

Middle School English and Language Arts

Language Arts 5 (1.0 Credit)

The 5th grade Language Arts curriculum integrates reading, writing, speaking, listening, and the study of vocabulary and grammar in a way that engages today's learners and supports them in building a broad and diverse set of literacy skills. Students study classic literature as well as more contemporary forms, including media and multimedia products. Writing assignments in semester A focus on narrative and persuasive modes and emphasize the use of reasoning and details to support opinions. Each writing assignment spans several lessons and guides students through a writing process that begins with prewriting and ends by emphasizing one or more aspects of conventions of standard written English. Students also learn how to participate in collaborative discussion and peer review sessions. In each lesson, engaging and relevant models and step-by-step instruction guide students toward mastery and appreciation of 21st century communication in all its forms and functions. The second half of the class focuses on skills needed to literary text, the course focuses on skills for reading and analyzing informational text. Students learn how informational text differs from literary text and how different forms of information text differ from each other. Writing assignments emphasize expository writing and guide students through research projects. Students will also learn how to present information orally and using multimedia.

Semester A:

- *Because of Winn Dixie*
by Kate Dicamillo
- *Number the Stars*
by Lois Lowry
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*
by Christopher Paul Curtis

Semester B:

- *Maniac Magee*
by Jerry Spinelli
- *Out of the Dust*
by Karen Hesse
- *Island of the Blue Dolphin*
by Scott O'Del

Language Arts 6 (1.0 Credits)

English 6 starts off with two main categories: Storytelling and Heroes. Assignments include writing a narrative essay and completing a book report. English 6 continues by covering the main topics of Myth and Poetry. Student assignments include writing an original fairy tale and composing a poem.

Required Novels:

- *Watsons Go To Birmingham*
- *The Giver*

Optional Novels (Choose 2):

- *The House of Dies Drear*
- *Walk Two Moons*
- *The Westing Game*
- *Freak the Mighty*
- *Seedfolks*
- *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*

Language Arts 7 (1.0 Credits)

Through analysis of written, spoken, and multimedia texts, students will become more critical consumers of information and of various forms of media. They will also synthesize and organize ideas to prepare structured essays in several different modes, including narrative, persuasive, and expository. Each lesson will guide students in learning and applying specific strategies for reading and writing different types of texts. A review of basic English mechanics is included in many of the writing lessons, along with a discussion of levels of formality required for different purposes and audiences. This course provides instruction in many modalities, including audiovisual presentations and videos, interactive activities, projects, and discussions. The second semester of Language Arts 7 builds on the skills and concepts introduced in the first semester. Students tackle more difficult texts and themes, and the level of analysis demonstrated and required is more in-depth. In this part of the course, students study the English language closely—both its history and evolution, and the less obvious ways it can be used to convey meaning. The reading assignments are selected to guide students in understanding how language can be used to convey broader themes in poetry, drama, and humorous or satirical texts. Students continue to develop their writing skills through multi-draft assignments and projects. Emphasis in this semester is on recognizing the multiple levels of meaning that any word or phrase might convey, and in writing one's own texts with these concepts in mind.

Required Anthology:

- *Poetry Speaks Who I Am*
ISBN-10: 1402210744
ISBN-13: 978-1402210747

Required Novels:

- *Julie of the Wolves*
- *The Outsiders*

Optional Novels (Choose 2):

- *Where the Red Fern Grows*
- *Nothing But the Truth*
- *The Cay*
- *A Christmas Carol*
- *A Day No Pigs Would Die*

Language Arts 8 (1.0 Credit)

In this exciting course, students will master the subtle and complex art of the Standard American English writing style, allowing them to express their ideas more clearly and effectively than ever before. As students become experts on sentence structure, verb tenses and punctuation, they'll learn not only what the grammar rules are, but the logic behind them. Alongside this rigorous language instruction, students will analyze the poetry of legendary writers such as Seamus Heaney, Robert Frost, and Jane Kenyon. In addition, they will practice effective research techniques and prepare complete and polished reports and essays. Their work will also cover formal letter writing, biographical essays, and creating a bibliography. Students will use strategies such as the Sign and Design Mind and Clustering to help form their ideas and develop stories and arguments. Entertaining videos and diverse reading selections provide a wealth of information. Peer discussions and teacher feedback also contribute to help students learn the processes needed to become more effective writers. The course continues to enhance the focus and style of academic writing. Students continue to develop advanced traits of formal language through challenging activities and exercises that get at the heart of precise communication. Through careful study of parts of speech, verb forms, and sentence clauses, students will be prepared to write at the High School level without distracting errors that get in the way of self expression. Besides grammar instruction, each unit encourages a love of literature with captivating and age-appropriate novels and stories. Detailed Novel Study Guides challenge students to go beyond basics like plot and setting to really analyze and engage with literature. In addition, the student will outline, draft and revise a polished research paper, while learning the importance of avoiding plagiarism, citing sources, and organizing arguments. This ability to craft a strong thesis and prove it with evidence will equip students for creative and logical writing in high school and beyond.

Required Novels:

- *Roll of Thunder Hear, My Cry*
- *Diary of a Young Girl*

Optional Novels (Choose 2):

- *My Brother Sam is Dead*
- *Across Five Aprils*
- *The Ox-Bow Incident*
- *That was Then, This is Now*
- *The Pearl*

Middle School Mathematics

Math 5 (1.0 Credit)

Students will learn math topics outlined in this course drawing from a variety of sources, including hands-on activities, interactive lessons, and practical math applications. Students will focus on several critical areas including but not limited to developing fluency with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions. They will also learn to extend division to 2-digit divisors, integrate decimal fractions into the place value system, and increase an understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths. They will develop a fluency with whole numbers and decimal operations. Semester A starts with operations and expressions, moves into decimals and money, and ends with more work on fractions. Learners will gain valuable skills as they carry out activities that model real life situations like grocery shopping throughout the semester. Semester B begins with students continuing to work with fractions. The first lesson focuses on ratios and challenges students to solve word problems using fractions and ratios in practical life situations. Learners continue to strengthen their math skills by studying mixed and fraction products, and fraction application, models, and division. The third critical area that students will focus on in Grade 5 Math is volume. Students will receive lessons in measurement of length, weight, and volume. They will end the course with a focus on geometry. Varied types of instruction are used to enhance their learning, including video and real life applications, activities, and creative projects.

Math 6 (1.0 Credit)

Students begin this course with a review of basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers. More complex concepts are built on these basics. Students learn how to add, subtract multiply and divide integers, decimals and fractions. The course also includes lessons on ratios and proportions. The course continues by introducing students to the order of operations and how to use them in solving application problems. Building on these concepts, students are then introduced to the basics of algebra and algebraic expressions. Students then learn how to apply these problem-solving skills to percents and solving single and multiple step equations. An exploration of Geometry, probability and statistics concludes the course.

Math 7 (1.0 Credit)

The course begins with students working with problem-solving skills, beginning algebra skills, geometry, decimals, fractions, data analysis, number theory and patterns, percents, and integer use. Projects measure the student's ability to integrate and apply the course objectives. Students will continue by working with fractions; unit conversions; proportions and rates; percents; geometry topics including lines, angles, polygons, polyhedrons, perimeter, area, surface area, volume, and transformations; squares and square roots; permutations and combinations; and probability. Real-life application of concepts is emphasized in all units.

Pre-Algebra (1.0 Credit)

Pre-Algebra will help students move from the world of simple mathematics to the exciting world of Algebra and Geometry. They will develop skills that will be necessary throughout their life. Students will stretch their thinking by learning to solve real world problems. Learning math and algebra concepts can be fun. Abstract ideas can be challenging for many students but the challenge is one they can meet. Concepts are presented with a little humor, making the learning fun. Students will enjoy learning each new concept and develop a deeper understanding of the math skills they already have. Each concept is presented using examples of the skills, concepts, and strategies students will need. Scaffolding of ideas is provided to ensure student learning.

The course continues to move students into the exciting world of the unknown, Algebra. Building on what they have learned in mathematics and Pre-Algebra, students will expand their skills. They will be introduced to increasingly abstract concepts. Pre-Algebra will provide the student with a concrete understanding of the basics for algebraic thinking. With numerous hands on activities and demonstration videos, they will have multiple opportunities to enhance their process solving skills. Students will be given different assessment opportunities to demonstrate mastery of each skill. Students will study text pages, watch videos, interact with flash presentations, and complete practice problems. The pace is controlled by the student and reviewing the material is encouraged.

Algebra I (1.0 Credit)

Algebra 1 introduces students to the world of Algebra through expressions and equations. Students will evaluate algebraic expressions, solve linear equations and graph them. This course also steers students through various real-world scenarios with the emphasis on using basic statistics to interpret the information given and found. The course continues to build on the concepts learned in the first half by providing a strong foundation in solving problems. Students will work with problems and applications that involve exponents, quadratic equations, polynomials and factoring methods, rational and radical equations, data analysis and probability. Students learn through online lesson materials, videos and interactive activities. The end of each unit tests students' understanding with a self-check quiz with feedback. Also included is a unit exam and project for students to apply what they have learned. Teacher feedback is provided throughout the semester.

Middle School Science

Science 5 (1.0 Credit)

Grade 5 Science continues to build on the science skills that have been obtained in years previous. There will be an emphasis on earth and space science, life science, and physical science. Students will begin the course by focusing on earth and space science by looking at the solar system and planets. Students will come to an understanding of the concept of the earth as a sphere and the earth's place in the solar system. The course continues with a focus on physical science and the different tools that can measure force, time, and distance. They will also grow in their understanding of how light and sound travel and interact with each other as well as the different types of energy. Students will take a look into life science and the ways that organisms are interconnected. The course continues with great emphasis on life science and begins by focusing on the many ecosystems of the earth and the way that all parts of ecosystems depend on each other. Students will learn the different types of ecosystems that exist. They will learn that ecosystems change and how the changes affect their ability to support their populations. Learners will examine plants; that they have different structures and how those structures allow them to respond to different needs. Students will also grow in their understanding of the importance of good nutrition to all living organisms. The course concludes with a look into the scientific process and the importance of investigations and conclusions in the study of science. Instruction will include real life application, hands-on projects and assessments, and video and short research projects.

Life Science grades 6 – 8 (1.0 Credit)

Life Science is the study of cells, heredity, biological populations and their changes over time. It includes human biology, ecology, diversity of organisms and the history and nature of science. In this course, students will have the opportunity to conduct and design experiments, identify and classify organisms. Life Science is the study of cells, heredity, biological populations and their changes over time. It includes human biology, ecology, diversity of organisms and the history and nature of science. In this course, students will have the opportunity to conduct and design experiments, identify and classify organisms. Students will work on developing skills in data recording, classifying, measuring, observing, hypothesizing, analyzing, evaluation and inferring.

Earth & Space Science grades 6 – 8 (1.0 Credit)

Students will begin by learning about the scientific method and hone their understanding of using scientific measurements to Earth and Space Science. Also included are lessons on Earth maps and globes including detailed instruction on how to find specific locations using latitude and longitude. The beginning of the course focuses on space science. Students will learn about Earth movements, seasons, the Moon, tides, solar and lunar eclipses, the Sun and its role as the main source of light and energy in the solar system. They will learn about planets, asteroids, meteors, comets and their orbits and how force gravity holds it all together. Outside the solar system there are lessons on stars, constellations, nebula, the Milky Way and galaxies beyond. There have been many recent discoveries in space science. Accordingly, careful attention has been given to presenting the most updated information available in areas of discovery such as stars with planets and the latest methods of detecting them as well as a look at NASA's most recent Curiosity landing on the Martian surface. The course continues by zeroing in closer to home: Earth science. Yet, the coursework is uniquely integrated and applied to disciplines of study outside of Earth science. Starting with the Earth's interior students study rocks and minerals, volcanoes, earthquakes, undersea ridges, trenches and mountains and how the study of Earth's geologic history helps explain these phenomena. On the Earth's surface students study weathering, soil and erosion as well as water in all its forms the water cycle, oceans and ocean currents. Above the Earth they will study the atmosphere: its composition, air pressure and air movement. This knowledge is then applied to lessons on how human populations are affected by natural resources, renewable and non-renewable, both on and inside the Earth. These lessons are integrated with lessons that discuss how humans and living organisms are affected by air and water pollution, acid rain, changes in the ozone layer and how these conditions influence biodiversity, habitat loss and species survival. The course is capped off by lessons that take an in-depth look at the process of technology design giving students a look at of how scientists and technical designers work together to achieve common goals. Lastly, students are taught about the kinds of professions that currently exist in the science and technology fields and learn about the necessary academic preparation needed to gain employment in these branches of study.

Physical Science grades 6 – 8 (1.0 Credit)

This is an introduction to the Physical Sciences and scientific methodology. The objectives are to impart a basic knowledge of the physical properties and chemistry of matter. Skills are developed in the classroom, and reinforced through homework reading, and interesting labs that relate to everyday life.

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Middle School Social Studies

Social Studies 5 (1.0 credit)

Grade 5 Social Studies combines the study of United States History through the Civil War with a geographical exploration of the United States and what it has to offer. Students will use their understanding of social studies skills and concepts as they study the development of the United States. The course begins with early settlements of North America and allows learners to take an in-depth look into what life was like for colonists and Native Americans. Students will come to understand the causes of the Revolutionary War and the people that played a significant role in it. Students be examining the new nation and what life was like for European immigrants and those on the frontier. The course continues with an exploration of the west and what life was like for those looking to find gold. Learners will then look at slavery and what lead to the Civil War. The course then takes a departure from American history and takes a more in-depth look into cultures, people, and the geography of the United States from past to present. Learners will have the opportunity to explore the country region by region and come to appreciate all that it has to offer. Students will conclude the course by planning and describing a trip they would like to take to a particular place within the 50 United States. Students will take a hands-on approach as they get to know the geography, climate and culture of their country. Video, creative projects involving technology, journaling, and varied assessments will be used throughout the course. Students will learn through the use of video, journaling, and varied types of creative instruction.

Social Studies 6 (1.0 credit)

Social Studies 6 introduces students to the beginnings of ancient civilization. We will trace the path of human origins in Africa and follow the path of migration around the Earth. This course will help students understand why we study history and the process in which we form conclusions about events in the past. Students will begin to learn about the major ancient civilization around the world and their cultures. Modern civilizations can trace their foundations to these ancient civilizations, and their cultures and histories teach us much about ourselves and the modern world in which we live. As the course continues, students will continue to examine ancient civilizations and their cultures. Students continue to trace the path of human civilization from the Mediterranean through the Eastern world. An emphasis will be placed on critical thinking and connecting themes in history to our modern world.

Studies 7 (1.0 credit)

This study of the history of the United States emphasizes how ideas, events, and philosophies have shaped the nation. Students will learn about America's past while mastering the skills of historical interpretation. Study begins with the earliest arrivals of people and ends with the conclusion of the Civil War.

The course continues with an emphasis on how historical ideas, events, and philosophies have shaped the United States. Beginning with Reconstruction, this course uses the same skill development approach to guide students through U.S. history to the present.

Social Studies 8 (1.0 credit)

In this course students will understand the significance of government, law, and politics. They will examine the United States foundational documents and how they shaped the United States government. Students will examine the purposes and functions of federal and state government, law, and political systems. Learners will evaluate their role and civic responsibility to their families, communities, and country including voting and being a productive member of society. Learners will follow a step-by-step approach for successfully completing each lesson, which includes textbook reading, interactive activities, supplemental reading, lecture, video clips, and Power Point presentations to enhance and reinforce learning. Learners receive frequent feedback from teacher and peers through discussions. This course takes a more individualistic approach as students closely examine topics such as the justice system, local government, the environment, and the economy. Learners will understand the role that they play in each of these topics and the differences that they can make. Students will get to know leaders and influential people that have championed many causes including civil rights and the environment. Learners will also learn proper ways to interact in society including interpersonal skills and respecting differences in others including disabilities. By the end of the course students will have a deeper understanding of their civic responsibilities as well as the difference one individual can make in society.

Middle School Electives

Art Appreciation grade 8 - 12 (.5 Credit)

What makes an artwork a masterpiece? Why do artists create art? What is the difference between Rococo and Art Nouveau? In this course, students will discover the answers to these questions and more. We examine the elements of art and principles of design, and explore how artists have used these elements and principles in the creation of art for centuries.

Computer Basics (.5 Credit)

In this course you will learn how to use productivity and collaboration tools, such as G Suite by Google Cloud to create word processing documents, spreadsheets, surveys and forms such as personal budgets and invitations.

MS Health (.5 Credit)

This course will help the student understand the importance of making decisions that will affect his or her physical, emotional, mental and social health. This course will provide students with the knowledge and resources they will need to make responsible informed decisions about their health. Students will have an opportunity to evaluate their own values, opinions and attitudes about health.

Music Appreciation grades 8 – 12 (.5 Credit)

Students will gain a thorough understanding of music by studying the elements of music, musical instruments, and music history, as well as music advocacy. Students will be introduced to the orchestra and composers from around the world. They will be required to be a composer, performer, instrument inventor, and advocate.

MS Physical Education (.5 Credit)

To improve and maintain optimum health, it is necessary for people of all ages to participate in physical exercise. There is little doubt that, in addition to students in schools, the number of adults participating in sports and recreational activities in the United States has increased in recent years. Physical education is much more than just fitness and exercise. A well-planned program will cause you to think and express your emotions about different situations. In addition, a good program can make a valuable contribution to your education. These experiences will help you develop a sense of wellness. Emphasis in this course is placed on the value of these sports as possible lifetime activities and on creating a clear explanation of the rules and basic principles of a variety of sports. The sports covered in this course are archery,

bicycling, golf, skiing, tennis, volleyball, baseball, basketball, football, hockey, and soccer. Information about the playing area and equipment, basic rules, safety considerations, and terminology for each sport are included in the discussions. For the most part, the information presented in each lesson applies to sports programs throughout most sections of the United States.

MS Study Skills (.5 Credits)

The Study Skills and Strategies course equips students with skills and understandings critical to effective learning. Using a unique approach to the traditional topic of study skills, this course weaves understanding regarding the role of the brain in learning into the instruction of discrete learning skills and strategies. Moving beyond a list of good tips and ideas, the Study Skills and Strategies course will challenge students to develop intentional approaches to learning. They will be required to make connections between the strategies and skills they learn in this course and the implementation of those strategies and skills in their other coursework. Upon completion of the course, students will have learned a variety of specific learning skills and strategies, gained greater understanding of their own learning preferences, and become prepared to develop and implement specific learning and study plans for any academic course or other learning needs.