardians to create the best learning environment for our Hill-Murray students.

MATH OFFERINGS

Hill-Murray School offers a comprehensive Math curriculum, with challenging and supportive course offerings. 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 or Intermediate Algebra through coding or Honors Intermediate Algebra
	Geometry or Geometry Through Woodworking or Honors Geometry
	Algebra II or Honors Algebra II
	Pre-Calc or Honors Pre-Calc
	Statistics or Honors Statistics
ELECTIVES	Calculus Basics or Honors Calculus Basics
	AP Honors Calculus BC
	CIS College Algebra
ADDITIONAL MATH CLASSES	

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, spiritual, and physical. Supporting this growth and development is essential in helping students make healthy and beneficial decisions.

Academic and life goals, as well as 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 (Grades 6 and 7)
lvalentine@hill-murray.org | 651-748-2224

Katie Francis (Grade 8)

kfrancis@hill-murray.org | 651-748-2235

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST*

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

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

HM PIONEER SUMMER

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

ACADEMIC: Credit and enrichment classroom experiences – contact your School 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 2026.

THE NICHOLAS CENTER

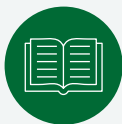
Through The Nicholas Center, Hill-Murray can meet the needs of neurodiverse students where they are in their educational journey. The Nicholas Center can provide coursework that provides enriching interventions for students to meet their goals. The prescriptive coursework is based on the student's individual 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 learn more about The Nicholas Center and how the program may work with your son or daughter, contact:

Brent Johnson,
Vice President of Operations &
The Nicholas Center
bgjohnson@hill-murray.org

Sara Johnson,
Director of Literacy
sjohnson@hill-murray.org

Molly Schuaff,
Educational Support Specialist
mschauff@hill-murray.org



READING SKILLS

The Nicholas Center offers multiple interventions based on the Orton-Gillingham method, including the Wilson Reading System®, to assist students who are reading below grade level or who have a language based learning difference. We assist students with vocabulary development and help boost reading comprehension through our Just Words program and Literacy Support classes.



MATH SKILLS

In The Nicholas Center we meet students at their current skill level and guide their progress with tailored instruction. Our program integrates whole group lessons with small group, targeted instruction, as well as adaptive learning technology ensuring every learner gets the support and challenge they need to thrive.



EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING SKILLS

Through our executive functioning classes and individualized academic coaching/tutoring, students gain skills in organization, time management, study habits, prioritization and self-advocacy while being provided academic guidance and support.

RESOURCES THAT FOSTER SUCCESS

ACADEMIC STUDY SKILLS

ACADEMIC COACH/ TUTOR

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits Total

Academic Coaches/Tutors work 1-on-1 with students to improve the students' executive functioning skills. The Academic Coach/ Tutor will work with teachers to enhance students' performance by creating study plans and supporting assignment, study, and assessment follow-through. For students with learning differences, their coach will work with them to appropriately advocate for their individual learning needs.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STRATEGIC STUDY LAB

GRADE 6 | GRADE 7 | GRADE 8

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits Total

Required approval of The Nicholas Center

Students will be assigned to this class based on academic needs with required approval from TNC staff. Strategic Study Lab (SSL) is a structured support class designed to provide students with individualized instruction and support in various areas of executive functioning skills (planning, organization, study strategies) as well as providing structured academic support with reading comprehension, writing, and work completion. This targeted approach aims to create a comprehensive support environment that goes beyond a typical study hall.

MATH

MATH SKILLS

GRADE 6 | GRADE 7 | GRADE 8

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

This middle school class is for students who need extra time and assistance with their current math coursework. When needed, students will spend time relearning material taught in their assigned math course, engage with their daily math homework, and, with extra time, will learn basic strategies for working through multi-step problems. Students are placed in this class based on academic need.

READING

WILSON JUST WORDS®

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

Elective 6–8, 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 decoding and spelling automaticity. It is appropriate for students in grades 6-8 who need a brush-up on basic word analysis skills, suffixes, prefixes, and roots.

WILSON READING SYSTEM®

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

Elective 6–8, approval of The Nicholas Center

Students whose basic reading and spelling skills are significantly below their academic potential may request remediation with the Wilson Reading System®. This system consists of 12 steps of direct, systematic, code-based, interactive, multi-sensory instruction. 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 read accurately and more efficiently.

MS READING AND LITERACY SKILLS

GRADE 6 | GRADE 7 | GRADE 8

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

Students in this class will be engaged in targeted literacy and reading instruction in alignment with the English Language Arts standards. Emphasis will be placed on fluency, vocabulary, language structures, and comprehension through direct instruction. Students will be placed in this class based on their entrance screener.

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	Pioneer Pathway	Stem Lab
7		
8		

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

Required courses are listed period 1-6. Choose courses to fill in student's additional 4 elective spots. Electives are shown on page 14.

THE 6th GRADE ADVANTAGE

The "6th-grade advantage" refers to the unique support Hill-Murray offers during this developmental stage as our youngest students transition into Middle School. Students are still relatively young and familiar with their elementary school environment and need the care and attention from their teachers as they transition into Middle School.

ENGLISH

0201 LITERATURE & LANGUAGE ARTS 6

Required for Grade 6

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

This course intertwines fundamental writing, literature, reading, and communication skills throughout the year. Students will focus on reading comprehension, vocabulary development, writing, literary study, language development, and lifetime study skills. Collaborative strategies are utilized to build knowledge and skills to help students become independent readers, thinkers, and writers.

INNOVATION AND DESIGN

0710 STEM LAB

Required for Grade 6

One Semester, 1 Credit total

STEM Lab is designed to provide 6th-grade students with an engaging and foundational exploration of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The course will introduce basic concepts, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills through hands-on projects, collaborative work, and interactive learning experiences. Students will explore the application of STEM in everyday life, encouraging creativity, curiosity, and a love for discovery. This course will foster a growth mindset and build a foundational knowledge base that students can expand upon in future STEM coursework.

MATHEMATICS

0301 PRE-ALGEBRAIC CONCEPTS

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

This course continues the study of mathematics. Topics include numbers and their operations, beginning algebra, geometry, 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, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

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, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

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

Required for Grade 6

One Semester, 1 Credit total

This course encourages students to discover the joy of physical activity through a variety of sports, circuits, and skill-building exercises. Students will engage in dynamic, hands-on experiences that emphasize teamwork, personal fitness, and the development of motor skills. By participating in diverse activities, from traditional team sports to individual challenges, students will gain a deeper appreciation for movement, improve their physical health, and develop strategies for participating in lifelong activity.

PIONEER PATHWAY

0891 TO BE A PIONEER

Required for Grade 6

One Semester, 1 Credit total

Pioneer Pathway is a required Middle School course created to give students the tools to become engaged and successful Hill-Murray students and leaders. This course will focus on the "The Pioneer Way". It will include the following units: Belonging, Executive Functioning, Goal Setting and Reflection, Relationships, Digital Citizenship, Navigating Challenges, Mindset, School Spirit, and Leadership.

SCIENCE

0501 EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE 6

Required for Grade 6

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

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 the interactions of the sun, moon and Earth systems and how these interactions cause seasons, tides and moon phases.

SOCIAL STUDIES

0401 MINNESOTA HISTORY 6

Required for Grade 6

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

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, as well as the impact of the Civil War on the state of Minnesota, 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 students with skills such as writing, discourse with peers, and the ability to formulate an opinion based on facts.

THEOLOGY

0106 THEOLOGY 6

Required for Grade 6

One Semester, 1 Credit total

This course introduces students to the foundational beliefs of the Catholic faith through the framework of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church; who Jesus Christ is; the power within the Communion of Saints; and the beliefs expressed in the Nicene Creed. Students will also gain an understanding of how to lead a life within the Church, and strive to understand the central mystery of our faith—the Trinity. Throughout the course, students explore their Catholic faith through hands-on activities that bring these teachings to life. They participate in student-led, faith-based discussions that encourage them to dive deeper into their beliefs and discover how to live out their faith in their everyday lives.

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
5	Social Studies 7	Social Studies 7
	Lunch	Lunch
6		Pioneer Pathway
7		
8		

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

Required courses are listed period 1-6. Choose courses to fill in student's additional 5 elective spots. Electives are shown on page 14.

ENGLISH

0200 LITERATURE & LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Required for Grade 7

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

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 and 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 to produce clear and coherent writing. Another primary goal of the course is to foster independent learners and encourage in-depth content exploration.

MATHEMATICS

0301 PRE-ALGEBRAIC CONCEPTS

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

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, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

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, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

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 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.

0313 INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA THROUGH CODING

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

Prerequisite: Completion of MS Algebra

This course combines Intermediate Algebra with the basics of computer programming, offering students a dynamic approach to learning key math concepts through coding. The course covers all essential concepts from Intermediate Algebra including quadratic functions, exponential models, data analysis, probability, and inequalities as well as topics in computer programming. Students will use both spreadsheet tools and Python programming to explore and solve real-world problems, applying their coding skills to deepen their understanding of algebraic principles. This course will satisfy a mathematics requirement and prepare students for Geometry, Honors Geometry, and other future high school mathematics courses. This course will also count toward the Innovation and Design Pathway Certificate and allow students to advance to a second level computer science course.

0308 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.

PIONEER PATHWAY

0892 DEVELOP YOUR PIONEER PATH

Required for Grade 7

One Semester, 1 Credit total

Pioneer Pathway is a required Middle School course created to give students the tools to become engaged and successful Hill-Murray students and leaders. This course continues from Pioneer Pathway (6) and will focus on Executive Functioning, Growth Mindset, Community Service & Leadership Projects, Digital Citizenship, and Social and Emotional health. This class is designed to dive deeper into students' academic, social, and emotional growth over the past year.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

0001 PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7

Required for Grade 7

One Semester, 1 Credit total

This course encourages students to discover the joy of physical activity through a variety of sports, circuits, and skill-building exercises. Students will engage in dynamic, hands-on experiences that emphasize teamwork, personal fitness, and the development of motor skills. By participating in diverse activities, from traditional team sports to individual challenges, students will gain a deeper appreciation for movement, improve

their physical health, and develop strategies for participating in lifelong activity.

SCIENCE

0500 LIFE SCIENCE 7

Required for Grade 7

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

This course introduces students to the study of living organisms and their interactions. Throughout the year, students will learn about topics such as: lab safety, the metric system, characteristics of life, ecology, cells, genetics, natural selection, and body systems. Students will perform various labs, including dissections, as well as many other activities, inquiries and investigations to help build their understanding of the living world.

SOCIAL STUDIES

0420 SOCIAL STUDIES 7

Required for Grade 7

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

American History from Colonial America through Present Day sets the backdrop for this course, where seventh graders will hone their skills in comparing and contrasting, critical thinking, and forming an opinion based in historical fact. Students will also utilize Socratic seminars, project-based learning, and a variety of alternative assessments.

THEOLOGY

0107 THEOLOGY 7

Required for Grade 7

One Semester, 1 Credit total

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 discuss why rituals and ceremonies are essential 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 life experience throughout their time on earth.

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	Pioneer Pathway	
7		
8		

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.

Required courses are listed period 1-6. Choose courses to fill in student's additional 5 elective spots. Electives are shown on page 14.

ENGLISH

0202 LITERATURE & LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Required for Grade 8

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

This course's primary goal is to continue building knowledge and skills that help students transition into high school by becoming independent readers, writers, and thinkers. Reading focuses include fiction, drama, poetry, and non-fiction. Writing includes perfecting the short answer paragraph and writing a literary analysis, a creative short story, and a personal narrative in verse form. Students also create a Capstone project, researching a topic of their choice and synthesizing information and data that they present in a written research paper. Grammar, vocabulary, media literacy, and listening and speaking are also areas of focus.

MATHEMATICS

0306 MS ALGEBRA

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

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 INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

Prerequisite: 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 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 and exponential functions, including data analysis and probability. This course has more rigor than Intermediate Algebra, moves faster, and includes more topics.

0313 INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA THROUGH CODING

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

Prerequisite: Completion of MS Algebra

This course combines Intermediate Algebra with the basics of computer programming, offering students a dynamic approach to learning key math concepts through coding. The course covers all essential concepts from Intermediate Algebra

including quadratic functions, exponential models, data analysis, probability, and inequalities as well as topics in computer programming. Students will use both spreadsheet tools and Python programming to explore and solve real-world problems, applying their coding skills to deepen their understanding of algebraic principles. This course will satisfy a mathematics requirement and prepare students for Geometry, Honors Geometry, and other future high school mathematics courses. This course will also count toward the Innovation and Design Pathway Certificate and allow students to advance to a second level computer science course.

0312 GEOMETRY

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

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

0314 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 on 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.

0316 GEOMETRY THROUGH WOODWORKING

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

Teacher Approval Required

This hands-on course combines the principles of geometry with the art and craft of woodworking. This course is designed to teach participants how geometry plays a crucial role in the design, construction, and aesthetics of woodworking projects. Whether you're a novice woodworker or have some experience, this course will enhance your skills and help you create more precise and visually appealing pieces.

PIONEER PATHWAY

0893 PORTRAIT OF A PIONEER

Required for Grade 8, One Semester, 1 Credit total

Pioneer Pathway is a required Middle School course created to give students the tools to become engaged and successful Hill-Murray students and leaders. This course will focus on the four pillars of Hill-Murray's Portrait of a Graduate (Leadership, Resiliency, Inquisitiveness and Compassion.). This course will incorporate elements of The Social Institute curriculum, encourage and inspire students to pursue their passions through exploring different H-M clubs and activities, career exploration and interests, and academically and socially prepare students for High School at Hill-Murray.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

0002 PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

Required for Grade 8, One Semester, 1 Credit total

This course encourages students to discover the joy of physical activity through a variety of sports, circuits, and skill-building exercises. Students will engage in dynamic, hands-on experiences that emphasize teamwork, personal fitness, and the development of motor skills. By participating in diverse activities, from traditional team sports to individual challenges, students will gain a deeper appreciation for movement, improve their physical health, and develop strategies for participating in lifelong activity.

SCIENCE

0502 PHYSICAL SCIENCE 8

Required for Grade 8

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

This course encourages students to discover the joy of physical activity through a variety of sports, circuits, and skill-building exercises. Students will engage in dynamic, hands-on experiences that emphasize teamwork, personal fitness, and the development of motor skills. By participating in diverse activities, from traditional team sports to individual challenges, students will gain a deeper appreciation for movement, improve their physical health, and develop strategies for participating in lifelong activity.

SOCIAL STUDIES

0421 SOCIAL STUDIES 8

Required for Grade 8

Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total

In this course, students will prepare for high school while practicing contextualization, historical research analysis and interpretation, and argumentation. Students will study influential groups and people from specific periods in World History and how they impacted civilizations culturally, economically, religiously, and politically.

THEOLOGY

0108 THEOLOGY 8

Required for Grade 8, One Semester, 1 Credit total

This course is designed primarily to give students a brief background into the history of the Catholic faith, and a background of our Benedictine and LaSallian roots. Students will explore Holy Scripture and conclude with units on spirituality, ethics, morals, and Catholic Social Teaching. They will be challenged to begin exploring their faith, and their understanding of being a part of a community.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

ART

0835 MIDDLE SCHOOL ART 1

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 6–8

This course offers students a comprehensive exploration of art by engaging them in a variety of media and techniques such as drawing, painting, sculpture, and collage. Each project emphasizes the elements and principles of design, allowing students to refine their artistic abilities and conceptual understanding. Through hands-on activities, students will develop both creative and critical problem-solving skills as they experiment with two-dimensional and three-dimensional art forms.

0839 MIDDLE SCHOOL ART 2

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 7–8

Middle School Art 2 invites students to expand their creativity and artistic skills through advanced experiences in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and collage. Students will explore both historic and contemporary artists, experiment with new materials and techniques, and apply the elements and principles of design to develop their own artistic style. They'll also learn how to photograph and digitally present their work, building a personal portfolio that highlights their growth, creativity, and artistic voice—an excellent foundation for future visual arts courses. Students must take Middle School Art 1 before enrolling in this course.

0811 MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPUTER GRAPHICS & DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

One Semester, 1 Credit total – 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 essential digital camera functions and photo composition. Students will learn what it takes to create a good photograph and how to improve their pictures. Throughout the semester, students will learn the basics of Adobe Creative Suite®.

BUSINESS

0700 BUSINESS AND ME

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 7–8

This course introduces students to basic business, entrepreneurship, 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. Students will be challenged to think creatively, collaborate, and make wise financial and business decisions.

0704 CAREERS AND ME

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 6–7

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 learn about multiple career paths across industries. In addition, students will recognize numerous jobs within communities and globally, and will appreciate the value each brings to the economy.

0705 THE WORLD AND ME

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 7–8

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 participate in a global international business multi-cultural project.

0714 MONEY AND ME

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 7–8

Students will examine and analyze the skills necessary to foster and develop effective and fiscally sound money habits for life. Curriculum will include themes of cash management, developing an income stream, budgeting, and saving for the future. Core curricular concepts also include developing good credit, obtaining a credit card, the time value of money, building solid investing habits, and an examination of critical insurance products. Through an online simulation, students will have the opportunity to manage a diverse investment portfolio. Throughout this project based course, students will learn foundational skills to help them implement excellent financial habits for their future.

ENGLISH

0227 CREATIVE WRITING

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 6–8

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

0239 READING THROUGH THE GENRES

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 6–8

This course will allow students to find new books in current genres they enjoy and find new genres to explore in their future readings. The genres covered in this class will include Realistic Fiction, Historical Fiction, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Non-Fiction, Drama, and Poetry. Each mini-unit will provide different ways for students to interact with the text through writing, speaking and listening, and project-based activities.

INNOVATION AND DESIGN

0905 STEM 1: ENGINEERS WORKSHOP

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 7–8

As a project-based course, 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. Students will use 3D printers, vinyl cutters, and a laser cutter to produce their designs. Students will keep a log and develop practices for documenting their ideas, designs, and data.

0906 STEM 2: ENGINEERING AND DESIGN

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 7–8

Prerequisite: STEM 1: Engineers Workshop

STEM 2: Engineering and Design 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, Spike Prime, 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.

0727 COMPUTER SCIENCE FOUNDATIONS: AN INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTATIONAL THINKING AND CODING

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 7–8

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 multiple options exist. Students move into doing block-coding in Scratch (developed by MIT), which is used worldwide to teach basic coding and Code.org. Students will complete a research project on computers’ history and technology’s evolution.

MUSIC

0824 MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND WIND ENSEMBLE AND 0826 DRUMLINE PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

*One Semester, 1 Credit total, or Full Year 2 Credits total
Elective Grades 6–8*

If your student enjoys music making and performing at events and in the community, this class is perfect for them! We will be doing hands-on music making in every class! Most of our performances happen outside the school day. We welcome beginners through advanced musicians at all grade levels.

0822 MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR

*One Semester, 1 Credit total, or Full Year, 2 Credits total
Elective Grades 6–8*

Discover your voice and the joy of making music together! In Middle School Choir, students build confidence, strengthen vocal skills, and experience the excitement of performing. This course offers a positive and supportive environment for musicians and performers to develop. Choir members share their hard work and talent in two evening concerts each semester that are a requirement for this course.

0840 MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

*One Semester, 1 Credit total, or Full Year, 2 Credits total
Elective Grades 6–8*

Whether students are brand new beginners or already have some experience, this ensemble will help them build strong fundamentals in technique, music reading, and teamwork. Students rehearse together as a full orchestra, break into smaller sectionals to focus on specific skills, and complete fun individual projects that help students grow as musicians. Throughout the year, students will perform in several exciting concerts, and travel performance opportunities are also offered to exciting places like Disney World and Honolulu, Hawai'i. All students in grades 6–8 are welcome, no prior experience required! All they need is curiosity, commitment, and a love for music.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

0007 MOVEMENT & WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 6–7

This course offers 6th and 7th grade students the chance to explore a variety of physical activities that promote cross-training benefits. Through problem-solving, cooperation, and skill development, students will focus on personal fitness, including strength, endurance, flexibility, and agility. Activities will include individual, dual, and team sports, with a focus on student preferences and team-building.

0004 MOVEMENT & WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 7–8

This course offers 7th and 8th grade students the chance to explore a variety of physical activities that promote cross-training benefits. Through problem-solving, cooperation, and skill development, students will focus on personal fitness, including strength, endurance, flexibility, and agility. Activities will include individual, dual, and team sports, with a focus on student preferences and team-building.



SCIENCE

0503 EXPLORERS OF THE GALAXY

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 6–7

In this one semester course, students will look deeper at Earth's role and place in our solar system. They will get an intro to astronomy by investigating the earth-moon-sun system. We also will study the eight planets in our solar system as well as constellations. Throughout their learning, they will also learn the tools that are used to make the amazing discoveries in space. 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.

0507 EXPLORERS OF THE GALAXY 2

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 7–8

Also available to new 8th grade students

In this one-semester course, students will continue to build upon what they learned in Explorers of the Galaxy (1). They will study star features and systems. We will learn and discuss how the Milky Way compares to other galaxies in the universe. We will discuss cosmology as well as the history of space exploration and how it relates to the future of space exploration. Students will also research and discover what benefits we have gained in our daily lives through space exploration. 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.

SOCIAL STUDIES

0410 HEROES & VILLAINS IN HISTORY

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 6–8

This elective examines the lives, choices, and legacies of historical figures who have been remembered as heroes, villains, or both, depending on perspective. Students will explore how individuals' actions shaped history, influenced societies, and sparked debates about morality, leadership, and power. By analyzing the context of their lives and the consequences of their decisions, students will gain a nuanced understanding of what it means to be labeled a "hero" or a "villain" in different cultural, historical, and ethical contexts.

STUDY SKILLS

0252 MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDY SKILLS

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 6–8

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, and 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 and beyond.

THEATRE

0850 CREATIVE DRAMATICS

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 6–8

Creative Dramatics is a high-energy, imagination-fueled course into the world of storytelling and performance! Through theater games, creative exercises, and playful scene work, students will explore their voices, movement, and imaginations while building confidence and teamwork skills. Students will develop creativity, focus, and self-expression, learning to take bold risks, collaborate with others, and shine both on and off the stage.

0855 THEATRE FUNDAMENTALS

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 6–8

This Middle School level course introduces students to the exciting world of Theatre, providing them with a foundation in the fundamental aspects of theatrical production. The curriculum is designed to foster creativity, collaboration, and self-expression while also developing essential skills such as communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving when exploring the different elements and history of Theatre.

WORLD LANGUAGE

6th and 7th grade 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, songs, and more in a semester-long elective. Students in 7th grade may register for French 1A or Spanish 1A. Each is a full-year Middle School language course that covers the first half of the High School curriculum. Upon successfully completing the course, students can register for French 1B or Spanish as 8th graders. Incoming 8th graders are encouraged to sign up for High School Spanish 1 or French 1 in order to register for Spanish 2 or French 2 as freshmen upon successful completion of the course.

0604 EXPLORING WORLD LANGUAGES

One Semester, 1 Credit total – Elective Grades 6–7

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, and Chinese, 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.

0607 FRENCH 1A

*Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total
Elective Grade 7*

This course will cover the 1st half of French 1 curriculum. Basic vocabulary (introductions, weather/calendar/time, classroom, adjectives, foods, activities) and basic grammar (conjugating – er verbs, noun/adjective agreement, articles, the verbs *aimer*, *avoir*, and *être*).

0630 SPANISH 1A

*Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total
Elective Grade 7*

This course will cover the 1st half of Spanish 1 curriculum. Basic vocabulary (introductions, weather/calendar/time, classroom, adjectives, foods, activities) and basic grammar (conjugating – ar verbs, noun/adjective agreement, articles, the verbs *gustar* and *ser*).

0609 FRENCH 1B

*Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total
Elective Grade 8. Prerequisite: Completion of French 1A OR
adequate score on placement exam **
**Note that incoming 8th graders can enroll in a full year of French 1.*

This course will cover the 2nd half of French 1 curriculum Continuing with basic vocabulary (family, clothes/colors, city) and expanding grammar concepts (conjugating – er, re, and – ir verbs, possession and possessive adjectives, stem-changing verbs, comparisons, and the verbs *faire*, *aller*, and *mettre*). Successful completion of this course will allow the student to take French 2 as a freshman.

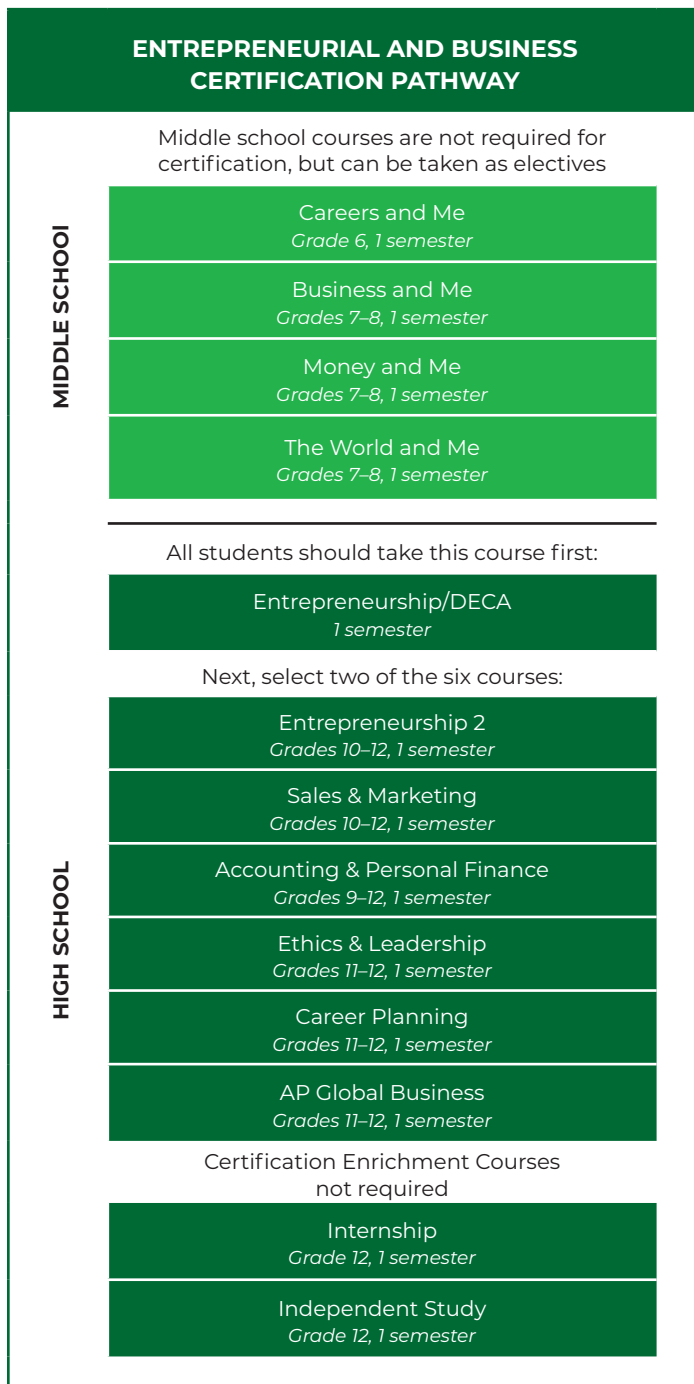
0632 SPANISH 1B

*Full Year, 1 Credit each semester, 2 Credits total
Elective Grade 8. Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish 1A
OR adequate score on placement exam.*

This course will cover the 2nd half of Spanish 1 curriculum. Continuing with basic vocabulary (family, clothes/colors, city) and expanding grammar concepts (conjugating – er and – ir verbs, possession and possessive adjectives, stem-changing verbs, comparisons and the verbs *hacer* and *ir* a). Successful completion of this course will allow the student to take Spanish 2 as a freshman.

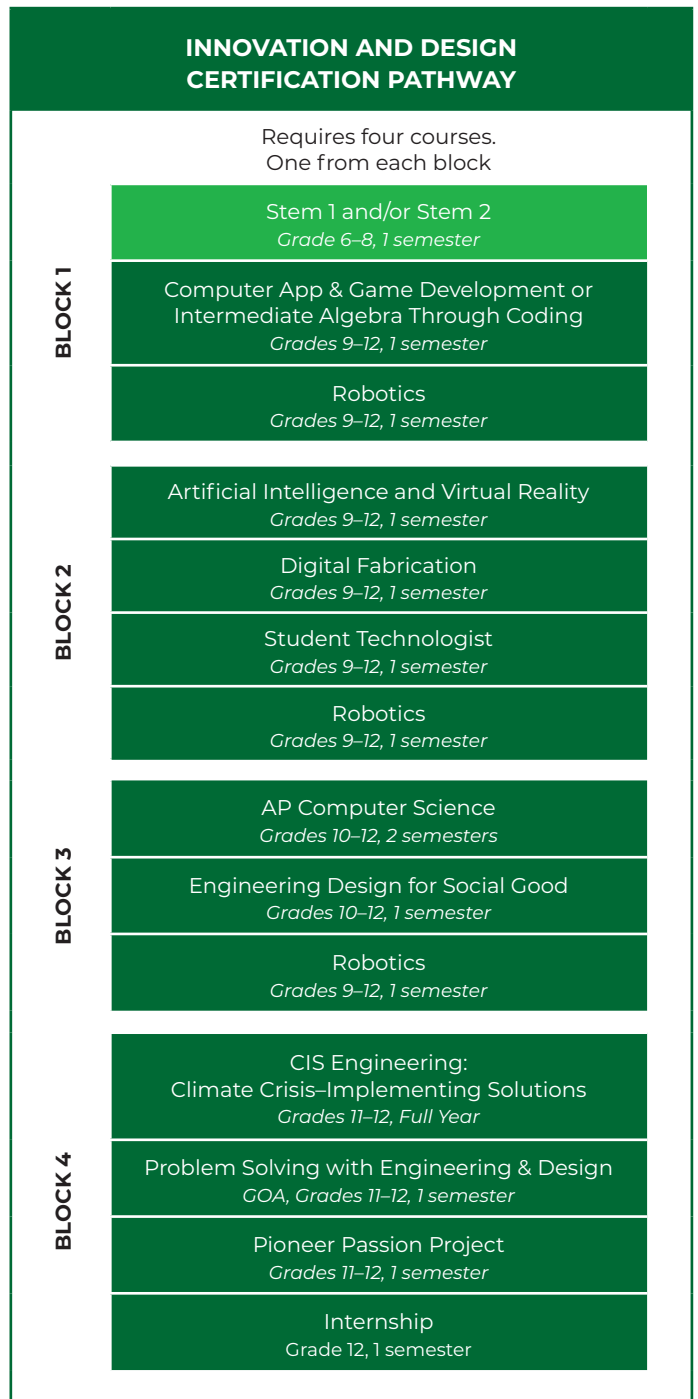
ENTREPRENEURIAL AND BUSINESS CERTIFICATION PATHWAY

The comprehensive Entrepreneurial and Business Pathway allows students 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. This pathway takes it to the next level, and prepares students for the Enterprise Business Internship which will allow them 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.



INNOVATION AND DESIGN CERTIFICATION PATHWAY

The Innovation and Design certification pathway allows students to gain experience in a comprehensive science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curriculum. Including hands-on experience with computational thinking, engineering, 3D printing, fabrication, design, and computer programming. It introduces students to innovative and cutting-edge topics and allows them to develop their technical skills with industry-standard software and tools. It 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 vital for college success and beyond.



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