

PINECREST ACADEMY  
***SLOAN CANYON***

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
COURSE  
CATALOG  
2021-2022**



\*Subject to Change

# Pinecrest Academy Sloan Canyon

## 2021-2022

### Administrative Staff

Principal.....	Lisa Satory
Assistant Principal.....	Alia Rothstein
Assistant Principal.....	Stephanie Russell
Dean.....	Tina Lahr
Middle School Counselor .....	Yesenia Fromhart

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## Pinecrest Academy of Nevada Statement of Non-Discrimination

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# General Information

## Pre-Registration Information

The courses in this registration guide will be offered at Pinecrest Academy for the 2021-2022 school year. The courses listed in this guide will only be offered if an adequate number of students register for a course and if we are able to sufficiently provide staffing. If too few students enroll in a course, or we do not have the staffing required, it may be canceled, and those students will be rescheduled into their alternative elective courses. Students will not receive credit for repeating a semester of a course that they have previously passed. There are certain exceptions. See course descriptions to see which courses may be repeated for credit.

Students will be given the opportunity to request courses during a pre-registration period. Requests do not guarantee enrollment into a course. Priority registration will be given to upperclassmen and/or program parameters. **Choose classes carefully. No schedule change requests will be granted other than those governed by the Schedule Change Policy.**

In order to register effectively for classes next year, please read and follow these guidelines:

**READ** this entire registration guide and course catalog before you register.

**DISCUSS** your course selection with your parents and teachers before registration. Many courses require a teacher recommendation or prerequisite.

**CHOOSE** an academic plan that will challenge you and give you the best preparation for your future education and employment. Consider your career interests as you make course selections. **Please keep in mind that yearlong courses mean just that – you are enrolled for an entire year. No changes will be made at the semester.** Please choose your courses carefully.

**CHOOSE** what electives you would like to take. Note, some elective courses will require an audition, teacher recommendation, and/or application. Make alternative choices for your electives. In the event that some of your top-choice electives are filled, you will be assigned to your alternative choice(s) in the order you listed them to the greatest extent possible.

**EVALUATE** possible career goals using [www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org) (NVCIS) to determine post-high school education needed to meet your career interests. Research the requirements for the college/university or career goals you are considering ensuring that you are selecting appropriate courses. Review graduation requirements.

**MEET** individually with your counselor to discuss course selection, graduation requirements, and after high school plans.

**You are responsible for notifying your counselor of summer school courses completed as soon as possible and providing transcripts for the courses that are taken off campus.**

**Students will be expected to remain in courses for the duration of the course. Exceptions such as graduation requirements and misplacement will be handled through the regular schedule change procedure.**

## Non-Discrimination Language

Pinecrest Academy of Nevada does not knowingly discriminate against any person on the basis of race, creed/religion, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, marital status or age, in admission or access to, treatment or employment in, or participation in its programs and activities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups, pursuant to federal and state laws.

## Schedule Change Policy

Since much advance planning and guidance are provided for each student prior to registration, schedule changes will not be made after registration. Class changes will not be granted to accommodate a change in a student's lunch period or to request a specific instructor. Due to the State of Nevada Department of Education Guidelines, no student may change a class and receive credit after the third week of the semester. If a student is allowed to drop a class after this time, the student will receive an "F" grade in that class. Requests for schedule changes are considered during the first three weeks of the semester and are granted only for the following reasons:

- Fulfillment of graduation requirements
- Misplacement in an academic area according to ability
- Successful completion of summer school course work

## Schedule Requirements

Prior to the selection of any electives, students must enroll in required courses they have failed. All students must enroll in seven courses a year. The only exceptions to this are as follows:

## Prerequisites

Prerequisites are listed in the course catalog to help students and parents make the best educational decision possible. Students must meet these prerequisites to enroll in a course. Both semesters of the prerequisite course must be successfully completed. Pre-registration schedule adjustments will be made automatically should prerequisites not be met.

## Associated Costs

Associated costs are charged for some elective classes where students complete special projects to be taken home. These associated costs cover the actual cost for projects. If the circumstances are such that alternatives to immediate payment of fees must be considered, please contact your child's counselor and/or teacher(s) so the school and parent can work together for a payment plan.

## Attendance Requirement

With state mandated accountability, comes greater responsibility to young people. Students are required to attend all classes in which they are enrolled. Students with more than ten unexcused absences in any class may lose credit for that class at the discretion of administration.

# Middle School Information

## Middle School Credit Requirements

- Students in 6th grade must successfully pass one semester of the following courses for promotion to the next grade: ELA, mathematics, and science.
- Students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade must successfully pass one semester of the following courses for promotion to the next grade: ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies.

According to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 389.445:

- Students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade must successfully pass the following courses during the 7th and 8th grades for promotion to high school:
  - One and one-half units of credit in ELA (Reading/English) with a passing grade. (3 of 4 semesters)
  - One and one-half units of credit in mathematics with a passing grade; (3 of 4 semesters)
  - One unit of credit in science with a passing grade; and (2 of 4 semesters)
  - One unit of credit in social studies with a passing grade. (2 of 4 semesters)

An 8th grade student not meeting criteria for promotion to 9th grade and not meeting the criteria for academic probation may be retained in the eighth grade for the following school year without limitation. A retained eighth grade student may not be promoted mid-year.

## Middle School Three Year Academic Plan

<b>6th Grade</b>	<b>7th Grade</b>	<b>8th Grade</b>
1. ELA 6 Block A	1. ELA 7 Block A	1. ELA 8 Block A
2. ELA 6 Block B	2. ELA 7 Block B	2. ELA 8 Block B
3. Math 6 Block A	3. Math 7	3. Math
4. Math 6 Block B	4. Science 7	4. Science 8
5. Science 6	5. U.S./ Nevada History	5. World Geography
6. Ancient History/Comp. Science and Applications	6. Flight and Space/STEM Career Explorations	6. PE and Health/Intro to EMS
7. Elective	7. Elective	7. Elective
8. Elective	8. Elective	8. Elective

Notes: All middle school students will be enrolled in double-blocked ELA courses for the 2020-2021 school year. Middle school students will be required to enroll in a semester of Computer Science and Applications (for high school credit) and a semester of PE/Health in the 6th and 8th grades.

## Middle School Testing Requirements

All Pinecrest students are required to take the following assessments in middle school:

- SBAC for English and Math: students enrolled in 6th-8th grades
- State Science Exam: students enrolled in 8th grade
- EOC: students enrolled in Algebra I and Geometry
- PSAT 8/9: students enrolled in Algebra I

### State Science Exam

Science is a federally required exam in grades 5, 8, and high school. This exam will remain the federally reported Nevada Science assessment offered in high school. Administration of the high school Science assessment will be administered online, scored by the vendor, and reported by the vendor. The high school Science assessment is based on life science content and will be made available to accommodate district testing needs. The high school Science assessment will be a point earning measure used within the Nevada School Performance Framework.

### PSAT 8/9 - students in Algebra 1 only

The PSAT 8/9 helps students determine what they need to work on most so that they're ready for college when they graduate from high school—and it supports educators as they guide the way. The PSAT 8/9 tests the same skills and knowledge as the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, and PSAT 10—in a way that makes sense for eighth and ninth graders. It measures what they're already learning, shows them whether they're on track for college, and lets them know where they need the most improvement. That means students have time to tackle these areas long before they take the SAT.



# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## ART

### Foundations of Art I

This year-long art course builds upon the foundation developed in the elementary grades. Students are exposed to all different types of art mediums that include but are not limited to: oil pastels, watercolor/acrylic paints, printmaking, colored markers/pencils, sculpture, and so much more!

Grade Level: 6-8                      MS Credit Type: Elective  
Associated Cost: \$15                Prerequisite: None

### Foundations of Art II

This art course builds upon the foundation developed in the elementary grades and/or early middle school. Students are exposed to all different types of art mediums that include but are not limited to: watercolor/acrylic paints, colored markers/pencils, charcoal/graphite, sculpture, and so much more! Students will explore artists, virtual museums, events, and activities in their own communities. This course is designed to connect and empower youth to explore modern art and social issues.

Grade Level: 7-8                      MS Credit Type: Elective  
Associated Cost: \$15                Prerequisite: B or higher in Foundations of Art I

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

## ELA 6 Accelerated

This yearlong course provides instruction in the English Language Arts strands identified by the Nevada Academic Content Standards as reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. This course is designated as accelerated by the faster instructional pacing and depth of content. This course is designed to build knowledge and critical thinking skills through close reading of texts; writing to support claims, to clarify ideas, and/or to develop ideas; and a range of collaborative discussions. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course.

Grade Level: 6

MS Credit Type: 6th Grade English

Associated Cost: Novel purchase

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, performance in 5th grade reading and writing, and/or qualifying diagnostic scores

## ELA 6

This yearlong course provides instruction in the English Language Arts strands identified by the Nevada Academic Content Standards as reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. This course is designed to build knowledge and critical thinking skills through close reading of texts; writing to support claims, to clarify ideas, and/or to develop ideas; and a range of collaborative discussions. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course.

Grade Level: 6

MS Credit Type: 6th Grade English

Associated Cost: Novel purchase

Prerequisite: None

## ELA 7 Accelerated

This yearlong course emphasizes the development of specific writing types; arguments, informative/explanatory texts, and narratives in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience, and are in accordance with the Nevada Academic Content Standards. This course is designated as accelerated by the enhanced instructional pacing, depth and breadth of content, and is designed for students who have demonstrated advanced writing skills. Students demonstrate increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use. Students actively seek to understand other perspectives and cultures through reading and listening. Technology is used thoughtfully to enhance reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use.

Grade Level: 7

MS Credit Type: 7th Grade English

Associated Cost: Novel purchase

Prerequisite: C or better in ELA 6 Acc and qualifying diagnostic scores

## ELA 7

This yearlong course emphasizes the development of specific writing types; arguments, informative/explanatory texts, and narratives in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience, and are in accordance with the Nevada Academic Content Standards. Students demonstrate increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use. A variety of literature and informational texts serve as models to improve writing skills. Students actively seek to understand other

perspectives and cultures through reading and listening. Technology is used thoughtfully to enhance reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use.

Grade Level: 7 MS Credit Type: 7th Grade English  
Associated Cost: Novel purchase Prerequisite: None

## ELA 8 Accelerated

This yearlong course is based on the Nevada Academic Content Standards and emphasizes the development of critical reading and writing skills. This course is designated as accelerated by the enhanced instructional pacing, depth and breadth of content, and is designed for students who have demonstrated advanced reading and/or writing skills. Students enrolled in this course read and write a variety of text independently and proficiently. A variety of grade level and above grade level text of steadily increasing sophistication is used. Through close reading, careful writing, class discussions, and presentations, students deepen their ability to independently write, analyze, evaluate, and critique text. Technology is used thoughtfully to enhance reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use.

Grade Level: 8 MS Credit Type: 8th Grade English  
Associated Cost: Novel purchase Prerequisite: C or better in ELA 7 Acc and qualifying diagnostic scores

## ELA 8

This yearlong course is based on the Nevada Academic Content Standards and emphasizes the development of critical reading and writing skills. A variety of literature and informational text of varying rigor is used. Through close reading, careful writing, class discussions, and presentations, students deepen their ability to independently write, analyze, evaluate, and critique text. Students demonstrate increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use. Students actively seek to understand other perspectives and cultures through reading and listening. Technology is integrated to enhance reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use.

Grade Level: 8 MS Credit Type: 8th Grade English  
Associated Cost: Novel purchase Prerequisite: None

# FOREIGN LANGUAGE

## Latin Culture Studies

This one-year middle school course in Latin Culture Studies provides an understanding of and appreciation for the diverse peoples, customs, and cultures of Mexico, Central and South America, and Spain. Content includes geographical and historical factors that have influenced contemporary situations. Students will also be exposed to Spanish conversational phrases and commonly used Spanish words.

Grade Level: 6-8                      MS Credit Type: Elective  
Associated Cost: None                Prerequisite: None

## Spanish I

This course will provide the student with a general introduction to the Spanish language: sound system, pronunciation, functional vocabulary related to everyday life, cultural information and basic grammatical structures. Emphasis will be on the acquisition of four skills: listening, speaking, reading and limited writing. There are two main objectives to the course. Foremost is to give the students the ability to carry on a simple conversation. The second is to provide the students with instruction that teaches a basic understanding of Spanish culture, vocabulary, and grammatical concepts. **Middle school students must earn a B or better to receive high school credit.**

Grade Level: 8                              HS Credit Type: Foreign Language, Arts & Humanities, or Elective  
Associated Cost: None                      Prerequisite: C or better in ELA

# MATHEMATICS

## Math 6 Accelerated

This yearlong course is designed to prepare students for the increased rigor of the Nevada Academic Content Standards for Math 7 Accelerated/Pre-Algebra. This compacted course includes the grade six curriculum as well as a portion of the grade seven curriculum. This course focuses on five critical areas: 1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; 2) complete understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; 3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; 4) developing an understanding of statistical thinking; and 5) developing an understanding of measurement, special relationships, and geometry. The use of manipulatives, mathematical tools, and technology are an integral part of this course.

Grade Level: 6

MS Credit Type: 6th Grade Mathematics

Associated Cost: None

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, performance in 5th grade mathematics, and/or qualifying diagnostic scores

## Math 6

This yearlong course is designed to focus on five critical areas: 1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; 2) complete understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; 3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; 4) developing an understanding of statistical thinking; and 5) developing an understanding of measurement, special relationships, and geometry. The use of manipulatives, mathematical tools, and technology are an integral part of this course.

Grade Level: 6

MS Credit Type: 6th Grade Mathematics

Associated Cost: None

Prerequisite: None

## Math 7 Accelerated/Pre-Algebra

This yearlong course is designed to prepare students for the increased rigor of the Nevada Academic Content Standards for Algebra I in middle school. This compacted course includes grade seven curriculum as well as a portion of the currently adopted NACS grade eight curriculum. This course is designed to focus on four critical areas: 1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; 2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers including exponents and scientific notation, and working with expressions and solving linear equations; 3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two – and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and 4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. The use of manipulatives, mathematical tools, and technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course. Students who are successful in completing Math 7 Accelerated with semester grades of A's or high B's will be recommended to take Pre-AP Algebra I in 8th grade.

Grade Level: 7

MS Credit Type: 7th Grade Mathematics

Associated Cost: None

Prerequisite: C or better in Math 6 Acc and qualifying diagnostic scores

## Math 7

This yearlong course is designed to focus on four critical areas: 1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; 2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; 3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and 4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. The use of manipulatives, mathematical tools, and technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course.

Grade Level: 7                      MS Credit Type: 7th Grade Mathematics  
Associated Cost: None              Prerequisite: Math 6

## Algebra I

This yearlong course is the study of patterns and structure within the real number system. Topics include working with equations, graphing, and problem-solving strategies. Students become adept at solving problems that require the integration of a variety of mathematical concepts. The use of a calculator and computer software as instructional tools is an integral part of this course. A TI-84 Plus Graphing Calculator is highly recommended. ***Middle school students must earn a B or better to receive high school credit and advance to Geometry Honors.***

Grade Level: 8                      Credit Type: HS Mathematics or 8th Grade Mathematics  
Associated Cost: None              Prerequisite: B or better in Math 7 Acc and qualifying diagnostic scores

## Pre-Algebra

This yearlong course provides the necessary knowledge and skills to successfully complete algebra coursework. It is intended to increase mathematical fluency in problem solving, reasoning, modeling, and effective communication in the study of numbers, algebra, functions, geometry, and statistics. The use of technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course. ***Middle school students must earn a C or better to advance to Algebra I in High School.***

Grade Level: 8                      MS Credit Type: 8th Grade Mathematics  
Associated Cost: None              Prerequisite: Math 7

# PERFORMING ARTS

## The Conservatory at Sloan Canyon

The new “Conservatory at Pinecrest Academy” provides Nevada’s only advanced music training curriculum housed within a public middle school and high school. Some of Las Vegas’ most inspiring and sought after music educators are joining our ranks to provide a transformative music education to the students of Pinecrest Academy St. Rose, Inspirada, and Sloan Canyon. By design, this new system will build on the award winning STEAM features of our school and will nurture the creativity needed to prepare our students for the careers of tomorrow. Welcome to the Conservatory at Pinecrest Academy, which includes band, choir, and strings.

## Audition Prep

This course will allow Middle and High school students to learn about the audition process. Students will spend time on performance practice techniques regarding the historical period from which the music comes. Honor ensemble auditions, all-state, and solo and ensemble performances will drive the specialized training garnered by students. Students who are considering auditioning for performing arts programs at universities or conservatories will refine their pre-selected college audition material. Students will attend masterclasses and receive constant feedback on their auditions from leading college auditors and professionals. (Conservatory Elective)

Grade Level: 6-8

MS Credit Type: Elective

Associated Cost: \$150

Prerequisite: Conservatory elective

## Beginning Band

In this yearlong class, students will have the opportunity to perform on the following instruments: flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone/euphonium, tuba, and percussion. INSTRUMENT SELECTION PROCESS WILL TAKE PLACE THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL. Active participation during class is essential in order for a student to learn how to play an instrument and therefore will be a substantial portion of the grade. Concert attendance and participation is mandatory.

Students will learn and exhibit proper, safe, care and maintenance of their instruments. They will play in large ensembles demonstrating appropriate ensemble techniques while following a conductor. Students perform multiple-part ensemble literature, learn music terminology, and music reading techniques. This course concentrates on the correct instrument position and placement, note-reading and aural skills, rhythmic patterns, intonation, articulation, and breath support in order to perform with a good tone quality. The importance of sustained group and individual effort is stressed. A progression of fundamental and technical proficiency is expected. This course is a preparatory course for progression to more advanced band courses. Arrangements for rentals have been made through school owned rentals, and Music and Arts rentals. This course is repeatable for credit.

Grade Level: 6-8

MS Credit Type: Elective

Associated Cost: \$150

Prerequisite: None

## Concert Band

In this yearlong class, students will concentrate on the development of style, articulation, pitch, dynamics, technique, advanced rhythmic patterns, and tonal recognition. A progression of technical proficiency is expected.

Students will play a carried repertoire of instrumental literature representing diverse genres and styles including both classical and popular music. Students will be able to identify the various ways that music can convey universal themes, i.e., contrast, conflict, or emotion. This course emphasizes preparing students to continue learning how a successful band functions and the continuation of success on their instrument of choice. Concert attendance and participation is mandatory. Students are required to provide their own instrument. Arrangements for rentals have been made through school owned rentals, and Music and Arts rentals. This course is repeatable for credit.

Grade Level: 7-8

MS Credit Type: Elective

Associated Cost: \$150

Prerequisite: One year of Beginning Band and Audition

## Wind Ensemble (Advanced Band)

This ensemble is our most selective. In this yearlong class, students concentrate on advancing the development of style, articulation, pitch, dynamics, technique, advanced rhythmic patterns and tonal recognition. A progression of technical proficiency is expected. Students will play a carried repertoire of instrumental literature representing diverse genres and styles including both classical and popular music. Students will be able to identify the various ways that music conveys universal themes, i.e., contrast, conflict, or emotion. This course emphasizes preparing students to continue learning how a successful band functions and the continuation of success on their instrument of choice. Concert participation and attendance is mandatory. Students are required to provide their own instrument. Arrangements for rentals have been made through school owned rentals, and Music and Arts rentals.

Grade Level: 7-8

MS Credit Type: Elective

Associated Cost: \$150

Prerequisites: Audition

Grade Level: 6-8

MS Credit Type: Elective

Associated Cost: \$0

Prerequisite: None

## Beginning Choir

In this yearlong class, students will learn the physical techniques involved in producing and cultivating a beautiful singing sound: breathing and breath support, tone production, projection, diction, and physical health/care/vocal maintenance. Students then combine their sounds to create music as a performance ensemble, learning to utilize both choral techniques that produce enjoyable and moving musical performances, as well as the finer components of presenting a stage performance. During the course of the year, choral students will learn to read and understand written music, sight-sing, and perform in one-, two- and possibly three-part harmony. Music will include pieces drawn from standard choral repertoire, and will include music in a variety of styles, tempos and languages. Each semester will culminate in a full choral performance with potential solo and small-group opportunities. Concert participation and attendance are mandatory. Other opportunities for performance may also be offered throughout the year. This course is repeatable for credit.



Grade Level: 6-8                      MS Credit Type: Elective  
Associated Cost: \$150                Prerequisite: None

## Intermediate Choir

This yearlong class is designed to further musical, creative, and expressive qualities in more experienced singers. Musical opportunities are provided for every student to learn the basic skills of singing, playing and reading music, developing song repertoire, broadening listening skills and experiencing the interrelated nature of music with other cultures and content areas. Concert participation and attendance are necessary.

Grade Level: 6                         MS Credit Type: Elective  
Associated Cost: \$150                Prerequisite: None

## Concert Choir

This yearlong class is designed to further enhance the musical, creative and expressive qualities of all students. Musical opportunities are provided for every child to learn the advanced skills of singing, playing and reading music, developing song repertoire, broadening listening skills and experiencing the interrelated nature of music with other cultures and content areas. Each semester will culminate in a full choral performance with potential solo and small-group opportunities. Concert participation and attendance are mandatory. Other opportunities for performance may be offered throughout the year. This course is repeatable for credit.

Grade Level: 7-8                      MS Credit Type: Elective  
Associated Cost: \$150                Prerequisite: Audition Only

## Beginning Strings (Orchestra)

In this yearlong class, students learn to play a string instrument. String instruments taught will include the violin, viola, and cello. INSTRUMENT SELECTION PROCESS WILL TAKE PLACE THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL. Active participation during class is essential in order for a student to learn how to play an instrument and therefore will be a substantial portion of the grade. Concert attendance and participation is mandatory. Students will learn and exhibit proper, safe, care and maintenance of their instruments. They will play in large ensembles demonstrating appropriate ensemble techniques while following a conductor. Students perform multiple-part ensemble literature and learn music terminology and music reading techniques. This course emphasizes the place of string music in the western musical heritage. It concentrates on the development of correct instrument position and placement, note-reading and aural skills, rhythmic patterns, intonation, and tonality inherent to string music. The importance of sustained group and individual effort is stressed. A progression of fundamental and technical proficiency is expected. This course is a preparatory course for progression to more advanced strings courses. This course is repeatable for credit.

Grade Level: 6-8                      MS Credit Type: Elective  
Associated Cost: \$150                Prerequisite: None

## Intermediate (Chamber) Strings

This yearlong course concentrates on the development of style, articulation, pitch, dynamics, technique, advanced rhythmic patterns and tonal recognition. A progression of technical proficiency is expected. Students will play a carried repertoire of instrumental literature representing diverse genres and styles including both classical and popular music. Students will be able to identify the various ways that music can convey universal themes, i.e., contrast, conflict, or emotion. This course emphasizes preparing students to continue learning

how a successful string orchestra functions and the continuation of success on their instrument of choice. Concert participation and attendance is mandatory. Students are required to provide their own instrument. Arrangements for rentals have been made through school owned rentals, and Music and Arts rentals. This course is repeatable for credit.

Grade Level: 7-8

MS Credit Type: Elective

Associated Cost: \$150

Prerequisite: One year of Beginning Strings and Teacher Recommendation

## Advanced (Symphony) Strings

In this yearlong course, students concentrate on the advancement of style, articulation, pitch, dynamics, technique, advanced rhythmic patterns, and tonal recognition that began in intermediate strings. A progression of technical proficiency is expected. Students will play a carried repertoire of advanced instrumental literature representing diverse genres and styles including both classical and popular music. Students will be able to identify the various ways music conveys universal themes, i.e., contrast, conflict, or emotion. This course emphasizes preparing students to continue learning how an advanced string orchestra functions and the continuation of success on their instrument of choice. This course is designed to prepare students for high school orchestra. Concert participation and attendance is mandatory. Students are required to provide their own instrument. Arrangements for rentals have been made through school owned rentals, and Music and Arts rentals. This course is repeatable for credit.

Grade Level: 7-8

MS Credit Type: Elective

Associated Cost: \$150

Prerequisite: One year of Intermediate Strings and Teacher Recommendation

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## Physical Education 8/Health (paired with Intro to Health sciences)

This semester-long course focuses on the physical, mental, social and emotional development of the individual in a cooperative and competitive setting. The student will be provided with experiences in psychomotor skills, movement experiences, lifetime health-related fitness skills and values. The goals of this class are accomplished through participation in team sports and individual sports, fitness, wellness and movement activities. Rules, strategies, safety and life skills will be emphasized in relation to active participation and the development of becoming a knowledgeable spectator.

During the health portion of this course, students learn about health and well-being while analyzing the relationship between health behaviors and personal health. They explain the interrelationships of emotional, intellectual, physical, and social health in adolescence. Students will learn how behaviors, pathogens, genetic history, and other factors are related to illness/ disease prevention. They examine how individual family, peers, and information influence the personal use, misuse, and abuse of substances. Students apply time management strategies and learn skills needed to attain a personal long-term health goal.

Grade Level: 8-required      MS Credit Type: Physical & Health Education  
Associated Cost: \$0      Prerequisite: None

## Martial Arts

This one-year class is open to both new and experienced martial artists. Students will learn techniques of martial arts including self-defense skills, perseverance, and discipline. Students will have the opportunity to earn belts and participate in competitions. Through participation in physical activities, students execute motor skills, movement patterns, and safety within the course. Health and skill-enhancing fitness concepts are explored through personal goal setting and self-evaluation. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. This course will fulfill a Physical Education credit or the one arts/humanities credit required for graduation. This course is repeatable.

Grade Level: 6-8      MS Credit Type: Elective  
Associated Cost: \$30      Prerequisite: None

# SCIENCE

## Science 6 Accelerated

This one-year course is designed to integrate science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and core ideas from life science, Earth and space, and the physical sciences. This course is designated as accelerated by the enhanced instructional pacing and depth of content. Science 6 Accelerated includes Energy; Structure and Properties of Matter; Earth's Systems; Weather and Climate; Human Impact; Structure, Function, and Information Processing; Growth, development, and Reproduction of Organisms; and Engineering Design. Demonstrations and lab experiences that employ proper safety techniques are essential to this course. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society.

Grade Level: 6

MS Credit Type: 6th Grade Science

Associated Cost: Science Fair Supplies

Prerequisites: Placement is based on teacher recommendation, CRT score, placement test, and present performance in fifth grade science.

## Science 6

This yearlong course is designed to integrate science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and core ideas from life science, Earth and space, and the physical sciences. Topics include Energy; Structure and Properties of Matter; Earth's Systems; Weather and Climate; Human Impact; Structure, Function, and Information Processing; Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms; and Engineering Design. Demonstrations and lab experiences that employ proper safety techniques are essential to this course. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society.

Grade Level: 6

MS Credit Type: 6th Grade Science

Associated Cost: Science Fair Supplies

Prerequisite: None

## Science 7 Accelerated

This course for seventh-grade students will require extensive use of critical thinking, and inquiry skills to understand matter, energy, ecosystems, and earth systems. Students will use inquiry based learning, lab activities, research based learning, scientific processes, and tools to understand chemistry, interdependent relationships, the earth's history, and human impact. Critical thinking, extensive writing, collaboration, accuracy, and communication skills will be practiced as students extend their scientific literacy.

Grade Level: 7

MS Credit Type: 7th Grade Science

Associated Cost: Science Fair Supplies

Prerequisites: B or higher in Science 6 or Science 6 Accelerated and assessment results

## Science 7

This yearlong course focuses on understanding matter, energy, ecosystems, and earth systems. Topics include Matter and Chemical Reactions, Matter and Energy in Ecosystems, Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, Earth's Resources, and Dynamic Earth. Students will use scientific processes, protocols, and tools, including inquiry, to build an understanding of chemistry, interdependent relationships, earth's history,

and human impact. Collaboration, accuracy, and communication skills will be practiced as students extend their scientific literacy.

Grade Level: 7

MS Credit Type: 7th Grade Science

Associated Cost: Science Fair Supplies

Prerequisite: Science 6

## Science 8 Accelerated

This year-long course for eighth-grade students provides the physical science explanations that extend understandings developed in previous science courses. Students will use scientific processes, protocols, and tools, including inquiry, to build understanding of structures, patterns, and relationships explained through the physical sciences. Critical thinking, collaboration, accuracy, and communication skills will be emphasized as students refine their scientific literacy. This course is designed for students who have been placed in Algebra I. In addition to the required curriculum, essential material will be covered in much more depth. Higher level thinking skills will be emphasized. Successful completion of this course will prepare students for enrollment in honors level science courses in high school.

Grade Level: 8

MS Credit Type: 8th Grade Science

Associated Cost: Science Fair Supplies

Prerequisites: B or higher in Science 7 or Science 7 Accelerated and assessment results

## Science 8

This yearlong course provides the physical science explanations that extend understandings developed in previous science courses. Topics include Force and Motion; Energy; Electricity and Magnetism; the Universe; Waves; Light; Reproduction and Heredity; the Geologic Process; and Classification and Evidence of Change. Students will use scientific processes, protocols, and tools, including inquiry, to build understanding of structures, patterns, and relationships explained through the physical sciences. Critical thinking, collaboration, accuracy, and communication skills will be emphasized as students refine their scientific literacy.

Grade Level: 8

MS Credit Type: 8th Grade Science

Associated Cost: Science Fair Supplies

Prerequisite: Science 7

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## Ancient History (paired with Computer Science & Applications)

This semester course examines fundamental geography tools and concepts, early civilizations, and world history from the development of ancient civilizations through the Age of Exploration. Students compare and contrast the major religions of the world, characteristics necessary for the development of sustainable civilizations, the role governments and ideologies play in societies, and the development of regional cultures. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course.

Grade Level: 6

MS Credit Type: 6th Grade Social Studies

Associated Cost: None

Prerequisite: None

## U.S. History

This yearlong course focuses on the history of the United States including historical eras beginning around the American Revolution through the early modern age. American founding documents including the Constitution, Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights are reviewed to provide a foundation of reference throughout the content that focuses on the multicultural history, economics, civics and geography of the time period. Students will analyze the powers and civic responsibilities of citizens and examine the origins, functions, and structure of the U.S. government. The history of Nevada during these time periods is integrated throughout the year.

Grade Level: 7

MS Credit Type: 7th Grade Social Studies

Associated Cost: None

Prerequisite: None

## Geography

This yearlong course is the study of the world's cultures, religions, economics, history, regions, and geographic features from the development of ancient civilizations through the Age of Exploration. Students examine the earth from the scale of states, nations, countries, and continents creating connections to contemporary geographic conditions. Students synthesize concepts, patterns, and interdependent relationships that make our ever-changing world diverse and dynamic. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society.

Grade Level: 8

MS Credit Type: 8th Grade Social Studies

Associated Cost: None

Prerequisite: None

# ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

## Beginning Robotics

The objective of this one-year elective course is to introduce the student to basic programming as well as problem solving strategies. This course will involve students in the development, building and programming of a robot. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program, and document their progress. Topics may include motor control, gear ratios, torque, friction, sensors, timing, program loops, logic gates, decision-making, timing sequences, propulsion systems and binary number systems. Student designed robots may be programmed to compete in various competitions. Robotics is an intensive program geared toward students who crave a challenge and those who are willing to commit to the behavior, academic, and time demands of this program.

Grade Level: 6-8

MS Credit Type: Elective

Associated Cost: \$150

Prerequisite: Application Required

## Competitive Robotics

This course will involve students in the task oriented atmosphere where they build and program robotic systems in both virtual world and real world. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program, troubleshoot and document their progress. Topics may include motor control, torque, friction, sensors, timing, program loops, gear ratios and alternate methods of transferring motion such as linear slides, belts and pulleys. Student designed robotic systems will often be built and programmed to complete various tasks developed by the instructor. Student designed robots may be programmed to compete in various competitions. This curriculum familiarizes students with the foundational skills needed to understand how components come together and transfer motion. We will be using VEX Robotic Design System as our platform.

Grade Level: 7-8

HS Credit Type: Elective

Associated Cost: \$150

Prerequisite: B or better in Beginning Robotics and Application Required

## Beginning Robotics PLTW (Automation & Robotics)

The objective of this one-year elective course is to introduce the student to design, build, and program a Robot! Students use tools such as the engineering design process, an engineering notebook, and VEX Robotics® programming software to invent and innovate. Learn how creative thinking and problem solving can change your world! Automation and Robotics (AR) allows students to trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

Grade Level: 8

MS Credit Type: Elective

Associated Cost: \$150

Prerequisite: Application Required

## Broadcast News

The digital broadcasting and journalism elective is a fast-paced course that provides students with the opportunity to develop and refine skills that relate directly to academic programs and future career tracks involving modern media. Students are tasked with writing scripts, recording news segments, and editing footage to create a cohesive and informative news broadcast. Daily newscasts are viewed by the entire secondary student body and are an integral part of campus communication. This course is repeatable.

Grade Level: 6-8  
Associated Cost: \$25

MS Credit Type: Elective  
Prerequisite: None

## Computer Science and Applications (paired with Ancient History)

Computer Computer Science and Applications is a one semester course that lays the foundation of preparing students for success in future computer classes, the use of technology in secondary classes and college coursework, and career. The first half of the course focuses on relevant standards such as Productivity Tools including Docs, Slides, Calendars, Drawings, Maps, Sheets, and Search. The second half of the course focuses on Computational Thinking/Computer Science. This middle school course satisfies the Use of Computers half-credit requirement for high school graduation.

Grade Level: 6-required  
Associated Cost: \$0

HS Credit Type: Use of Computers  
Prerequisite: None

## Cybercorps

This course is an introduction to the field of Cybersecurity. Students will get hands-on lessons in real world computer support. Students will work with the Cybersecurity teacher and school Computer Technician to develop a student led computer Help Desk that will support devices on campus including but not limited to chromebooks, projectors, printers and televisions.

Grade Level: 6-8  
Associated Cost: \$0

MS Credit Type: Elective  
Prerequisite: None

## Digital Designers

This course introduces middle school students to the world of digital media. Areas of study will include exploration in principles of design, photography, video, web design, and leadership development through projects and hands-on learning. Career exploration and an introduction to career and technical education programs of study are integral to the course.

Grade Level: 6-8  
Associated Cost: \$15

MS Credit Type: Elective  
Prerequisite: None



## Environmental Science

Environmental science is the study of patterns and processes in the natural world and their modification by human activity. This course will discuss topics such as renewable energy, recycling, sustainable gardening and how they impact the earth.

Grade Level: 6-8  
Associated Cost: None

MS Credit Type: Elective  
Prerequisite: none

## Flight and Space (paired with STEAM Careers Explorations Lab)

The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space! In this one semester course students delve into the history of flight and space, discover the science behind aeronautics and explore traveling and living in space. Students are constantly challenged throughout this course to take a hands-on approach in order to solve real world problems.

Grade Level: 7-Required  
Associated Cost: \$0

MS Credit Type: Elective  
Prerequisite: None

## Introduction to Health Science (paired with PE 8 & Health)

This one semester course follows the origin and history of EMS and the evolution of modern day Paramedicine, as we know it. We will trace its evolution from war-time use of "army medics" to the introduction of formally trained "Paramedics", beginning And proposed by the Los Angeles County Fire Department in the 1970's. Additionally, students will have access to the actual equipment that has evolved over the years to include defibrillator heart monitors, patient gurneys, ambulance construction, and other tools used during this period as well as their evolution into the modern day trainings and equipment.

Grade Level: 8-Required  
Associated Cost: \$0

MS Credit Type: Elective  
Prerequisite: None

## Intro to Music History & Theory

This course will present the essential elements of music theory, such as the different scales, intervals, key signatures, triads, solfeggio, sight-reading, and simple musical forms. Aural as well as analytical skills are covered. Basic music history and a sampling of famous composers are also introduced. Discussions and course work will also include investigations of the theoretical and historical influence on modern musical forms.

Grade Level: 6-8  
Associated Cost: \$0

MS Credit Type: Elective  
Prerequisite: None

## Makers Lab

This exciting course will explore topics of engineering through hands-on projects. Students will utilize recyclable materials to participate in build challenges to create solutions to real world problems.

Grade Level: 6-8  
Associated Cost: \$0

MS Credit Type: Elective  
Prerequisite: None

## Music in Film

This course is a general music class for students who wish to further understand the cultural, historical, and aesthetic influence in musical film and film music. This course is designed for movie buffs and novices alike. Classic musical films and film soundtracks will be discussed, watched, and listened to. Students will cover the lives and careers of film composers, directors, and performers.

Grade Level: 6-8  
Associated Cost: \$0

MS Credit Type: Elective  
Prerequisite: None

## Novels & Film

Students will be reading, analyzing, discussing, and comparing literature in film as well as using literature in film as inspiration to create written works. Students will be exploring character, setting, plot, vocabulary, style, and theme within works such as Shakespeare, The Odyssey and Greek Mythology, Dr. Seuss and children's literature, Harry Potter, Grimm's Fairy Tales, The Jungle Book, and literature references in films such as Shrek.

Grade Level: 6-8  
Associated Cost: \$0

MS Credit Type: Elective  
Prerequisite: None

## Speech and Debate

Speech and Debate is an introductory course that covers a variety of styles of public speaking and formal debate. Students will become familiar with these styles through instruction, research, and practice. Each unit will include research, writing, and preparation. It will culminate in performance assignments that require students to demonstrate their abilities within the classroom setting.

Grade Level: 6-8  
Associated Cost: \$0

MS Credit Type: Elective  
Prerequisite: None

## Sports and Fitness

The goal of this course is to promote physical fitness through a variety of fitness activities and sport units. Team sports will be a main focus. Skill development, teamwork, and knowledge of the sport will be a priority. Sport education and fitness components will be discussed and reviewed in detail. This course is repeatable.

Grade Level: 6-8  
Associated Cost: \$0

MS Credit Type: Elective  
Prerequisite: None

## STEAM Careers Explorations (paired with Flight and Space)

This course allows students hands-on exploration of the careers powering the STEAM industry. Students will rotate between exploration stations and examine the skill sets and tasks required of cluster areas of different STEAM fields.

Grade Level: 7-required  
Associated Cost: \$0

MS Credit Type: Elective  
Prerequisite: None

## Stemventures

The goal of Stem-Ventures is to provide students with engaging experience in real-life science applications. The class will be designed with 3 essential pillars that will help build the structure of the class: teamwork, ingenuity, and reflection. Teamwork is an essential component of STEM practices. Students will develop collaboration, communication, and confidence through team-oriented hands-on experimentation. Students will be asked to think critically and formulate fun and exciting ways to achieve their goals and will be given reasonable autonomy in creating their own scientific methods with their teams. Lastly, students will be given the opportunity to fail without consequence! Part of what makes STEM fun and important is failing and in turn reflecting on what went wrong to postulate improvements. If your student has a passion for inquisition and an interest in pursuing various careers in STEM this may be the class for them!

Grade Level: 6-8  
Associated Cost: \$10

MS Credit Type: Elective  
Prerequisite: None

## Student Council

This is a one-year elective course designed to prepare students for leadership opportunities in college and in the work environment. The course offers students the opportunity to foster a variety of essential skills such as communication, organization, goal setting, collaboration, event planning, time management, public speaking and critical thinking. The purpose of the student council is to plan and implement activities that not only serve but also enrich the student body, the staff, and the community. Students will have many responsibilities outside of the school day including, but not limited to, planning and running events, fundraising, and volunteering. Students must have a C average or better to remain in this course. This course is repeatable for credit.

Grade Level: 6-8  
Associated Cost: \$0

MS Credit Type: Elective  
Prerequisite: 2.5 GPA and Application Required

## Study Skills

Study Skills provides the tools, guidance, and mentorship for students to become successful in their core classes. An emphasis is placed on time management skills. The Study Skills teacher will check on students' grades and missing assignments providing students academic support and encouragement. Throughout the week students have time to work on homework, blended learning, and other school work. This course is repeatable for credit.

Grade Level: 6-8  
Associated Cost: \$0

MS Credit Type: Elective  
Prerequisite: None

## Zoology

Students will study the main branches of the animal kingdom including mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, insects, and fish, as well as others. They will study animal habitats, behaviors, diets, and adaptations. Special

studies on endangered species, classification, mimicry and camouflage, as well as ecosystems and food webs, will be conducted.

Grade Level: 6-8

MS Credit Type: Elective

Associated Cost: \$0

Prerequisite: None