



Maui Preparatory Academy
2011-12
Middle School Course Description Booklet

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Middle School Course of Study

Subject	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
ENGLISH	English 6	English7	English 8
MODERN LANGUAGE	Transitions/ Language Arts	Japanese	Japanese
MATHEMATICS	General Math	Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1 (Special Permission)	Intro to Algebra/ Algebra 1 (Geometry by Special Permission)
HISTORY/ SOCIAL STUDIES	World Cultures/Geography	Ancient Civilizations	American History
SCIENCE	Earth Science	Life Science	Physical Science
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	PE/Health	PE/Health	PE/Health
ENRICHMENT/ RELATED ARTS	Technology Art Drama Other Electives TBD	Technology Visual Art Drama Music Other Electives TBD	
ADVISORY PROGRAM			
COMMUNITY SERVICE – 10 Hours Minimum			

English 6

6th Grade

English 6 is designed to assist students to develop a solid understanding of genres of literature and to help them become skillful and perceptive readers. They will also improve their skills in writing, build vocabulary, and learn elements of grammar.

Students in English 6 will learn:

- **Systematic Vocabulary Development:** Students develop vocabulary by learning words within the context of their reading.
- **Word Analysis, Fluency:** Students read expository text fluently and accurately and with appropriate pacing, intonation, and expression.
- **Reading Comprehension:** Students connect and clarify main ideas by identifying their relationships to other sources and related topics. Students demonstrate an understanding of texts by creating outlines, logical notes, summaries, or reports.
- **Literary Response and Analysis:** Students identify the forms of fiction and describe the major characteristics of each form.
- **Writing:** Students write clear, coherent, and focused multiple paragraph essays, exhibiting the students' awareness of purpose.
- **Writing Applications:** Students write narratives establishing a plot and setting and presenting an appropriate point of view.
- **Written and Oral English Conventions:** Students use simple, compound, and compound-complex sentences. They can identify and properly use pronouns, different verb tenses, and verbs that agree with compound subjects.
- **Listening and Speaking:** Students deliver focused, coherent presentations that convey ideas clearly, and display organizational structure and a point of view.
- **Technology:** Students learn to competently use their computers, including lessons on typing, searching, formatting, social networking, and responsible internet use

English 7

7th Grade

This course seeks to teach students to express themselves in writing. Writing assignments are based on thematic links to their World History course, personal experience, and course readings. Students perform their first (confined) research project and learn proper MLA citation form and respect for the work of published authors. They enjoy a unit on poetry and write their own couplets, limericks, haiku and other forms of poetry. There is also a unit on short stories.

Students in English 7 will learn:

- **Word Analysis, Fluency, Systematic Vocabulary Development:** Identify idioms, analogies, metaphors and similes; use knowledge of Greek and Latin roots and affixes to understand content area vocabularies. Students continue vocabulary development in the context of their reading.
- **Reading comprehension:** Students identify and trace the development of an author's argument, point of view, or perspective in text.
- **Literary Response and Analysis:** Students analyze plot structure and characterization and identify and analyze recurring themes across works. They also contrast points of view in narrative text and explain how they affect the overall theme of the work.
- **Writing:** Students engage in the process of writing, to include a prewrite, edited draft and final draft. They create an organizational structure that balances all aspects of the composition.
- **Writing Applications:** Students write fictional or autobiographical narratives, develop a standard plot line, develop complex major and minor characters and a definite setting and effective syntax and appropriate vocabulary.
- **Written and Oral English Conventions:** Students identify and use infinitives and participles and make clear references between pronouns and antecedents, identify all parts of speech and types and structure of sentences, and demonstrate the mechanics of writing.
- **Listening and Speaking:** Students organize information to achieve particular purposes and to appeal to the background and interests of the audience. They use speaking techniques, including voice modulation, inflection, tempo, enunciation, and eye contact, for effective presentations.
- **Technology:** Students continue to learn to competently use their computers, including lessons on typing, searching, formatting, publishing, social networking, and responsible internet use.

English 8

8th Grade

Students are asked to write with increasing precision and sophistication as they explore various literary genres, familiarize themselves with plot devices, and analyze modes of characterization. Students in

English 8 will learn:

- **Word Analysis, Fluency, Systematic Vocabulary Development:** Students will analyze idioms, analogies, metaphors, and similes to infer the literal and figurative meanings of phrases. They will use word meanings within the appropriate context and show ability to verify those meanings by definition, restatement, example, comparison, or contrast.
- **Reading comprehension:** Students will find similarities and differences between texts in the treatment, scope, or organization of ideas, and learn how to effectively summarize.
- **Literary Response and Analysis:** Students will determine and articulate the relationship between the purposes and different forms of poetry. They will evaluate the structural elements of the plot, plot development, and the way in which conflicts are (or are not) addressed and resolved, and compare and contrast motivations and reactions of literary characters from different historical eras confronting similar situations or conflicts. They will also analyze the relevance of the setting to the mood, tone, and meaning of the text; identify and analyze recurring themes across traditional and contemporary works, and identify significant literary devices that define a writer's style and use those elements to interpret the work.
- **Writing:** Students will write compositions that establish a controlling impression, have a coherent thesis, and end with a clear and well-supported conclusion. Students must establish coherence within and among paragraphs through effective writing techniques. Students also revise writing for word choice, organization and consistent point of view.
- **Writing Applications:** Students write effective biographies, autobiographies, short stories, narratives and persuasive compositions. Students also write effective research reports with a clearly defined thesis, supported ideas, direct quotations and paraphrased material that is appropriately credited. Students use the MLA format skills learned in 7th grade and perform a more extensive research project.
- **Written and Oral English Conventions:** Students will use correct and varied sentence types and sentence openings to present a lively and effective personal style
- **Listening and Speaking:** Students will organize information to achieve a particular purpose, prepare a persuasive speech using precise language, action verbs, and details, appropriate grammar and word choice, as well as respond to audience feedback

Geography

6th Grade

Geography is designed to develop a solid understanding of geography and a mastery of necessary skills.

Students in Geography will learn to:

- Develop geographic literacy through accurate use of geographic concepts, skills, terms, and reasoning
- Understand the philosophical, religious, historical, governmental, linguistic, cultural and natural resources that drive societies
- Understand the manner in which cultures change in and across time and physical space
- Recognize characteristics of culture and factors affecting its development
- Analyze conflict and resolution in and among cultures.
- Think critically about the global world and an individual's place in it.
- Exposure to various countries, cultures and regions around the world with a concentration on politics, economics, history, geography, cultural institutions, and social development.

Ancient History

7th Grade

Ancient History is designed to develop a solid understanding of ancient historical concepts and a mastery of necessary analytical skills.

Students in Ancient History will learn to:

- Develop a geographic literacy in which students understand the concepts, skills and practical uses of geographic terms and reasoning.
- Understand the manner in which geography, culture, economics, government, belief systems and science and technology drove, determined and destroyed ancient civilizations.
- Explore and understanding the concepts of cultural change, dynamics and evolution in and across time.
- Study individual cultures from Hunter Gatherers through the Medieval Europe to recognize patterns of development across cultures, especially as they relate to the rise and fall of empires.
- Improve student comprehension of historical sequencing using dates and historical patterns
- Research the development of major world religions through a historian's lens.
- Efficiently and effectively utilize both electronic and hard bound primary and secondary sources for the writing of research papers.
- Consider not only the minutia of history, but to begin to visualize the “big picture” of how all people, cultures and world events have and continue to shape our living history.
- Draw upon historical knowledge in order to think critically about the local and global world surrounding students, successfully identifying their place in that world and the effects of that world upon them.
- Participate in the National History Day research project.

American History

8th Grade

American History is designed to develop a solid understanding of the historical concepts within American history.

Students in American History will learn to:

- Trace the development of modern America from the arrival of European Explorers to the Civil War.
- Utilize a variety of sources including interactive web-quests, oral histories, primary and secondary source documents, film and readings to trace the social, political and economic development of America
- Articulate ideas through various multimedia, artistic and interpersonal mediums
- Sharpen independent research cooperative problem solving skills to research and form conclusions about the interconnectedness of events from the past to the present.
- Consider the events that shape history from a geographic, political, social and economic perspective
- Consider their roles in the democratic process and who, how and what affects sustainable governmental change
- Emphasize skills include: synthesizing information, identifying central themes, predicting consequences, perceiving cause and effect, identifying propaganda, identifying assumptions, distinguishing relevant from irrelevant material, detecting historical bias, note taking, using citations and step-by-step paper writing
- Participate in the National History Day research project.

General Math

6th Grade

Student in General Mathematics will learn to:

- Investigate decimals by comparing, ordering, adding, multiplying, and dividing decimals
- Solve one step equations involving decimals, fractions, and integers
- Develop an understanding of number theory and the relationship between fractions and decimals
- Explore fractions by comparing, ordering, adding, multiplying, and dividing fractions
- Explore integers by comparing, ordering, adding, multiplying, and dividing integers
- Develop an understanding of ratios and proportions and apply it to problem solving involving percents and probability
- Organize, interpret, analyze and display data in graphs
- Classify geometric figures by examining lines, line segments, and rays before extending to angles, and polygons
- Find perimeter, area, volume, and surface areas of geometric figures including parallelograms triangles circles and three dimensional figures
- Investigate theoretical and experimental probability

Pre-Algebra

7th & 8th Grade

Pre-Algebra/Introduction to Algebra is designed to develop a solid understanding of the skills necessary to study algebra. Students who complete this course are also expected to have mastery of all basic computation skills and exposure to mathematics in real world scenarios.

- Demonstrate mastery of mental math computation and strategies
- Write algebraic expressions and equations
- Solve one-step equations and inequalities
- Demonstrate mastery of computation, rounding, and estimating decimals
- Understand and perform operations with factors, fractions, and exponents
- Study ratios, proportions, percents
- Solve equations and inequalities with multi-steps
- Study linear functions and graphing
- Learn and apply area and volume formulas
- Introduce nonlinear functions and polynomials

Introduction to Algebra

8th Grade

Introduction to Algebra is designed to develop a solid understanding of the skills necessary to be successful in high school Algebra. An extension of Pre-Algebra, this course allows students to progress at a pace suited to their learning style.

- Demonstrate mastery of mental math computation and strategies
- Write algebraic expressions and equations
- Solve one-step equations and inequalities
- Demonstrate mastery of computation, rounding, and estimating decimals
- Understand and perform operations with factors, fractions, and exponents
- Study ratios, proportions, percents
- Solve equations and inequalities with multi-steps
- Study linear functions and graphing
- Learn and apply area and volume formulas
- Introduce nonlinear functions and polynomials

Algebra 1

8th Grade (7th grade with special permission)

Algebra I is designed to develop a solid understanding of the abstract concepts of algebra and a mastery of necessary skills of a math program normally taught at the high school grade level.

- Simplify numeric and algebraic expressions with rational numbers
- Solve multi-step equations and inequalities
- Solve and apply proportions to problem solving involving basic geometry, percents, and probability
- Develop an understanding of relations and functions
- Develop an understanding of linear functions including solving systems of equations, graphing, and solving application problems
- Develop an understanding of exponents including zero and negative exponents, scientific notation, multiplication properties of exponents, graphing exponential functions, and solving application problems
- Develop an understanding of polynomials and quadratic functions including multiplying and factoring, solving quadratic equations, graphing, and solving application problems
- Develop an understanding of radical expressions and square root functions including simplifying radicals, using the Pythagorean Theorem, basic trigonometry, and graphing square root functions.
- Make connections to the real-world with applications of abstract mathematical concepts through creative individual and group projects. Projects will be driven by student-interest and aimed to garner an audience beyond the classroom.

Earth Science

6th Grade

Earth Science is designed to introduce sixth graders to the foundations of science and facilitates exploration of their physical world. Students in Earth Science will:

- Explain the nature of science and use scientific inquiry skills exploring experimental design
- Identify and classify rocks and minerals
- Explain how features on the Earth's surface form through weathering and erosion
- Explore the relationships between earthquakes, volcanoes, and plate tectonics
- Describe the water cycle the importance of clean fresh water in our world
- Examine the structure of the Earth's atmosphere and explain how weather patterns develop
- Identify features of the universe and demonstrate the relationships of the Earth, Moon, and Sun in our solar system
- Explore Earth's resources and alternative energy sources
- Describe the impact humans have on Earth's land, air, and water
- Explore the formation of the Hawaiian Islands and perform field studies pertaining to Maui's natural resources

Life Science

7th Grade

Life Science provides students with opportunities to explore their living world and gain the skills necessary for advanced scientific problem solving. Students will:

- Understand and model the features and processes of scientific inquiry
- Use tools and instruments for observing, measuring, and manipulating equipment and materials in scientific activities utilizing safe laboratory procedures
- Explore and model components and processes of animal and plant cells
- Explain and demonstrate the principals of Mendelian genetics
- Describe the characteristics of the six kingdoms of classification and be able to classify organisms based on their shared characteristics
- Explore animal behavior and relationships between species and within ecosystems
- Describe the impact humans have within various biomes and ecosystems on our planet
- Explore the biodiversity of Maui and the Hawaiian Islands
- Participate in field research and data collection while examining their role in conservation efforts
- Identify and describe the organs and functions of the human body systems

Physical Science

8th Grade

Physical Science is designed for eighth graders to advance their scientific inquiry skills and explore the study of matter, energy, and the changes they undergo. Students in Physical Science will:

- Examine the scientific view of the nature of matter
- Identify and explore forms and transformations of energy
- Investigate relationships between force, mass, and the motion of objects
- Explore the nature of sound and electromagnetic radiation
- Recognize characteristics of gravity, electricity, and magnetism as major forces acting in nature
- Investigate chemical reactions, bonding, and predict products of chemical reactions
- Use scientific tools and strategies for observing, measuring, and manipulating materials in scientific activities utilizing safe laboratory procedures
- Model and understand the features of the process of scientific inquiry

Japanese 1

7th & 8th Grade

Japanese 1 is designed to be an intro to or a continued practice session in the Japanese language.

Students in Japanese 1 will learn to:

- Improve pronunciation in Japanese language
- Read and write the entire hiragana writing system with improving proficiency
- Recognize and write most, if not all, the katakana characters
- Use structures for basic conversation in situations such as greetings, asking basic questions and expressing likes and dislikes
- Listening with improving competence to everyday spoken Japanese
- Understand and be sensitive to Japanese cultural concepts
- Improve vocabulary and word choice in Japanese
- Read and write basic kanji

Japanese 2

8th Grade

Japanese 2 is designed to be a continuation of study in the Japanese language. Students in Japanese 2 will learn to:

- Improve pronunciation and fluency of speaking in Japanese language
- Read and write the entire hiragana writing system with improving proficiency
- Read and write the entire katakana writing system with improving proficiency
- Use more advanced structures for basic conversation in situations such as academic questions, times, schedules and event planning
- Listening with improving competence to everyday spoken Japanese
- Research and present Japanese cultural concepts to the class
- Improve vocabulary and word choice in Japanese
- Read and write more basic kanji

Health / Physical Education 6th

6th Grade

Health and Physical Education is designed to develop a solid understanding of health and fitness concepts and a mastery of physical skills.

Students in Health and Physical Education will learn to:

- Understand and improve their personal health and wellness
- Make better choices as a health consumer
- Make healthier decision pertaining to physical activity, diet, and risk behavior
- Learn to manage and reduce stress in healthy ways
- Examine the importance of creating short-term goals to accomplish long-term goals.
- Understand the three aspects of health, which include, physical, mental/emotional and social.
- Analyze and practice abstinence when dealing with risk behaviors
- Examine growing and changing friendships, peer pressure and refusal skills.
- Analyze why it is important to warm up before and to cool down and stretch after physical activity.
- Develop concepts of team camaraderie, positive reinforcement, and being physically active for life.
- Perform and improve activity related skills pertaining to various team sports that may include but not limited to basketball, volleyball, soccer, kickball, tennis, and golf.

Middle School Health and Physical Education

7th and 8th Grade

Health and Physical Education is designed to develop a solid understanding of health and fitness concepts and a mastery of physical skills. Students in Health and Physical Education will learn to:

- Examine the importance of good personal hygiene.
- Examine and analyze the anatomy of the following human body systems: Skeletal system, Muscular system, Circulatory system, Respiratory system, Nervous system, Digestive and Excretory systems, Endocrine system, and Reproductive system
- Examine the growth and development human beings during pregnancy, infancy, childhood, adolescence and adulthood.
- Examine communicable diseases and preventing the spread of disease
- Examine and understand the importance of practicing abstinence when dealing with risk behaviors
- Examine non-communicable diseases.
- Examine the role that diet and physical activity play in preventing disease and prolonging life.
- Make healthier decision pertaining to physical activity, diet, and risk behavior
- Manage and reduce stress in healthy ways.
- Analyze why it is important to warm up before and to cool down and stretch after physical activity.
- Develop concepts of team camaraderie, positive reinforcement, and being physically active for life.
- Perform and improve activity related skills pertaining to various team sports that may include but not limited to basketball, volleyball, soccer, kickball, tennis, and golf.

Art 6th 6th grade

Art Six provides a framework that aids the student in learning the characteristics of visual arts by using a wide range of subject matter, symbols, meaningful images, and visual expressions.

Students in this class will learn to:

- Demonstrate the safe and proper procedure for the use of various art tools and materials.
- Experiment with an increasing assortment of supplies, media, equipment, and tools.
- Identify and classify some basic artistic styles and themes and place them within their proper cultural context.
- Identify and construct a simple color wheel.
- Use appropriate art vocabulary while describing his/her artwork and the work of others.
- Practice drawing and shading geometric forms.
- Use one-point perspective to create the illusion of depth in a two-dimensional drawing.
- Create works of art that reflect an imaginative approach to synthesize visual imagery.
- Work from direct experience, memory, and imagination to develop visual perception.

Middle School Art

7th & 8th Grade

Middle school art continues to emphasize exploration, analysis, and investigation of the creative process. Students in this course will learn to:

- Produce works of art that are developed from preliminary ideas and sketches.
- Communicate ideas and information through illustration.
- Compare and contrast art from different world cultures.
- Critique their art and the art of others in oral and written form using appropriate art vocabulary.
- Discuss and analyze the purposes, values, and meanings of works of art.
- Identify and apply the elements and principles of art including line, shape, form, value, color, texture, space, proportion, balance, emphasis, rhythm, and unity.
- Manipulate distance, size, and placement to create the illusion of depth on a two dimensional plane.
- Apply basic rules of perspective, proportion, and value when drawing.
- Identify and use simple color schemes.
- Demonstrate the ability to utilize units of measure including rulers, scale models, and grids.
- Create and maintain an art portfolio.

Middle School Music

6th, 7th, 8th Grade

Students will learn (to):

- About musical growth through small and large ensemble participation
- Music appreciation through basic history of music
- About music as a life-long learning experience
- Perform before a live audience during Arts Night, Assemblies, or Book Fair Performances
- To play a variety of musical instruments including: guitar, ukulele, bass, percussion, keyboards, string instruments
- To improve the quality of their voices through proper vocal techniques
- Read sheet music
- Read tablature and chord charts for guitar, ukulele, and bass
- Sing in harmony
- About performance practice
- How to be an appreciative audience member
- How to behave at a live performance
- Cultural exploration of Hawaiian musical traditions during the third trimester for May Day traditions

Drama

6th, 7th, 8th Grade

Students will learn (to):

- Develop an appreciation for self-expression through drama as well as an understanding of the art as students become the future audience and patrons of the theatre
- Understand theatre arts as an integral part of the human experience
- Study and practice theatre as an art form fully integrated within an educational setting.
- About theatre arts as an integral part of the human experience
- Use props to help tell a story
- Creative movement
- Use their voices to convey different emotions
- An introduction to theatre in stages linked to their developmental abilities
- Perform a staged musical production before a public audience
- How to appreciate and/or build sets, props, and costumes
- How to appreciate and/or operate technical equipment including sound board, microphones, lighting board, light trees, follow spot, etc.
- Choreography for all musical numbers

Technology Electives

6th, 7th, 8th Grade

Middle School Technology Electives are designed to provide students an introduction to technology concepts, from understanding basic computer hardware to developing frame based websites as the basis for their online digital portfolios. Each elective course is customized with project based learning to meet student interests and current developments in technology. Students in Middle School Technology Electives will learn to:

- Apply strategies for identifying and solving routine hardware and software problems that occur during everyday use
- Demonstrate knowledge of current changes in information technologies and potential effects those changes could have in the workplace and society.
- Exhibit legal and ethical behaviors when using information and technology; discuss consequences of misuse.
- Use content-specific tools (e.g. web based simulations, online resources) and software to support learning and research in all subject areas.
- Apply productivity/multimedia tools and peripherals to support personal productivity and group collaborations throughout the curriculum.
- Design, develop, publish, and present products (e.g., Web pages, digital videos, presentations, computer generated animations) using technology resources that demonstrate and communicate curriculum concepts to audiences inside and outside the classroom.
- Collaborate with peers, experts, and others using telecommunications and collaborative tools to investigate curriculum-related problems, issues, and information, and to develop solutions or products for audiences inside and outside the classroom.
- Select and use appropriate tools and technology resources to accomplish a variety of tasks and solve problems.
- Demonstrate an understanding of vocabulary and concepts underlying hardware, software and networking in practical applications and problem solving.
- Research and evaluate the accuracy, relevance, appropriateness, comprehensiveness, and bias of electronic information sources.

Based on the International Society for Technology in Education's National Educational Technology Standards. <http://www.iste.org/>

Transitions

6th Grade

Transitions is designed to introduce academic skills and organizational techniques to students to strengthen study habits used in all classes. The course is designed to support students as they transition from the Lower School to Middle School. It is also the container course for a broad variety of interests the community has deemed important. Character education on the model of Passageworks will be a cornerstone. Yearlong work in the school garden, with adjunct activities in cooking, recycling, and sustainable living, will bolster the class. Field trips, excursions, and service opportunities will also arise. This is a transformational class that sets a tone of confidence, creativity, and passion for the rigorous academic years to follow.

Students in Transitions will learn to:

- Appreciate the importance of motivation and goals.
- Use The Cornell Method of note taking. This method provides an organized system of taking notes from a text or lecture.
- Effectively use graphic organizers and use the organizers to write essays.
- Increase reading rate and comprehension through various techniques.
- Read and comprehend nonfiction in all subjects.
- Study effectively given each student's learning styles.
- Use time management techniques.
- Develop and refine a moral sense of right and wrong.
- Develop an understanding of the world around us, local and global, and how we fit into it.
- Pursue creative passions and display them to the broader community.
- Co-operate respectfully, learn selflessly, and work together for the greater good.