

2009-2010 Young Women's Academy Course Offerings – 8th Grade

Language Arts

8th Grade Language Arts

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: None

This course integrates reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Effective literacy instruction in language arts builds on the student's background knowledge and uses assessment to inform instruction that is experience-based, relevant, and student-centered. Students read a variety of literary and informational text and receive instruction in reading skills and strategies that support comprehension and critical thinking.

Math

8th Grade Math

Grade: 8 or by teacher approval

Prerequisite: Proficiency in pre-algebra concepts from 7th grade level mathematics: integers, rates, proportions, volume, surface area, probability, coordinate graphing and/or exceeding score of grade-level math.

This class is designed to prepare students for HS Algebra and Geometry. Students will be introduced to algebraic and geometric concepts including: linear relationships, the Pythagorean Theorem, symmetry, transformations, exponential relationships, data analysis, statistics, quadratic relationships, order of operations and writing equations. Students will be proficient in using graphing calculators to solve complex problems during this course. Students are expected to be organized and responsible as they study major concepts through class work and group work. They should expect regular review/practice of concepts through homework assignments. They must demonstrate understanding of major concepts through tests, quizzes, common assessments, projects, work samples. Students are expected to adhere to the following community principles: teamwork, respect, effort, participation, positive attitude. These behaviors will create and sustain a community of learning and rigor in the classroom environment.

Algebra 1-2

Grade: 9-11 or by teacher approval

Prerequisite: None

In the first year course in Algebra the representation of functions is used as a unifying theme. Students are introduced to linear, quadratic, exponential, and polynomial functions through graphical, numerical and symbolic representations. Students learn to solve linear equations, inequalities, systems of equations, and quadratic equations. They deepen their understanding of basic algebraic concepts using hands-on activities, TI-84 calculator lessons, and problem solving and develop confidence in their ability to think mathematically and they work both individually and collaboratively. Homework is required in this class.

Geometry 1-2

Grade: 9-11 or by teacher approval

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 1-2

In this course students study two- and three- dimensional shapes and their relationships in plane and space. It is a visual, as well as analytical subject, integrating spatial and numerical concepts. Students classify and describe shapes in terms of congruence, similarity and transformations. The course introduces students to different forms of mathematical logic, including inductive and deductive reasoning. Students solve measurement and algebraic problems using properties, proportions, and trigonometric relationships. Algebra 1-2 is reviewed with geometric applications. Students use the software available with the TI-84 calculator and/or Geometer's Sketchpad to deepen their understanding of key ideas. Homework is required in this class.

Algebra 3-4 (Advanced Algebra)

Grade: 9-11 or by teacher approval

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 1-2 and Geometry 1-2

This course emphasis modeling data and problem situations with functions, specifically linear quadratic, polynomial, exponential, rational, radical and logarithmic functions. The course also introduces students to sequences and series, solving systems with and without matrices, complex numbers, problems in trigonometry and some discrete topics such as probability. Students deepen their understanding of these topics as they work both individually and in groups to solve problems, to apply the mathematics, and to communicate their reasoning. Students will use the TI-84 graphing calculator in class to study these topics. Homework is required in this class.

Science

Earth/Space Science (8th Grade Science)

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: None

In this class you will learn about the structure and properties of the Earth. You will analyze Earth cycles and processes and describe how the Theory of Plate Tectonics accounts for Earth's crustal features. Relationships between the Earth, Sun, and Moon will be explained and systems outside the Earth will be identified.

Social Studies

8th Grade Social Studies

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: None

This course focuses on an in-depth study of United States history through post-Civil War Reconstruction. All units include an examination of the impact of economics, politics, and social history on the development of the United States. The five themes of geography (location, movement, region, place, and human-environmental interaction) are woven into all the units, with emphasis on how geography affected the development of the growing nation.

Health & Physical Education

Health/Wellness*

Grade: 6-8

Prerequisite: None

*Students will take Health/Wellness in each grade in middle school.

This course is designed to assist students in obtaining accurate information, developing lifelong positive attitudes and behaviors, and making wise decisions related to their personal health. Study will include personal and community health; mental, emotional, and social health; injury prevention and safety; nutrition and physical activity; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; disease prevention; growth, development, and sexual health.

Central themes are the acceptance of personal responsibility for lifelong health, respect for and promotion of the health of others, an understanding of the process of growth and development, and informed use of health-related information, products, and services. Course will focus on the development of health literate skills including: decision-making, goal setting, analyzing influences, interpersonal communication, self-management, accessing information, and advocacy.

World Language

French 1-2

Grade: 7-11

Prerequisite: None

In first-year French, we begin to build listening and speaking proficiency, using CDs, DVDs/videos, and short student-generated dialogues. To build reading and writing proficiency, we focus on building vocabulary and leading students to an awareness of the structure of the language through beginning-level reading and writing exercises. Our textbook and other resources will introduce the customs and cultures of many French-speaking regions/countries of the world. Grades are based on both oral and written expression, participation and behavior in class, homework, and projects/quizzes/tests. Middle school students will have the opportunity to earn high school credit for this course.

French 3-4

Grade: 7-11

Prerequisite: Students must earn a C average (70 percent) or better in French 1-2 and get a teacher recommendation.

Second year French continues to emphasize listening and speaking skills and there is a gradual shift to include more reading and writing. Frequent oral exercises assure students improve pronunciation and intonation, as well as the ability to discuss themselves, including their interests, abilities, opinions, and activities. Beginning to create with language, students move from answering questions in short, memorized phrases to answering in complete sentences and asking questions in return. Homework consists of written exercises from the textbook, oral practice, occasional short essays and both group and individual projects. Middle school students will have the opportunity to earn high school credit for this course.

Spanish 1-2

Grade: 7-11

Prerequisite: None

In first-year Spanish, we begin to build listening and speaking proficiency, using CDs, DVDs/videos, and short student-generated dialogues. To build reading and writing proficiency, we focus on building vocabulary and leading students to an awareness of the structure of the language through beginning-level reading and writing exercises. Our textbook will introduce the customs and cultures of many Spanish-speaking regions/countries of the world. Grades are based on both oral and written expression, participation and behavior in class, homework, and projects/quizzes/tests. Middle school students will have the opportunity to earn high school credit for this course.

Spanish 3-4

Grade: 7-11

Prerequisite: Students must earn a C average (70 percent) or better in Spanish 1-2 and get a teacher recommendation.

In second-year Spanish, we continue to build listening and speaking proficiency, using oral exercises, discussions, and student-generated dialogues. Students increase their reading and writing proficiency through additional exposure to authentic texts and more production of complete sentences. Our textbook revisits in greater depth the customs and cultures of the Spanish-speaking regions/countries encountered in the first year. Grades are based on both oral and written expression, participation and behavior in class, homework, and projects/quizzes/tests. Students must earn a C average (70 percent) or better and teacher recommendation to advance to the third year. Middle school students will have the opportunity to earn high school credit for this course.

Spanish 5-6

Grade: 7-11

Prerequisite: Students must earn a C average (70 percent) or better in Spanish 3-4 and get a teacher recommendation.

At the third level, students are exposed to more complicated grammatical constructions, and continue to refine their listening and pronunciation skills. With the study of idiomatic expressions and the reading of short stories in literature, students learn more complex ways to express themselves. Third year language study also emphasizes written compositions, which may take the form of letters, short term papers or critical paragraphs. Cultural awareness comes from a comparison of the literature, film, and history of countries that share the language. Grades are based on student participation in oral dialogues and presentations, written assignments, and test results. Students going to college will probably need to complete three full years of a second language to successfully pass oral proficiency testing.

Electives

Art Foundations

Grade: 6-8

Prerequisite: None

This is a year-long course that introduces middle school students to basic art materials and techniques. Students will also develop an understanding of aesthetics and art history through multicultural and cross-curricular project work and assignments.

AVID

Grade Level: 7-11

Prerequisite: Must meet application requirements and interview

AVID is an elective course offered to students who are committed to preparing themselves for a four year college or university experience. The AVID class uses a variety of reading, writing, collaboration, and inquiry strategies along with organization and motivation to prepare and support students for successful yet rigorous high school curriculum. Students must have satisfactory citizenship, good attendance, and a GPA of 2.0 or higher. Applicants must be motivated to work toward college eligibility and come with a teacher recommendation.

Literary Magazine

Grade Level: 6-11

Prerequisite: None

In this course, students will study and practice literary journalism. Students will explore creative writing through the publication of short stories, poems, drawings, and photography. Students will examine artistic print media for the social or political message and identify the language or visual strategies used to express such messages. Students will use this knowledge to create their own print media combining art and language.

Marine Biology

Grade: 6-8

Prerequisite: None

The marine biology course focuses on all aspects of the water world emphasizing fish, sharks, whales, and invertebrates. Students will use models to examine structures and functions. Students will explore individual adaptations as well as group inter-relationships between organisms. Students in this course are involved in and supported by the Salmon Watch Program.

Striving Readers

Xtreme Reading

Grade: 7-11

Prerequisite: Must meet eligibility requirements

Xtreme Reading is a reading intervention course designed to help the struggling reader learn new strategies which can be used across the content areas. This course increases comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency levels by teaching Word Identification, Word Mapping, Self Questioning, Visual Imagery, Paraphrasing and more. This is a federally funded reading intervention program and students selected for this program must be 2 or more years below grade level in reading. There is a second year advanced reading course offered to those students who have completed course one.

Special Education

English/Language Arts

Grade: 6-11

Prerequisite: Students must have an active IEP

In this basic structured Language Arts course students will expand and solidify their reading, writing and comprehension skills. High school students are able to receive an elective credit towards a modified diploma for this special education course.

General Math

Grade: 6-11

Prerequisite: Students must have an active IEP

In this basic structured Math course students will expand and solidify their basic math skills which will include addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, time, money, fractions, decimals and percentages. High school students are able to receive an elective credit towards a modified diploma for this special education course.

Study Skills

Grade: 6-11

Prerequisite: Students must have an active IEP

Students receive specialized academic instruction in areas designated on their Individual Education Plans (IEP), particularly math, reading, writing, communication, and study skills. Students are also supported and monitored in mainstreamed classes for academic progress, attendance, and behavior. Study Skills teachers collaborate with general education teachers to promote academic success.

Structured Learning Class

Grade: 6-11

Prerequisite: Students must have an active IEP

The services in this classroom focus on assisting the students' social and emotional growth. Classroom instruction helps students gain greater independence and improve behavior patterns while working on academic goals as needed.

English Language Development (ELL)

ELL Courses

Grade Level: 6-11

Prerequisite: None

*If you are an ESL students, Ms. Tews will let you know which courses you should be taking.