**Course Descriptions**

**Middle School**

**English**

**Language Arts 6**

Using a motif of Heroes, Helpers, and Hope, students in the Middle School Language Arts 6 course will acquire the reading, writing, language, and speaking/listening skills necessary for success in college, career, and beyond. Students will become critical readers and thinkers as they delve into fiction and informational texts within the course. They will also learn to effectively write narrative, informational, and argumentative pieces and present their ideas clearly and cohesively.

**Language Arts 7**

Using a motif of Mystery, Monsters, and Mayhem, students in the Middle School Language Arts 7 course will acquire the reading, writing, language, and speaking/listening skills necessary for success in college, career, and beyond. Students will become critical readers and thinkers as they delve into fiction and informational texts within the course. They will also learn to effectively write narrative, informational, and argumentative pieces and present their ideas clearly and cohesively.

**Language Arts 8**

Using a motif of Innovation, Imagination, and Invention, students in the Middle School Language Arts 8 course will acquire the reading, writing, language, and speaking/listening skills necessary for success in college, career, and beyond. Students will become critical readers and thinkers as they delve into fiction and informational texts within the course. They will also learn to effectively write narrative, informational, and argumentative pieces and present their ideas clearly and cohesively.

**Math**

**Mathematics 6**

The course is designed to engage students at every turn. Students have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of number manipulation by applying it to real world scenarios. The course is packed with games that reinforce content and let students practice the skills they have learned throughout the course. Tidbits of trivia and activities throughout the course leave students with a smile.

**Mathematics 7**

This course is designed to expand student knowledge about the transformation of shapes by sliding, flipping, rotating, and enlarging them on a coordinate plane. This course gives students the opportunity to create, investigate, and demonstrate knowledge at both intermediate and advanced levels. Students will be amazed with the skills that they accumulate while completing this course. This course is so full of animations, applications, videos, games, and real-world scenarios, students may think it is the latest video game.

**Pre-Algebra**

Students who love interactive learning will enjoy Pre-Algebra. They experience intrigue and fun when they log in to Pre-Algebra. This hands-on course is full of slideshows, applications, videos, and real-world scenarios. The satisfaction students gain from truly understanding higher level concepts such as functions and systems of equations encourages excitement and joy for learning that they may have never experienced before.

**Science**

**Earth and Space Science** (Recommended for 6th grade)

This course focuses student learning on 7 main topics: The Earth, The Atmosphere, Plate Tectonics, The Universe, Our Solar System, and Energy Resources. Within each module, students will be required to read the lesson and complete guided notes. Additionally, each lesson will contain a formative assessment to identify individual strengths and weaknesses.

Practice and review items have been added from Legends of Learning. These additional items will promote a better understanding of the content and allow for a ‘fun break’ from the lessons.

Live Lessons will occur 1x per week. Office hours will be available for additional help daily.

**Life Science** (Recommended for 7th grade)

This course focuses student learning on 7 main topics: Cells and Life, Classifying Life, Body Systems, Matter and Energy, Interdependence of Life, Heredity and Genetics, and Cycles and Conservation. Within each module, students will be required to read the lesson and complete guided notes. Additionally, each lesson will contain a formative assessment to identify individual strengths and weaknesses.

Practice and review items have been added from Legends of Learning. These additional items will promote a better understanding of the content and allow for a ‘fun break’ from the lessons.

Live Lessons will occur 1x per week. Office hours will be available for additional help daily.

**Physical Science** (Recommended for 8th grade

This course focuses student learning on 6 main topics: Matter, Changes in Matter, Elements and Compounds, Force and Energy, Energy Resources, and Matter and Energy. Within each module, students will be required to read the lesson and complete guided notes. Additionally, each lesson will contain a formative assessment to identify individual strengths and weaknesses.

Practice and review items have been added from Legends of Learning. These additional items will promote a better understanding of the content and allow for a ‘fun break’ from the lessons.

Live Lessons will occur 1x per week. Office hours will be available for additional help daily.

**Social Studies**

**Civics**

Learning about civics gives students the skills and knowledge necessary to be active citizens who have a positive impact on their communities. In this course, students discover the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the United States. They learn about the structure of the government and how it works at the local, state, and federal levels. This course examines elections, the lawmaking process, and how citizens can impact public policy. Students also discover ways the United States interacts with countries around the world. Geography and economics support the learning of civics in this course. Engaging in this study prepares students to be informed citizens who are ready to participate in the American democracy!

**World History**

Somebody discovered the wheel. Somebody discovered written communication. Somebody even figured out how to count to ten. From the ancient river civilizations to China and its ancient dynasties, different civilizations left their mark on history. They also left their mark on how we live today. In this course, students join travel agent Mr. Lightfoot to travel back in time digging out the past of these ancient civilizations. In ancient Egypt students visit the pyramids and find out the secrets of preserving mummies. They see how the Mayans developed astronomy to a precise science. They even investigate the difference between the Athenians and the Spartans. Students will journey through India discovering their contributions to medicine, moving on to Africa to follow the rise and fall of the ancient east African kingdoms of Kush and Axum. Throughout the centuries, and still today, our world is made up of dozens of different cultures. They all are different, and they all have made big contributions to what we know and who we are.

**United States History**

Learning about history allows people to see how far we have come and what awaits us on our path to the future. In this course, students will explore the history of the United States and analyze the cause and effect in historical events. They will investigate history by using the tools of a historian to examine the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events that influenced the development of the United States. Students will imagine what it was like to live in the past by reading the stories from the people who experienced it. This course begins with the engaging stories of what brought the earliest American colonists to the New World and ends with the struggles to repair the United States following the Civil War. Engaging in this study allows students to recognize the themes of history that span across centuries and leads to a greater appreciation of the development of the United States and the resulting impact on world history.

**Electives**

**Character Education**

This course teaches students practical skills for understanding and managing their emotions, setting goals and getting organized, understanding and getting along with others in our diverse world, and making good decisions. Research shows that people who practice these skills have greater academic achievement as students and experience more success and satisfaction as adults.

**Business Keyboarding**

Using a special in-house typing software, SimpleType, students will gain typing speed while learning the proper technique to become a keyboarding master. Students will learn introductory word processing and electronic presentation best practices in addition to computer hardware, internet, and business application skills to prepare for their future career.

**Coding Fundamentals**

Learn the basic building blocks of coding using HTML to create a web page and use the in-course Python Guided Activity to try your hand at programming with Python. You’ll learn how to use functions and loops to write small programs and create basic graphics. In addition, you will learn about career opportunities in the coding field. This course will give you the experience you need to begin coding on your own, and it will get you ready to take more advanced coding courses in the future! This course provides middle school elective credit.

**2D Studio Art**

Do you like to draw, paint, or take pictures? Whatever medium you prefer, this course will teach you the design elements and principles needed to create a work of art and explore your artistic inspirations. You’ll also travel back in time to look at art in different cultures and learn about the art of critiquing. Let’s turn your creative dreams into reality!

**Career Exploration**

How do you pick a career path when you’re not sure what’s even out there? This course allows you to begin exploring options in fields such as teaching, business, government, hospitality, health science, IT, and more! You’ll align your interests, wants, and needs to career possibilities, including the required education for each. Let’s find a pathway that works for you.

**Game Design**

Does your love of video games motivate you to pursue a career in this field? Pursue your passion by learning about the principles of game design through the stages of development, iterative process, critiques, and game development tools. Put these new skills to work by designing your own game!

**Reading I**

In Middle School Reading, the goal is to enhance student's skills as active readers and give them strategies for understanding what happens in the stories they read. In this course there are stories to read, videos to watch, and activities to enjoy. There is fiction, nonfiction, and even some poetry. There is new vocabulary to learn and story maps to fill out. From Florida to Alaska, there will be lots of things to see. Students and their teammates will travel across the country to compete in local soccer tournaments. While not on the soccer field, they will have plenty of time to read and write about the exciting things encountered.

**Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and Learning Strategies**

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop learning strategies, critical-thinking skills, and problem-solving skills to enhance their performance in academic and nonacademic endeavors.

**Health**

Our middle school health courses 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.

**Phys. Ed. 6**

Students who want to be fit but don't know where to start are invited to join a diverse group of virtual classmates who help with exploring and understanding fitness and health. With the support of these virtual friends, students determine current personal fitness levels and learn to improve those levels. Students also learn safety rules for exercise, how to create equipment from household items, how different activities target different body parts, how to set and reach a goal, and qualities of sportsmanship. Students keep a log of physical fitness activities while exploring topics that include diversity in sports, nutrition, peer pressure, and making good choices. Each PE project leads to improved student understanding of personal skills and the environments in which activities are played.

**Phys. Ed. 7**

This course provides a foundation of knowledge, skills, and values students need to develop a physically active lifestyle. A friendly cast of course characters helps guide and enhance each student’s experience. Knowledge about safety rules for exercise, how to improve sport skills, how different activities target different body parts, and how to set and a goal are all part of student learning and participation. Activity choices are plentiful, leading to a healthy and physically active lifestyle. Students keep a log of physical fitness activities while they explore topics such as diversity in sports, nutrition, peer pressure, and making good choices. Students choose various activities to reach goals and have the opportunity to earn a national award by participating in the Presidential Fitness Challenge.

**Phys. Ed. 8**

Team sports, extreme sports, and outdoor sports are among the types of activities students learn about and participate in during this course! This interactive course helps students learn safety rules for exercise, how to improve skills, and how to establish and accomplish goals. It also provides an overview of many dual, team, extreme, and outdoor sports. Practicing game strategy to improve the chance of winning in competition, improving sport skill and performance, diversity in sports, nutrition, peer pressure, and making good choices balance out the topics students discover in this course. Fitness logs help students monitor physical activities. Students complete projects that lead to the knowledge, skills, and values they need to implement and maintain a physically active lifestyle. Students also have the opportunity to earn a national award by participating in the Presidential Fitness Challenge.

**Guitar (guitar required)**

Whether you want to play guitar for your family and friends, desire to be a professional performer, or just love playing music, this course is a great place to start. No prior music experience is needed. You will learn the fundamentals of music and the basic skills necessary to play a wide variety of music styles. Student guides, Carlos and Summer, will take you through each step of this journey towards becoming a skilled guitarist and musician.

**Exploring Music**

What comes to mind when you hear the word ‘music’? Do you think about your favorite band or artist? In this course, you’ll learn about how we hear music; how music affects our lives; essential elements of music like rhythm, pitch, and harmony; different musical genres; singing and your voice; various instruments; music composition; and the history and culture of music over the years.