

Middle School Curriculum Guide



Brentwood School

Grades 7 and 8
2018 - 2019



Middle School
Curriculum Guide 2018 – 2019

Table of Contents

Statement of Purpose.....	3
General Information	3
Academic Program Schematic (2018 - 2019).....	4
Academic Program	5
Brentwood School Mathematics Sequence 2018 - 2019.....	5
MATH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS.....	6
ENGLISH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS.....	8
WORLD LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS	9
SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS	12
SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS	13
PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS	14
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS.....	15
ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS	16
PERFORMING ARTS ELECTIVES	17
VISUAL ARTS ELECTIVES	20
ORATORY ELECTIVES	22
ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES.....	23

Statement of Purpose

BRENTWOOD SCHOOL INSPIRES EVERY STUDENT TO:

Think critically and creatively.

Act ethically.

Shape a future with meaning.

Core Values

Trust • Respect • Responsibility • Honesty • Caring • Community • Diversity

General Information

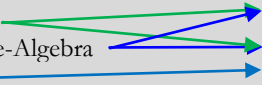
We believe that our curriculum should help students develop intellectual abilities and interests, social awareness, personal competencies, and a code of ethics. Hence, students explore courses in a variety of areas. The sequence of course requirements provides a balance between gaining a solid knowledge and learning foundation, exploring a wide range of inter-connected subjects, and obtaining needed skills for success in high school, college, and careers. The curriculum is designed to provide students with a wide range of opportunities and experiences, expanding their neurological capacity for life.

In the Middle School, we emphasize deeper understanding and connections, as well as learning how to learn. As students begin to take more responsibility for their own learning, the faculty members remain supportive and nurture personal growth. Teachers work to build explicit links between subjects, with a theme-based approach, in order to deepen students' understanding of the world in which they live and to enable students to ask higher-level thinking questions. Our hope is to engender students' sense of wonder and possibility and develop a belief in every student that they are a powerful learner.

Brentwood School provides experiences that allow students to grow morally as well. We believe that we should prepare our students to be confident, independent, and responsible citizens. It is also our aim to help students learn to lead their day-to-day lives with compassion and kindness and to serve the needs of others. Finally, it is the fervent hope of Brentwood School that students will have gained not only a personal vision, but also will take joy in the discovery and fulfillment of that vision. We work to endow them with the moral fiber to work through difficulty toward a true understanding of the way in which individual goals can harmonize with the greater good of the world. Brentwood School's programs are committed to this development.

Middle School

Academic Program Schematic (2018 - 2019)

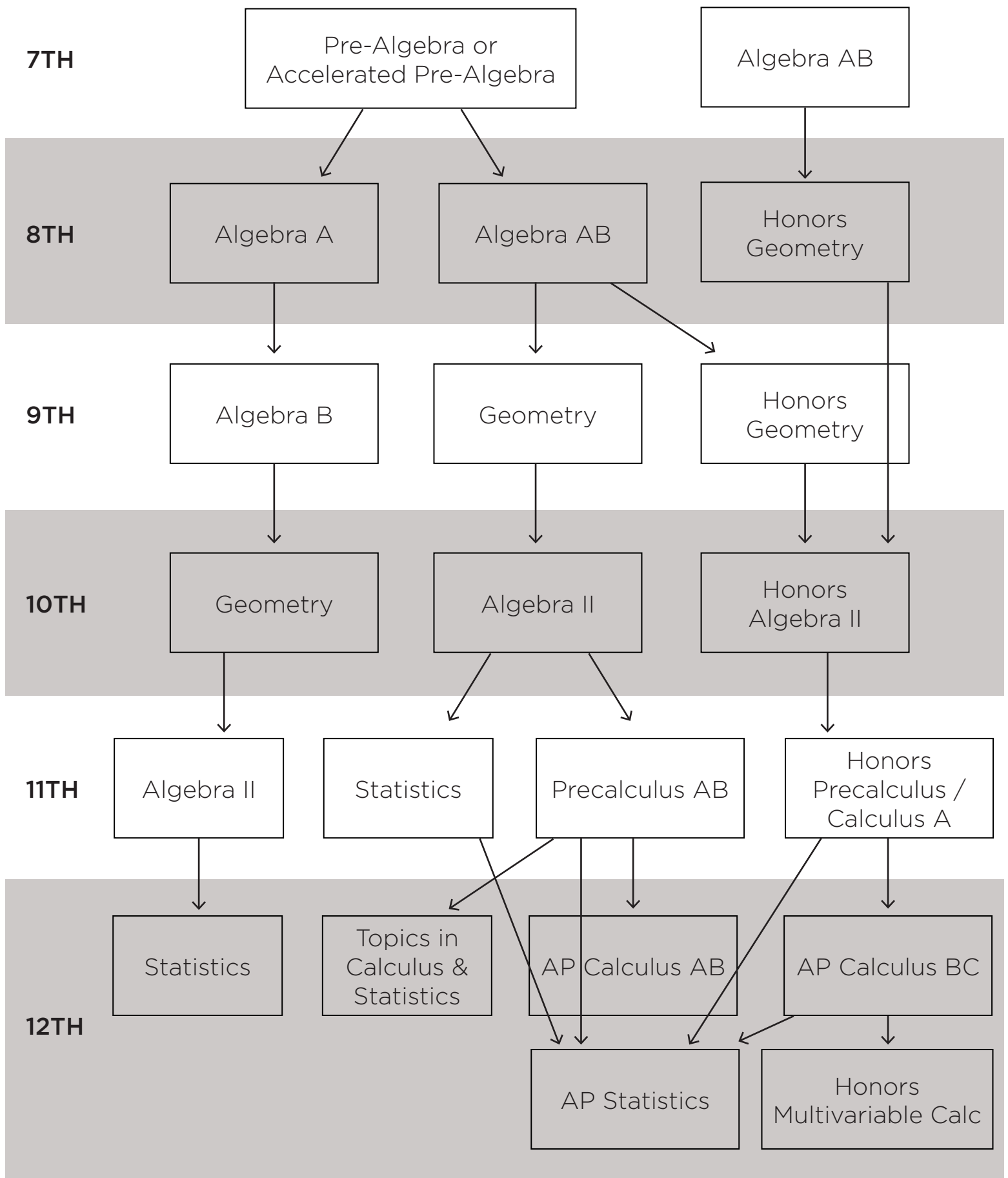
	7 th	8 th
MATH ¹	Pre-Algebra Accelerated Pre-Algebra Algebra AB 	Algebra A Algebra AB Honors Geometry
ENGLISH	English 7	English 8
WORLD LANGUAGE ²	French IA Latin IA Mandarin Chinese IA Spanish IA	French IB Latin IB Mandarin Chinese IB Spanish IB
HISTORY	Global Studies	American Studies
SCIENCE	Science 7	Science 8
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Physical Education 7	Physical Education 8
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	Human Development I (Fall)	Human Development II (Spring)
PERFORMING ARTS ELECTIVES <i>(ONE SEMESTER REQUIRED)</i>	Dance Company ³ (year) Drama (semester) Jazz Band ³ (year) Movement (semester) MS Singers ³ (semester) Music 101 (year) Music 102 ³ (year) Orchestra ³ (year) Rhythm Section Workshop ³ (year) Theater Company ³ (year)	Dance Company ³ (year) Drama (semester) Jazz Band ³ (year) Movement (semester) MS Singers ³ (semester) Music 101 (year) Music 102 ³ (year) Orchestra ³ (year) Rhythm Section Workshop ³ (year) Theater Company ³ (year)
VISUAL ARTS SEMESTER ELECTIVES <i>(ONE SEMESTER REQUIRED)</i>	Digital Art Filmmaking Sculpture Studio Art	Digital Art Filmmaking Mixed Media Studio Sculpture Studio Art
ORATORY ELECTIVES <i>(ONE SEMESTER REQUIRED)</i>	Debate Public Speaking	Debate Public Speaking
ADDITIONAL SEMESTER ELECTIVES	Creative Coding for Your World (Fall) Robotics Innovation Design (Spring) Yearbook (Fall)	Creative Coding for Your World (Fall) Robotics Innovation Design (Spring) Yearbook (Fall)

(1) After taking an assessment test and a review of past math history, incoming 7th graders are placed in the appropriate math class.

(2) Native world language speakers will consult with the Middle School Director regarding world language placement. Incoming 7th graders will commit to a world language for at least two years.

(3) 7th and 8th graders must audition or receive instructor approval.

BRENTWOOD MATHEMATICS SEQUENCE 2018



MATH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Pre-Algebra, Accelerated Pre-Algebra	7th Grade	Year	Required or place out
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Prerequisite: Math assessment

Course Description: These courses review arithmetic skills learned in the elementary grades and expand on these skills through algebraic applications. Topics include an introduction to algebra, positive and negative numbers, rational numbers, solving equations, geometric figures, ratio, proportion, percent, order of operations, properties of number, scientific notation, problem solving, equations and inequalities, data analysis, economics, as well as statistics and probability. Many of these topics will be studied in greater depth and complexity based on the class: Pre-Algebra, or Pre-Algebra Accelerated with emphasis placed on real world application, analysis, and synthesis.

Pre-Algebra is for students who have a solid foundation in 6th grade arithmetic. They will have experienced success in their math class and work well with skill based instruction and intermittent projects. Projects include Vitruvian man ratio, the history of math, economic data project, and life timeline.

Accelerated Pre-Algebra is geared towards students with a high degree of understanding in math concepts, who explore math concepts independently, seek out challenges, and enjoy discovering math strategies. The class reinforces standard pre-algebra skills placing emphasis on applying skills through projects. Projects include Vitruvian man ratio, the history of math, economic data project, life timeline, and probability concepts including a carnival.

Textbooks: *TBD*

Algebra A	8th Grade	Year	Completion of Pre-Algebra Required
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Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra, or by departmental consent from math assessment

Course Description: Algebra A is a year-long course which builds upon the concepts presented in Pre-Algebra, and is a pre-requisite for Algebra B in the Upper School. Topics include the following: basic operations, sets and properties, equations, polynomials, factoring, radicals, and lines. The day-to-day instruction of Algebra A is largely skills-based and student-paced, enabling students to become confident, independent learners. Emphasis is based upon the connections between the real world and algebra.

Textbooks: *TBD*

Algebra AB	7th Grade/ 8th Grade	Year	Required
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Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra, or Accelerated Pre-Algebra, or by departmental consent from math assessment

Course Description: This course, designed for strong math students, is intended to provide a general background in the structure and method of algebra with emphasis on problem solving techniques and acquiring solid skills. The topics are divided into the following units: basic operations, sets and properties, equations, polynomials, factoring, radicals, quadratic equations, lines, systems, exponents, inequalities, functions, and rational expressions. Emphasis is based upon the connections between the real world and algebra.

Textbook: *Algebra I (Foerster)*

Honors Geometry	8th Grade	Year	Required
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Prerequisite: Algebra AB in grade 7 with a grade of A- or higher each semester and/or by departmental consent

Course Description: In this course, designed for highly advanced passionate math students, deductive reasoning and formal geometric proofs are introduced. Throughout the course, geometric concepts lend themselves to algebraic applications. Students will develop problem-solving skills as well as logical thought processes by analyzing diagrams and writing proofs. Topics include: logic, elements of geometry, angle relationships, congruent triangles, geometric inequalities, indirect proofs, perpendicular and parallel lines, quadrilaterals in a plane, polygonal regions and their areas, similarity, circles, and geometric construction. Computer and hands-on activities and technology will be used to explore geometric concepts.

Textbook: *TBD*

ENGLISH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

English	7th Grade	Year	Required
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Course Description: This year-long course presents materials and teaches skills that will serve as the student's foundation in English throughout the Brentwood School experience. The course is divided into four major component parts: grammar, beginning with the parts of speech and moving progressively to more complex concepts; vocabulary, extending the student's vocabulary while teaching strategies for deciphering meaning and analyzing words; writing, emphasizing the formal rules of composition, while incorporating creative writing and projects; and literature, exposing the students to a variety of literary forms, including novels, plays, and units on short stories and poetry. In literature and in their writing, students will examine the theme of "power." What is power? How is it obtained and maintained? Who are the outsiders and why? The English curriculum, where appropriate, will connect to the Global Studies curriculum; for example, when students are studying Russian history in Global Studies, they'll be reading *Animal Farm* in English. During the Middle East unit, the students engage in a joint research project that results in a first person narrative in the voice of a Middle Eastern citizen.

Texts: *Little Worlds (a short story collection); Of Mice and Men; Maus; Animal Farm; Tasting the Sky, A Long Walk to Water*

English	8th Grade	Year	Required
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Prerequisite: 7th Grade English

Course Description: English in the 8th grade year is thematically based. Focusing on the duality of human nature resulting from the "fall from innocence," 8th grade students read and discuss texts that highlight the conflict between our innate good and evil. They will also grapple with the theme of courage, by examining and debating which characters are brave enough to take a stand against a group to stand up for their morals. Building skills is an equally important aspect of the course. There are four general areas on which we specifically concentrate: grammar, vocabulary, reading, and writing. Students will learn vocabulary from multiple lists; many of the words are connected to their themes and literature as well. In grammar, they will review noun functions, as well as learn verbals, and clauses. In writing, they will build on how to write a persuasive essay, and they will mix in creative poetry and other forms of writing. In the spring students will write a research paper on a topic of interest by building on their library, research, and writing skills.

Texts: *The Crucible, Lord of the Flies, To Kill a Mockingbird, Chains, American Born Chinese, Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass, Step Up Your Grammar*

WORLD LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

In accordance with Brentwood School's Diversity Mission Statement and Statement of Purpose, world language students will acquire and employ critical and creative thinking skills to engender curiosity, act ethically, and shape a future with meaning. Written and spoken language is an integral communication tool that allows students to begin the process of acquiring cultural competency. In recognition of their responsibility as global citizens, students will develop empathy, respect, and appreciation for diverse cultures within their immediate community and abroad.

French IA	7th Grade	Year	Elective
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Course Description: This is the first year in a two-year series where students will study the introduction of the French language. Students will practice using rudimentary French language in a range of contexts likely to be encountered in the target culture. They will engage in active communication with other students and be encouraged to express their own meaning as early and as accurately as possible. Students will learn to improve comprehension of the French language through targeted listening exercises as well as through video, film, and music exposure. They will increase their cultural understanding of the French-speaking people through Internet, projects, films, and oral presentations. Basic communication competency in reading and writing will be practiced through daily written homework assignments and reading in class. Most importantly, this course will provide students with a non-threatening and motivating environment where language acquisition and oral expression can truly take place.

Textbooks: *Discovering French Today –Bleu, Premiere Partie* (McDougal and Littell)
Discovering French Today - Bleu, Premiere Partie, Activity Book
Pauvre Anne
Fama Va En Californie

French IB	8th Grade	Year	Elective
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Prerequisite: French IA

Course Description: The goal of this course is to build on the oral communication skills developed in French IA by using the French language in an expanded range of contexts. Students will acquire the ability and build confidence necessary to engage in more complex conversations on a variety of topics using present and past tenses. Pronunciation and comprehension skills will be practiced through targeted listening and pronunciation activities, viewing video clips and movies, singing songs, and recording dialogues. Students will learn to appreciate the culture of the francophone community through Internet projects, oral presentations, and videos. They will also develop greater linguistic accuracy and critical thinking in language learning through systematic analysis of grammatical structures and learn to relate them to the comparable structures in English. Stronger emphasis will be placed on expanding students' reading and writing competence through in-class and at home readings of a variety of materials, writing daily homework assignments and compositions.

Textbooks: *Discovering French Today –Bleu, Deuxieme Partie* (McDougal and Littell)
Discovering French Today - Bleu, Deuxieme Partie, Activity Book
Destination France! vol. 1 (EMC)
Aventure en Normandie, vol. 2 (EMC)

Latin IA	7th Grade	Year	Elective
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Course Description: This is a year-long introductory course, meant to familiarize the students with the basic grammatical structures of Latin. The notion of inflected language is particularly emphasized in daily exercises. Morphology, vocabulary and syntax are studied with constant reference to the English language, thereby helping the students with their understanding of language in general and improving their communication skills. Memorization, analysis and deductive reasoning are particularly stressed in the exercise of translation. In addition, the students are introduced to various aspects of Roman history, civilization, and culture.

Textbook: *Oxford Latin Course Part I* (Balme and Morewood)

Latin IB	8th Grade	Year	Elective
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Prerequisite: Latin IA

Course Description: This is a continuation of Latin IA. The pace is slightly faster and the grammar is more complex. All verb tenses other than the present will be introduced, in both the active and passive voice. More advanced uses of cases will be presented. Sentences become longer and include a variety of subordinate clauses. Students continue to build reading skills and translation skills through daily practice, still relying on memory skills involved in learning grammar and vocabulary. Through the daily readings, the students keep in touch with the life of the poet Horace and are thus introduced to important aspects of the history and culture of Rome at the end of the Republic through the first century AD. The class will watch a full feature movie and derive research projects for presentation to the class. The National Latin Exam is taken in March.

Textbook: *Oxford Latin Course Part II* (Balme and Morewood)

Mandarin Chinese IA	7th Grade	Year	Elective
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Course Description: This is the first year of the two-year Mandarin program. Mandarin class is an immersion class. Students receive comprehensible input in the target language, just like how babies acquire a language: naturally, and with ease. A method of language acquisition called TPRS, Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling is used. It is an effective and involved way for students to acquire any language. First, the teacher introduces high frequency structures and vocabulary. Second, the class constructs an interesting story with the new vocabulary together. Last, the class reads and writes the story. Videos, songs, projects, skits, role-play, and games will be presented in the target language too. Chinese cultural lessons are selected to reflect topics from the humanities curriculum, such as the migrant experience, minority lives, dictatorship, and propaganda.

Textbook: *Discovering Chinese Pro iPad/Web*, Volume 1

Mandarin Chinese IB	8th Grade	Year	Elective
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Prerequisite: Mandarin Chinese IA

Course Description: This is the second year of the two-year Mandarin program. Mandarin class is an immersion class. Students receive comprehensible input in the target language, just like how babies acquire a language: naturally, and with ease. A method of language acquisition called TPRS, Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling is continued. It is an effective and involved way for students to acquire any language. First, the teacher introduces high frequency structures and vocabulary. Second, the class constructs an interesting story with the new vocabulary together. Last, the class reads and writes the story. Videos, songs, projects, skits, role-play, games will be presented in the target language too. Chinese current events and cultural lessons are selected to reflect topics from the humanities curriculum, such as the courage to stand up against injustice.

Textbook: *Discovering Chinese Pro iPad/Web*, Volume 2

Spanish IA	7th Grade	Year	Elective
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Course Description: This yearlong course is the first in a two-year series that emphasizes active communication in Spanish from the first day of class. The four language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) develop in a meaningful context as students talk and write about a variety of themes that are relevant to their lives. Pronunciation skills are emphasized and practiced in a safe, motivating atmosphere. Students spend 90 percent of their class time hearing and speaking Spanish. During this course, students will build a strong grammatical base which will allow them to successfully create sentences and write paragraphs. Through songs, games, and interactive lessons, students will learn how to conjugate verbs in present tense, describe themselves and their families, and create connections between their native language and Spanish. Culture of different Latin

American countries will be integrated into the curriculum. By the end of this course, students will be able to handle a social interaction in an everyday situation, by asking and answering simple questions in Spanish.

Textbooks: *Asi se dice, Level 1A* (McGraw-Hill)

Spanish IB	8th Grade	Year	Elective
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Prerequisite: Spanish IA

Course Description: This year-long course is the second part of the level I series. Students will continue to develop and reinforce the four language skills introduced in Spanish IA. More advanced grammatical structures and additional vocabulary are integrated through extensive oral, written, and auditory practice. Students will also read one short book entirely in Spanish, and use current events, including online resources, to make comparisons and analyze social inferences in authentic text. Additionally, students will expand upon hands-on projects developed in Spanish IA to further explore the culture of Spanish-speaking countries. At the end of the course, students take the National Spanish Exam, and are able to engage in basic conversations on a variety of topics.

Textbooks: *Asi se dice, Level 1B* (McGraw-Hill)

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Global Studies	7th Grade	Year	Required
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Course Description: Exploring vital global and human rights issues, this course will introduce students to social awareness in an age of globalization. The primary goal of the course is to develop students' global literacy, giving special attention to the geographic, historical, economic, political, and cultural forces that produce harmony and conflict across international borders. Thematic units form links to the literature and themes in English 7. Student inquiry is guided by the essential question, "Who holds the power and why?" The course makes extensive use of resources available on the Internet, current events, and students will be introduced to research skills. Students will also participate in a service learning project geared to promoting compassion and political action for an issue afflicting a region of the world. The course aims to inspire morally responsible citizens who understand the importance of serving the needs of others.

Textbooks: *History Alive! World Connections* (TCI)
 State of the World Atlas (Penguin)

American Studies	8th Grade	Year	Required
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Prerequisite: Global Studies

Course Description: This year-long civics course introduces students to the various institutions, groups, documents, and ideas that animate American democracy. Thematic units form links to the literature and themes in English 8. Beginning with a focus on historical and philosophical foundations, the course develops an understanding of the Constitution and of the political process in the context of current events. In the second semester students will participate in simulations to give them a first-hand experience of political decision-making. Lessons in American culture and media analysis are also woven into the course. Principal resources include news media, supplemented by the textbook and primary source documents.

Textbook: *Government Alive!: Power, Politics and You* (TCI)

SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Science 7	7th Grade	Year	Required
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Course Description: This course is a hands-on, inquiry-based experimental study of life science. Students work in cooperative groups throughout the course to enhance their learning experience. Students are exposed to a wide variety of technologies in order to facilitate their learning. Some of these include the use of personal computers (afforded by the 1:1 computer program) in the 7th grade science lab, 3D printing emphasizing creative design, and the exploration of the Makey Makeys and Tinker Tuesdays as a means of incorporating STEM based engineering concepts into our 7th grade program.

The life science curriculum provides a view of the complexities of life on a microscopic to a macroscopic level. Beginning with a foundation to scientific thought, the goal is to prepare students for evidence-based arguments. This is accomplished through studying cell biology, which encompasses cellular structure and cellular communication, pathogens, DNA and genetics and evolution. Students are encouraged to present evidence to support and strengthen their conclusions and their understanding of the concepts they explore. Various projects allow for differentiation, and deep understanding of the material. Students end the year by researching the life and accomplishments of scientists from varied backgrounds. This reinforces the concept that science is beyond the lab, beyond the classroom, and is indebted to the work of many diverse minds.

Textbook: *HMH Science Dimensions Module B: Cells and Heredity*
HMH Science Dimensions Module C: Ecology and the Environment
HMH Science Dimensions Module D: The Diversity of Living Things

Science 8	8th Grade	Year	Required
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Course Description: “Science is all about evidence,” is one of the mantras of this course. Designed to give students a beginning knowledge of physical science and using an inquiry-based curriculum, students develop laboratory skills, scientific reasoning, and problem-solving skills. The course loosely follows the textbook chapters which consist of a series of experiments that lead students to an understanding of the atomic model of matter.

While conducting experiments students determine the purpose, initiate procedures, observe and record data, and draw conclusions. Each experiment involves guided reasoning and requires an analysis of data for students to gather evidence to support conclusions and generalizations. Students write experimental lab reports in a laboratory notebook that ultimately functions as a second textbook. Course skills and topics include: lab procedure, experimental report writing, scientific measurement, methods of observation, distinguishing matter using extensive and intensive properties, and scientific laws versus scientific theory, separation of mixtures and composition and categorization of matter.

Students work individually, and in cooperative groups throughout the course. Projects are designed to understand the current events research project to heighten students’ awareness and connect science to real world examples. The year culminates in a lab practical in which students use their lab skills in conjunction with their knowledge of matter to identify a given unknown pure substance.

Textbook: *Introductory Physical Science, 8th ed. (Science Curriculum Inc.)*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Physical Education 7	7th Grade	Year	Required
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Course Description: Physical Education is taught in a mix of single-gender and co-ed classes. 7th grade Physical Education is a character-building program that focuses on developing elements of responsibility, confidence, trust, sportsmanship, and developing personal fitness skills while learning about aspects of health and nutrition. These tools are building blocks that enable students to challenge themselves and develop a healthy lifestyle. The basic skills of each sport are taught to develop a solid foundation for athletic participation culminating in team and individual competition. There is a fitness component that is incorporated throughout the year, which increases cardiovascular fitness, core strength, and an appreciation for the value of personal wellness. Field sports, court sports, team challenges, personal fitness, yoga, and swimming are all part of the curriculum. There is also an additional human development unit rotated in each year.

Physical Education 8	8th Grade	Year	Required
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Course Description: Physical Education is taught in a mix of single-gender and co-ed classes. 8th grade Physical Education is a continued exploration in character-building program that focuses on developing elements of responsibility, confidence, trust, sportsmanship and continuing development of personal fitness skills. These tools are building blocks that enable students to challenge themselves and their classmates. The basic skills of a variety of sports are taught to develop a solid foundation for athletic participation culminating in team and individual competition. There is a fitness component that is incorporated throughout the year, which increases cardiovascular fitness, core strength, and an appreciation for the value of personal wellness. Field sports, court sports, team challenges, self-defense, yoga, and swimming are all part of the curriculum. There is also an additional human development unit rotated in each year.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Human Development I	7th Grade	Fall Semester	Required
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Course Description: The Human Development courses are designed to provide an environment in which Middle School students can openly learn, reflect upon, and discuss ideas pertinent to their development as human beings. Through a group process interaction we seek to bring about an awareness of intellectual, physical, emotional, and social-emotional well-being. The courses will give students opportunities to reflect on common dilemmas adolescents experience in their daily lives. Students will identify and integrate personal, and school core values into their decision-making and communication, as well as develop a sense of responsibility about actions, thoughts, and feelings. Overall, the courses will aim to increase student knowledge of important personal, social-emotional, and wellness issues in order to enable them to make better and healthier choices. The Human Development courses will allow students to focus, in intimate groups, on many aspects of individual development including, but not limited to, making healthy choices, self-respect, peer pressure, drug and alcohol awareness, puberty and adolescence, body image, human reproduction, social media, and cultural awareness and sensitivity.

Human Development II	8th Grade	Spring Semester	Required
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Prerequisite: Human Development I

Course Description: The Human Development courses are designed to provide an environment in which Middle School students can openly learn, reflect upon, and discuss ideas pertinent to their development as human beings. The 8th grade Human Development builds upon the insights gained in 7th grade, and offers the opportunity to explore issues in further depth. Through a group process interaction we seek to bring about an awareness of intellectual, physical, emotional, and social-emotional well-being. The courses will give students opportunities to reflect on common dilemmas adolescents experience in their daily lives. Students will identify and integrate personal and school core values into their decision-making and communication, as well as develop a sense of responsibility about actions, thoughts, and feelings. Overall, the courses will aim to increase student knowledge of important personal, social-emotional, and wellness issues in order to enable them to make better and healthier choices. The Human Development courses will allow students to focus, in intimate groups, on many aspects of individual development including, but not limited to, making healthy choices, self-respect, peer pressure, drug and alcohol awareness, puberty and adolescence, body image, human reproduction, social media, and cultural awareness and sensitivity. Additional components of the course are human sexuality, nutrition, and conflict resolution.

Text: *It's Kind of a Funny Story*, by Ned Vizzini

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Courses in the arts offer a wide variety of opportunities for students to engage in the creative process. Some courses require preparation in the form of prerequisites; some do not. Students develop their artistic and creative selves by choosing from among many semester and year-long performing arts, and visual arts offerings. In order to participate in Jazz Band, Orchestra, Rhythm Section Workshop, Dance Company, and Theater Company, students are required to already have a strong proficiency, and must audition.

Students must take at least two semesters of the arts (minimum one visual, and one performing), and at least one oratory course (public speaking or debate) during their time in the Middle School. Additional offerings may be used to fulfill the remaining two semester electives.

Performing Arts Electives (One semester required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance Company¹ (year) • Drama (semester) • Jazz Band¹ (year) • Movement (semester) • MS Singers¹ (semester) • Music 101 (year) • Music 102¹ (year) • Orchestra¹ (year) • Rhythm Section Workshop¹ (year) • Theater Company¹ (year)
Visual Arts Electives (One semester required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Art (semester) • Filmmaking (semester) • Mixed Media Studio (semester) • Sculpture (semester) • Studio Art (semester)
Oratory Electives (One semester required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate (semester) • Public Speaking (semester)
Additional Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Coding for Your World (fall semester) • Robotics Innovation Design (spring semester) • Yearbook (fall semester)

¹ By audition

PERFORMING ARTS ELECTIVES

Dance Company	7th or 8th Grade	Year
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Prerequisite: Enrollment by audition.

Course Description: Middle School Dance Company is a class designed for students who are passionate and dedicated to dance and movement. Students will study classical and new forms of movement (such as ballet, jazz, break dancing, and contemporary). Students will have a chance to experience traditional forms of movement (i.e.: African) and pop dance (i.e.: hip hop). The history and cultures that surround each of the dance styles is studied. In addition to investigating dance technique, students will explore choreography, costuming, lighting, and set design. Multiple opportunities will be provided to create their own dance pieces and share them with the Brentwood School community. Students will perform both their own works, and the works of professional dancers. Live and recorded performances, as well as guest artists, will further students' understanding of the diaspora of dance.

Drama	7th or 8th Grade	Semester
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Course Description: The art of drama is an exploration and communication of the human experience. From improvisation to character study to playwriting, this class will tap into the creative side of each student and help them develop their own innate abilities as storytellers. Students will develop the ability to relax, to trust, to expand their capacity for empathy, and to analyze creative work with a critical eye. Students will build confidence on stage through playing theater games, performing scenes from plays, and writing original scripts. This class will work collaboratively as an ensemble to learn skills and participate in a performance at the end of the semester.

Semester themes include: monologue, improvisation, playwriting, scene study, storytelling, and pantomime.

Jazz Band	7th or 8th Grade	Year
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Prerequisite: *Enrollment by audition*

Course Description: Never lose the groove to find a note. Jazz Band is aimed at students who want to focus on improvisation while playing a wide range of upbeat material from Duke Ellington to Aretha Franklin to Alicia Keys. This elective is primarily for intermediate to advanced ensemble and rhythm section players with proficient knowledge of their instrument. Incoming students are expected to be able to read basic music notation. Jazz Band fosters a collaborative environment where students build musical relationships, and learn to work as an independent ensemble. With student lead music suggestions, Jazz Band works through both original and standard arrangements. In addition to performing at both winter and spring Concerts, Jazz Band will play for the middle school community at daytime "Jams" throughout the year. In the course of learning, Students will make deep connections about how music has been a part of cultural movements and technological advancements of the 20th century. This course will give students a richer understanding of their instrument and prepares them for the upper school music program.

Movement	7th or 8th Grade	Semester
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Course Description: Movement explores the fundamentals of dance forms, space, time, and levels. In order to explore these concepts, an eclectic mix of dance styles such as contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, and break dancing, which are a few of electric dance styles will be explored. With focus on choreography, students will gain a deeper understanding of how to design a dance. Learning about tools and viewing live and recorded performances, will help students build on their knowledge to successfully create a well-choreographed dance. Students will create small pieces throughout the semester, which will be developed into a final piece that will be performed for the class. Students will explore creative movement with props. Improvisation, live and recorded

performances will be conducted to understand these concepts. Students will perform in the winter or spring dance recital, at the end of the semester.

MS Singers	7th or 8th Grade	Semester
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Prerequisite: Enrollment by audition

Course Description: From the tiniest whisper to the loudest roar, singing energizes one's soul. For students who love to sing and want to immerse themselves in a dynamic vocal group, MS Singers provides a unique journey, exploring every aspect of being a vocalist. Working closely with Rhythm Section, this class will incorporate unique arrangements within a wide variety of musical genres. This course will engage singers in a process of how to warm-up vocally, and read music notation for the voice. Students will get the opportunity to work in both large and small groups, as well as collaborate with paired-down student accompaniment or full band. In addition to performing at both winter and spring concerts, MS Singers will sing at daytime "Jams" throughout the year as well as visit CALVET to engage and connect with the veterans. MS Singers will prepare students for meeting future musical challenges including singing in an Upper School vocal ensemble.

Music 101	7th or 8th Grade	Year
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Course Description: Whether a student is a complete beginner or has some experience, this elective is a perfect starting place for a musical journey at Brentwood. Music 101 provides the opportunity to have fun playing in a group as well as honing one's skills through individual study. Students will learn basic music theory on an instrument of their choosing while engaging with music notation. This class works through both original and standard arrangements of contemporary material. In addition to acquiring skills on an instrument, students will make deep connections about how music has been a part of cultural movements and technological advancements of the 20th century. This course will give students a foundation to continue learning music, and audition for an intermediate, or advanced music ensemble.

Music 102	7th or 8th Grade	Year
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Prerequisite: Enrollment by audition or teacher recommendation

Course Description: Music 102 is great opportunity for students to gain more confidence and control of their instrument. This class is designed to propel intermediate musicians toward increased proficiency. Students will deepen their understanding of music theory, and learn the stylistic subtleties of their chosen instrument. Playing as a group, musicians will delve into the intricacies of various genres while learning to read music notation. Music 102 works through both original and standard arrangements of contemporary material. In addition to acquiring skills on an instrument, students will make deep connections about how music has been a part of cultural movements and technological advancements of the 20th century. This course will give students the ideal push toward being a proficient player, and prepare them for a more advanced ensemble.

Orchestra	7th or 8th Grade	Year
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Prerequisite: *Enrollment by audition*

Course Description: From Mozart to Muse, and ABBA to Zeppelin. This class combines the elements of a traditional orchestra with musical ideas from popular, world, and classical genres to create unique performance experiences. This elective is primarily for intermediate to advanced ensemble and rhythm section players with proficient knowledge of their instrument. Incoming students are expected to be able to read basic music notation. Orchestra is a chamber group that incorporates a variety of instruments to produce one-of-a-kind arrangements that challenge and inspire. In addition to performing at both winter and spring concerts, Orchestra will play for the Middle School community at daytime "Jams" throughout the year. Students will experience reading music, and making connections about how music has been a part of cultural movements

and technological advancements of the 20th century. This course will give students a richer understanding of their instrument and prepare them for the upper school music program.

Rhythm Section Workshop	7th or 8th Grade	Year
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Prerequisite: Enrollment by audition

Course Description: This class unlocks the secrets of the rhythm section and allows students to express themselves within a creative musical environment. From rock to reggae, from funk to blues, the role of the rhythm section player is ever changing. In the course of study, students will dig deeper into a song by identifying the unique elements of its arrangement. Rhythm Section is an advanced ensemble for guitarists, bass players, keyboardists, and drummers with proficient knowledge of their instrument. Incoming students are encouraged to be able to read basic music notation and/or chord markings, however all are welcome to audition. In addition to performing at both winter and spring concerts, the Rhythm Section will play for the middle school community at daytime “Jams” throughout the year. Students will make deep connections about how music has been a part of cultural movements and technological advancements of the 20th century. This course will give students a richer understanding of their instrument and prepare them to meet future musical challenges.

**Rhythm Section meets during the same track as MS Singers, and will allow singing instrumentalists flexibility to work with the vocal group at certain times.*

Theater Company	7th or 8th Grade	Year
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Prerequisite: The MSTC is an advanced-level study of theater, and admission is by audition.

Course Description: In this advanced theater class, students will work collaboratively as a working ensemble to perform shows in front of their school community. Class time is used to explore the dynamics of an ensemble, to learn skills appropriate to the content of the upcoming production, and to rehearse for performance. In addition to studying advanced acting techniques, students will actively engage throughout the entire production process by writing original material, directing, stage management, and production design. Ensemble members must be available to rehearse occasionally after school and perform on weekends.

Past productions include *Alice in Wonderland*, *Voices of the 60s*, and *The Monster Plays*.

VISUAL ARTS ELECTIVES

Digital Art	7th or 8th Grade	Semester
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Course Description: Students will learn and develop the fundamentals of digital image manipulation using Photoshop. A wide range of open-ended projects will allow students of all levels to explore real life applications to digital artwork. Learning how to make a magazine, and applying the principles of design to create a poster are some of the skills students will gain during this course. Project critiques will allow students to develop their ability to analyze, describe, interpret, and evaluate artwork throughout the course. By the end of the semester, students will have the ability to use digital art as a medium of personal expression.

Filmmaking	7th or 8th Grade	Semester
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Course Description: Filmmaking is an entry-level course designed to expose students to all the essential skills and techniques necessary to create a film. Through a series of short video productions, students will learn the fundamentals of storytelling, how they apply to the film world, and develop the ability to create their own original film concepts. Students will learn basic camera skills, gain a solid understanding of a variety of different types of filming techniques, and develop a strong foundation in editing and the post-production process. Learning how to apply their critical thinking skills to watching films, students will analyze and appreciate the medium in a more meaningful way. Selected student work will be broadcast to the Brentwood community throughout the semester on our YouTube channel.

Mixed Media Studio	8th Grade	Semester
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Prerequisite: Studio Art

Course Description: Considered the “next level” course after having taken Studio Art, this course allows students to further develop their artistic skills and knowledge through a multi-media approach. Students will explore a variety of materials and techniques such as glass fusing, glazing bisque ware pottery, sculptural compositing with found objects, and exploring linear perspective in a tri-dimensional realm (reverse perspective). Throughout this course, students will develop their art making practice by engaging in critiques using discussion as a critical tool for artistic and personal growth.

Sculpture	7th or 8th Grade	Semester
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Course Description: This course has a basis in three-dimensional form focusing on sculptural concepts, materials and design-inspired products. Students will explore a variety of media such as paper, clay, wire, plaster, tape, mixed media assemblages and more. Introductory ceramic techniques are covered, which allows for future foundational skills in Upper School Ceramics courses. Multiple techniques ranging from relief, life casting, coil building, additive and subtractive sculptural pieces will be explored. Projects offer the opportunity to develop traditional and backwards-by-design methods of creating. Students will develop and implement ideas by practicing creative problem solving and craftsmanship approaches. As every student works at a different level, and progress is measured based on a personal level of mastery.

Studio Art	7th or 8th Grade	Semester
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Course Description: Studio Art is the “entry level” art class for the Middle School visual art program. Students will study many drawing, painting and design skills at a more sophisticated level. The hands-on nature of this class lays the groundwork for many techniques used in a variety of art media. Students will learn and implement concepts including art elements and design principles, collaboration, and how to communicate ideas visually. A cross-cultural approach to art-creation is emphasized by discussing how the diverse environments that are home to different artists, influences their art work and helps them create unique cultural meaning. Students will

refine their critical reasoning skills to effectively write and talk about art in the art-making practice and class critiques. As every student works at a different level, each individual is encouraged to excel at his or her own rate and progress is measured based on a personal level of mastery.

ORATORY ELECTIVES

Debate	7th or 8th Grade	Semester
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Course Description: Beginning with an emphasis on cogent and persuasive public speaking skills, this semester elective will cover basic rules and techniques used in various styles of debate including, parliamentary, Lincoln-Douglas, and policy debate. From learning the essential components of arguments to executing such arguments in constructive and rebuttal speeches, students will engage in class debates with peers concerning social, political, and economic issues such as: Should steroid users be admitted to the baseball Hall of Fame? Should junk food be banned in school? Particular emphasis is placed on growth and development of speaking skills through SPAR debates, argument creation and case building. Interested students are encouraged to join the debate team to represent Brentwood School at league tournaments against other independent schools.

Enrollment in this class is not necessary to compete on the Middle School Debate Team.

Public Speaking	7th or 8th Grade	Semester
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Course Description: The goal of this course is to teach students how to communicate effectively to a wide range of audiences in a variety of formats. From interpersonal exchanges and group discussions to prepared speeches (for example: the speech to inform, to entertain, to honor, to demonstrate) students will practice the skills necessary to inform others of ideas: listening attentively, speaking clearly, thinking critically, researching carefully, and writing logically. Effective communication also requires appreciating different points of view with patience and sensitivity. At the end of the course, each student will deliver a TED talk about a personal passion or salient issue to a larger audience.

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

Creative Coding for Your World	7th or 8th Grade	Fall Semester
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Course Description: Think about the games kids play and the applications they use on their computers. How are they created, and how do they work? In this first semester elective course, 7th and 8th grade students learn how to *create* and *control* their own computer games, simulations and more. Doing so serves as an *introduction* to the use of computer programming to design and define *their* world. Besides being empowering and generating tenacity, confidence and curiosity, successful completion of the course coding projects fosters the following invaluable life skills: collaboration, problem solving, approximation, and iterative thinking. Students go beyond being *consumers* of content on the computer and become creators! The programming language used is logo as assembled in the creative environment of MicroWorldsEx.

Software: MicroWorldsEx

Robotics Innovation Design	7th or 8th Grade	Spring Semester
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Course Description: From Wall-E and EVE, to R2-D2 and C-3P0, robots reflect and capture our imaginations. Using craft materials, cardboard and anything else they find useful, students design and create all sorts of interactive robots. Creations can vary from year to year depending on what the students wish to make. Potential projects include an animatronic petting zoo, dancing stick figures, Harry Potter ferocious monster books, and more. Students bring their robots to life by using Scratch and Create Lab Visual Programmer to program sensors, blinking LEDs, and motors attached to a Hummingbird Robotics board. Throughout the semester students showcase their creations for the community. Past demonstrations have included shoebox monsters, a dance off, a parade, a soccer penalty kick contest, bowling, and the hokey pokey. Students might also explore Micro: bit and Lego robots.

Yearbook	7th or 8th Grade	Fall Semester
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Course Description: The yearbook elective entails being a reporter, photographer, or designer as a part of the East Campus yearbook staff. Students will complete the spreads they are assigned by conducting interviews, writing stories, taking pictures, or designing spreads. Middle School yearbook students will interface with the Upper School yearbook editors to meet deadlines. Depending on the position and assignment, the student may be required to occasionally work after school or during weekend production dates.