



**2026-2027**



## **CURRICULUM GUIDE**

**5TH GRADE AND  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade & Middle School CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Subject	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
<b>ENGLISH</b>	English 5	English 6 Sixth Grade Skills	English 7	English 8
<b>FINE ARTS</b>	Students select 1 year-long, or 2 semester-long courses	Students select courses to fill three semesters	Students select courses to fill both semesters	Students select courses to fill both semesters
<b>LANGUAGES*</b>	Introduction to World Languages	French, Latin, Mandarin, or Spanish	French, Latin, Mandarin, or Spanish	French, Latin, Mandarin, or Spanish
<b>ADDITIONAL FINE ARTS or SECOND LANGUAGE</b>			Students select courses to fill both semesters	Students select courses to fill both semesters
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	Placed by department	Placed by department	Placed by department	Placed by department
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	Physical Education 5	MS Physical Education or MS Yoga	Dance, MS Physical Education or MS Yoga	MS Physical Conditioning, Dance, MS Physical Education or MS Yoga
<b>SCIENCE</b>	Science 5	Science 6	Science 7	Science 8
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	Social Studies 5	Social Studies 6	Social Studies 7	Civics 8
<b>ENRICHMENT</b>	Zero Hour Block: Beginning Band The Farmyard Class Garden to Table	Zero Hour Block: Beginning Band The Farmyard Class Garden to Table	Zero Hour Block: Beginning Band The Farmyard Class Garden to Table	Zero Hour Block: Beginning Band The Farmyard Class Garden to Table

*\*Or placement by department*

# 5th Grade Course Offerings

## English

### English 5

Course Number 671

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 5

Fifth grade English students are introduced to a rich variety of texts including: historical fiction, realistic fiction, fantasy, informational and traditional literature. Students focus on comprehension strategies as well as determining plot structure, main idea and theme. Students will learn to accurately cite and quote text when drawing conclusions. Students will participate in selecting representative text that mirrors their interests and experiences. The structure of the fifth grade reading program aims to instill an appreciation and joy for becoming a life-long reader.

The main objective of fifth grade writing instruction is to teach students to apply skills that enhance their writing and allow them to communicate through vivid, elaborate, meaningful pieces of writing. Writing genres for fifth grade include: informational/expository, narrative, and opinion essay. Students learn to refine and build skills towards writing increasingly complex, multiple-paragraph essays. Students will learn essay structure that includes: a formal introduction, main body paragraphs with supporting details, and a strong conclusion. Students will apply topic sentences, transitional phrases and concluding statements to strengthen their writing. Journaling, creative writing and response to literature notebooks will provide additional practice for students to hone their skills. Fifth grade writers will learn and correctly employ the eight parts of speech. Basic grammar usage and mechanics will be emphasized. Fifth grade writers develop skills that will allow them to use writing as a tool to problem solve, discover and record information. They will learn to listen to their “writer’s instinct,” as they reflect and express their ideas while discovering the writer within.

Woven throughout the fifth grade literacy program, English students will be given opportunities to challenge and extend their listening and speaking skills. Students will develop communication skills by presenting information, both formally and informally, across a wide range of topics.

## Fine Arts

### Art 5

Course Number 682

Course Offered: Semester-long

Grade Level: 5

A semester of Art 5 gives students a solid introduction to the art elements. Students will be encouraged to develop their own visual voice as they work with 2 & 3-dimensional media with an emphasis on creative, critical, and self-regulated thinking skills.

### Dance 5

Course Number 696

Course Offered: Semester-long

Grade Level: 5

A semester of Dance 5 emphasizes the basic skills and techniques of ballet, jazz, modern/contemporary, hip-hop, and dances from other cultures worldwide.

### Drama 5

Course Number 0024

Course Offered: Semester-long

Grade Level: 5

A semester of Drama 5 introduces students to the basic skills of performance involving the voice, body, and mind. They will develop their awareness of effective and expressive physical and verbal communication.

## Choir 5 - 6

*Course Offered: Semester-long*

**Course Number 740**

*Grade Level: 5*

A semester of Choir 5-6 emphasizes good vocal production, reading music, diction (both in English and in other languages), and performance of one or two-part choral music. No previous musical experience is required. Choir 5-6 will perform as their own ensemble and with Choir 7-8 and Choir 3 (singers in grades 9-12).

## Beginning Piano

*Course Offered: Semester-long*

**Course Number 817**

*Grade Level: 5-6*

Beginning Piano is designed for students with little to no piano and/or music experience. Time will be spent developing musicianship: the rudiments of music construction, proper technique for playing the piano, the ability to perform alone and with others, and proper practice techniques and discipline. Students will work on musicianship skills through in-class activities and online music theory resources.

## Beginning Band

*Course Offered: Year-long*

**Course Number (Zero Hour) 693**

*Grade Level: 5-12*

Beginning Band is designed for students in grades 5 - 12 to discover and learn how to play a standard wind or percussion instrument of their choice. Students do not need to know how to read music or have any prior experience in this course. Once students have registered for the class the instructor will arrange an appointment to help them choose instruments. Most students provide their own instruments, but Gregory School does have a limited number that can be borrowed. Students will learn how to read music, assemble and take care of their instruments, and learn how to play music from a variety of genres (pop, classical, rock, jazz, etc). Fun music-based games, songs, and activities make this course a great way to learn to play music with your friends. This course is performance-based and school concerts and other performances are included in the grading rubric.

## Beginning Orchestra Strings

*Course Offered: Year-long*

**Course Number 67**

*Grade Level: 5-12*

Beginning Orchestra Strings is designed for students in grades 5-12 to discover and learn how to play the standard string orchestra instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, or Upright Double Bass. Students do not need to know how to read music or have any prior experience in this course. Once students have registered for the class the instructor will arrange appointments to help them choose instruments. Students must provide their own instruments (which can be rented inexpensively from local music stores). Students will learn how to read music, how to care for their instruments, beginning bowing techniques, and how to play music from a variety of genres (pop, classical, rock, jazz, etc). Fun music-based games, songs, and activities make this course a great way to learn to play music with your friends. This course is performance-based and school concerts and other performances are included in the grading rubric.

# Languages

## Introduction to World Languages

Course Number 745

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 5

This course is designed to introduce fifth graders to three different languages over the course of one year. Students will be exposed to Spanish, French and Latin by rotating through nine week trimesters in classes that will introduce vocabulary, culture, speaking, proper pronunciation for Spanish and French, basic grammar in Latin, and engaging activities. Through lessons, projects, games, songs and music, students will gain basic skills in all three languages. The course is designed to accommodate differences in experience so that students of all abilities will grow in their language acquisition skills, as well as gain exposure to the different language strands offered in the middle school.

# Mathematics

## Math 5

Course Number 674

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 5

The purpose of math 5 is to develop a strong conceptual understanding of decimals and fractions. The Mathematics curriculum for fifth grade applies real-world problem solving emphasizing critical mathematical practices such as making sense of problems, persevering in problem-solving, modeling with mathematics, reasoning abstractly and quantitatively, looking for and making use of structure, and attending to precision. Fifth grade builds upon prior student knowledge, extending multiplication and division to multi-digit numbers and developing an understanding of decimals in the place value system and in operations. Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions are covered in depth. Student knowledge of geometry is extended to develop an understanding of volume concepts.

# Physical Education

## Physical Education 5

Course Number 622

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 5

The goal of this class is to promote lifetime physical fitness through individual and team sports activities. Grade 5 students will show steady personal improvement in all activities throughout the year. Every day all students must keep trying to get better in all aspects of Physical Education. In each class, we shall discuss health topics, work aerobically and anaerobically, practice proper stretching and strengthening techniques, train skills in various individual and team sports, and play. Cooperative behavior and good sportsmanship are reinforced in each class meeting.

# Science

## Science 5

Course Number 675

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 5

The TGS Middle School Science curriculum is a unique and innovative spiral curriculum that is built around progression. It is designed to:

- engage and enthuse students and foster their natural curiosity

- give students the knowledge, understanding, and ability to apply that knowledge and understanding to a range of increasingly complex and unfamiliar problems, giving them an excellent preparation for High School Science
- incorporate best practices informed by cognitive science

Students will study Biology, Chemistry and the Earth, and Physics and Space in all four years of Middle School. Each subject area is divided into three strands:

	<b>Strand A</b>	<b>Strand B</b>	<b>Strand C</b>
<b>Biology</b>	Ecology, Evolution and Reproduction	Systems	Cells
<b>Chemistry and the Earth</b>	Particles and States, Atoms, Elements	Reactions, Acids and Alkalis	Earth and Atmosphere
<b>Physics and Space</b>	Forces and space	Light and Sound	Electricity and Magnetism, and Energy

All strands will be studied each year. Teachers will begin the study of each subject area by revisiting previous learning, giving students an opportunity to identify gaps and consolidate their knowledge and understanding. Full details of what will be studied within each strand in each grade level will be available in the course syllabi. By regularly revisiting prior learning in increasingly complex and unfamiliar contexts students will develop a thorough understanding of the core concepts, and be able to apply them widely. This will form an excellent foundation for Upper School Science courses.

The in-class student experience is hands-on, lab-based, and has deliberate inbuilt continuity and progression throughout the grade levels. The science inquiry skills that are emphasized via the content in each grade level include the following:

- generating scientific questions
- predicting and hypothesizing
- designing investigations
- observing and data collecting
- analyzing and concluding
- interacting science with society
- communicating

The safe and appropriate use of lab equipment and technology is developed throughout the four years. A variety of techniques are used to encourage students to foster their sense of wonder and understanding of the natural phenomena that occur in our universe. Students' science literacy skills will become increasingly more complex as they progress through the program. Students will develop an understanding of the connections between science and its applications in the community and the wider world.

# Social Science

## Social Studies 5: What is Freedom?

Course Number 399

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 5

The fifth grade social studies course will explore the question: What is freedom? Students will explore topics including: U.S. geography, indigenous cultural regions of North America and early American history.

Through the lens of a true historian, students will analyze primary and secondary sources to understand important historical events. They will apply the writing process to clearly and concisely write about their findings. Students will grapple with essential questions related to history through hands-on projects, journaling, debate and discussion and reading a variety of both historical fiction and historical non-fiction texts. Fifth grade students will have an active role in discovering America's past and connecting it to the present all while answering the question, What is Freedom?

## Enrichment

### Chess

Course Number 80

Course Offered: Semester-long

Grade Level: 5-8

This class is geared toward the more serious chess student who is interested in improving their chess skills and playing in tournaments. Goals/Topics: Combinative Tactics, Visualization, Chess Geometry, Winning Strategies, Time/Stress Management, Attacking, and Defending. Will also include speed chess, bughouse (team chess), blindfold chess, and lots of fun.

### The Farmyard Classroom

Course Number (Zero Hour) 0014

Course Offered: Year-long ; 1x week

Grade Level: 5-12

In this zero-hour class, students in grades 5 – 12 will deepen their responsibilities and learning with activities tailored to their individual interests and skill levels. The foundational tier of this class is tending and caring for our animals. Beyond care, this will be a building and design class: not only upkeeping doors and latches, but also creating chairs, swings, and a total environment where the aesthetics of the yard contribute to the health of the animals. To contribute to the total experience of the yard, students will use texts on anatomy, physiology, ecology, and behavior. When students link nutrition, behavior, play, leisure, sleep, arts, and the environment of the animals with their own needs in life, The Gregory School will find our students thinking of the whole of each and every life. Farmyard meets every morning; students may choose one or more days to attend.

### Garden to Table

Course Number 0015

Course Offered: Year-long; 1x week

Grade Level: 5-8

In this zero-hour class, students will work together to turn our 6 community garden plots into a productive, food-producing farm. The produce harvested from our new school farm will go home with students and to the dining hall where everyone will enjoy the “fruits of our labors.” Growing one's own food is an act of empowerment. When students learn to grow food, and contribute that food to their family table, and our very own dining hall, this will build a grand sense of pride and accomplishment! We will study the soil, the environment, water use, and will learn exactly how to grow nutrient-rich produce in our desert climate. In addition, we hope to host quarterly farmer's markets where we can sell vegetable starts, fresh eggs from the farmyard, and any surplus vegetables from our gardens.

# Middle School Course Offerings

## English

### English 6

*Course Offered: Year-long*

**Course Number 6**

*Grade Level: 6*

Sixth grade literature exploration begins with a review of different genres, followed by focus on memoir, free verse poetry, realistic fiction, and nonfiction. Each genre in English 6 is connected to specific writing tools and techniques that students will analyze and utilize in their own written work. Students will explore the same texts, learning comprehension strategies and story analysis in their reading skills class. In addition, using individual book choices, students will analyze writing techniques and share book reviews through written work and book talk presentations.

Sixth graders build confidence, fluency, and volume in writing. Students begin the semester learning the steps of the writing process and developing persuasive writing skills. The end of the first semester closes with a brief unit on poetry. Semester two opens with the goal of perfecting paragraphs and creating personal memoirs. The second half of semester two provides an introduction to the research process and expository writing. Throughout the year students engage in independent structured grammar lessons. By the end of sixth grade students should be able to write and correctly punctuate complete sentences with accuracy and confidence. Throughout the year students are invited and encouraged to read original writing pieces aloud in class. This builds confidence in public speaking and offers an opportunity for the praise of their written and oral work.

Class discussion, collaboration, and sharing opinions are a large part of our daily class routine. Creating a supportive classroom community sets the tone for building confidence in communication and personal expression.

### Sixth Grade Skills

*Course Offered: Semester-long*

**Course Number 809**

*Grade Level: 6*

Sixth Grade Skills offers students a balance of instruction in the four skills areas of technology, study, research and organization. Instruction focuses on developing lifelong learning skills that will help students navigate the learning and organizational expectations of middle school and beyond. The technology component introduces students to digital platforms required for work at TGS. Study skills instruction emphasizes time management, organization strategies, note-taking techniques, and test preparation methods that support success across all subject areas. The research strand teaches students to locate credible sources, evaluate information critically, synthesise findings, and present their learning in various formats. By integrating these four skill areas, the course prepares students for the increased independence and academic rigor of middle school while fostering curiosity, confidence, and self-advocacy. This is a required course for all sixth grade students.

### English 7

*Course Offered: Year-long*

**Course Number 7**

*Grade Level: 7*

Seventh grade English students will further their study of literature by reading and discussing advanced and classic works. Students will be guided to make connections between literary works, the world around them, and their own lived experiences. Students will be taught how to utilize literary elements to promote and deepen their understanding of the novels that are assigned, as well as use textual citations to support this understanding. Furthermore, students will be required to read secondary novels outside of class to promote reading rigor and the opportunity to share personal interests in literature choices.

Seventh grade English students will learn how to write five-paragraph essays in three different types of content styles: expository, descriptive, and persuasive. Students will apply the writing process by organizing their ideas, doing relevant research, then editing, revising and refining their drafts. In addition to essay writing, students will practice writing skills through in-class notes, journals, and homework with the goal of achieving organization, attention to detail, clarity, and evidence of participation in their writings. Seventh-grade students will continue to work on grammar and vocabulary acquisition, and they will be expected to apply this in their writing.

Finally, students will have opportunities to develop their oral communication skills through class discussions and presentations.

## English 8

Course Number 8

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 8

The eighth grade English curriculum is built on the exploration of great books. In addition to reading and studying works by Shakespeare and other impactful writers, students are encouraged to read a wide variety of classic literature to deepen their understanding of the human experience, both contemporary and historical. These texts push students to acknowledge the unique perspectives of differing cultures and communities in class discussions. Students are challenged to extend and refine their empathy and critical thinking skills to harmonize various literary voices and historical perspectives.

Eighth grade English challenges students to write longer essays and to explore alternative writing structures, as well as incorporate textual evidence in support of their ideas. By the end of eighth grade, students should be able to create outlines, essays, poems, and narratives using a variety of structures to facilitate clear and creative expression of their ideas and arguments. A structured grammar curriculum will be utilized that supports writing with the acknowledgement that good writing starts with good grammar. Students focus on the skills necessary to facilitate clear and correct communication in their written work.

Research skills are emphasized in eighth grade as a way for students to support their ideas with evidence. The use of academic databases for research and correct MLA format for written work are a priority. Students use technology with greater sophistication as a resource for enhancing their research and presentation skills. They are challenged to use digital and print resources in a more complex way as they develop a more robust set of criteria to evaluate their sources.

## Fantasy Writing

Course Number 49

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 6-8

This year-long elective will use genre fiction, fantasy, and science fiction to teach creative writing skills. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students will embark on a long-term personal writing project. They will craft rich fantasy worlds with distinct languages, geographies, and cultures, and will then write fictional stories set in their world. Students of all skill levels and learning styles are welcome to take this class. Although we will study many technical aspects of the craft, the focus is on learning to love writing for its own sake. Fantasy Writing is different every year, so you can take the class as many times as you want!

## The Art of the Short Story

Course Number 907

Prerequisite: Permission of the Instructor

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 8

The intermediate level of the creative writing program is open to eighth grade students who are interested in serious pursuit of the craft of writing. We will focus on the short story, both classical and contemporary.

Students will be encouraged to read and write fiction in all genres and styles. We will study the technical elements of fine prose, with editing sessions and roundtable peer reading. At the end of every year and semester, we will create a portfolio of each student's best work. We will never run out of short stories to read and write, so you can take this class as often as you like!

## **Middle School Publications**

**Course Number 905**

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6-8*

In this course students will gain skills in media production, including writing in many different genres and formats, page design and layout, copywriting, editing, photography, and working within the confines of a deadline. Different types of publications will be produced including a professionally published yearbook that records school memories and events. There is an emphasis on journalism skills in this class. Participants gain useful, real-world skills in time management, marketing, teamwork, and design principles.

# Middle School Course Offerings

## Fine Arts 6

### Art 6

Course Number 4

Course Offered: Semester-long

Grade Level: 6

A semester of Art 6 gives students an introduction to 2D and 3D fundamentals and principles of art. By honing precision and expressive techniques, utilizing materials such as paper, paint, and clay, students explore their personal creativity and develop critical self-assessment skills.

### Dance 6

Course Number 05

Course Offered: Semester-long

Grade Level: 6

A semester of Dance 6 promotes a balanced dance program that enables students to develop an appreciation of the use of the body as a means of communication and expression. Students will receive instruction in basic dance techniques and choreographic principles as they engage in movement activities designed to develop an understanding of the elements of dance, and develop balance, coordination, flexibility, strength, and endurance.

### Drama 6

Course Number 28

Course Offered: Semester-long

Grade Level: 6

A semester of Drama 6 provides students with experiences in which to build performance skills in public speaking, creative movement, basic acting, playwriting, and ensemble performance.

### Choir 5-6

Course Number 740

Course Offered: Semester-long

Grade Level: 5-6

A semester of Choir 5-6 emphasizes good vocal production, reading music, diction (both in English and in other languages), and performance of one or two-part choral music. No previous musical experience is required. Choir 5-6 will perform as their own ensemble and with Choir 7-8 and Choir 3 (singers in grades 9-12).

### Beginning Piano

Course Number 817

Course Offered: Semester-long

Grade Level: 5-6

Beginning Piano is designed for students with little to no piano and/or music experience. Time will be spent developing musicianship: the rudiments of music construction, proper technique for playing the piano, the ability to perform alone and with others, and proper practice techniques and discipline. Students will work on musicianship skills through in-class activities and online music theory resources.

### Beginning Band

Course Number (Zero Hour) 693

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 5-12

Beginning Band is designed for students in grades 5 - 12 to discover and learn how to play a standard wind or percussion instrument of their choice. Students do not need to know how to read music or have any prior experience in this course. Once students have registered for the class the instructor will arrange an appointment to help them choose instruments. Most students provide their own instruments, but Gregory School does have a limited number that can be borrowed. Students will learn how to read music, assemble and take care of their instruments, and learn how to play music from a variety of genres (pop, classical, rock, jazz,

etc). Fun music-based games, songs, and activities make this course a great way to learn to play music with your friends. This course is performance-based and school concerts and other performances are included in the grading rubric.

## Intermediate Band

Course Number 97

*Prerequisite: Beginning Band or permission from the instructor as determined through a short audition process.*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6-12*

Intermediate Band is designed for students in grades 6 -12 to play standard wind or percussion instruments in an ensemble setting. Students must have played their instruments for at least one year and should be able to read music at a rudimentary level. In most cases, students provide their own instruments. This course is an extension of beginning band. Students will continue to develop their instrumental skills throughout the course while playing selections from a variety of musical styles. Since musical selections vary from year to year, this course may be repeated. Students will have several performances throughout the school year. This course is performance-based and school concerts and other performances are included in the grading rubric.

## Beginning Orchestra Strings

Course Number 67

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 5-12*

Beginning Orchestra Strings is designed for students in grades 5-12 to discover and learn how to play the standard string orchestra instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, or Upright Double Bass. Students do not need to know how to read music or have any prior experience in this course. Once students have registered for the class the instructor will arrange appointments to help them choose instruments. Students must provide their own instruments (which can be rented inexpensively from local music stores). Students will learn how to read music, how to care for their instruments, beginning bowing techniques, and how to play music from a variety of genres (pop, classical, rock, jazz, etc). Fun music-based games, songs, and activities make this course a great way to learn to play music with your friends. This course is performance-based and school concerts and other performances are included in the grading rubric.

## Intermediate Orchestra Strings

Course Number 269

*Prerequisite: Beginning orchestra or at least one year of playing experience on violin, viola, cello, or bass.*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6-12*

Intermediate orchestra is designed for students in grades 6-12 to play standard orchestral instruments (violin, viola, cello, or bass) in an ensemble setting. Students must have played their instruments for at least one year and should be able to read music at a rudimentary level. In most cases, students provide their own instruments. This course is an extension of beginning orchestra. Students will continue to develop their instrumental skills throughout the course while playing selections from a variety of musical styles. Since musical selections vary from year to year, this course may be repeated. Students will have several performances throughout the school year. This course is performance-based and school concerts and other performances are included in the grading rubric.

# Fine Arts 7 & 8

## Dance 1

Course Number 617

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 7-12

The purpose of this course is to promote a balanced dance program that enables students to develop an appreciation of the use of the body as a means of communication and expression. Students will receive instruction in basic dance techniques and choreographic principles as they engage in movement activities designed to develop an understanding of the elements of dance, and develop balance, coordination, flexibility, strength, and endurance. This course is offered to students in grades 7 - 12.

## Dance 2

Course Number 618

Prerequisite: Dance 1 or Approval of Instructor

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 8-12

The purpose of this course is to promote a balanced dance program that enables students to develop an appreciation of and skill in using the body as a means of communication and expression. Students will receive instruction in both dance techniques and choreographic principles that build on skills developed in Beginning Dance. They will engage in dance activities designed to increase movement skills (balance, coordination, agility, flexibility, strength, and endurance); develop their ability to effectively utilize the elements of dance in performance and the choreographic process; and develop their expressive performance skills. There will be performance opportunities. This course is offered to students in grades 8 - 12.

## Choreography Lab

Course Number 619

Prerequisite: Audition or Approval of Instructor

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 8-12

This course is designed for intermediate/advanced dance students who love to choreograph, create, and design dance. This course will focus on refining technical proficiency, artistic expression, and creative fluency. Students will engage in the processes of creation, rehearsal, and performance of original student dance choreography; ensemble skills; repertoire maintenance, and performance disciplines. A variety of opportunities will be provided for performances of completed works. This course is offered to students in grades 8 - 12.

*The student will be able to:*

- Compose original dance works for performance applying each step of the choreographic process. Analyze, critique, and discuss choreography in an intelligent, productive manner.
- Learn, recall with accuracy and expressively perform original choreography and the choreography of peers and others.
- Collaborate with others in creating and performing dance works.
- Work creatively and efficiently under deadlines.
- Manage rehearsals effectively.
- Recall choreography and perform it with confidence and accuracy.
- Effectively use technical theater elements: costumes, make-up, set design, and props.

**Art 7****Course Number (Semester) 117****Course Number (Full year) 722***Course Offered: Year-long or semester-long**Grade Level: 7*

The seventh grade comprehensive semester-long or year-long course is theme based. Students foster their creativity with personal projects, interdisciplinary subject matter, and assemblage studies. Various rendering skills and craftsmanship techniques are explored with multi-media such as paper, canvas, wood, clay, paint, and recyclables. Students are exposed to the wide array of media utilized for visual expression.

**Art 8****Course Number 118***Course Offered: Year-long**Grade Level: 8*

Focusing on skill building to develop a strong visual voice, eighth grade students study art movements, exploring realistic rendering in pencil, Impressionism in paint, Surrealism in clay, and a wide array of historic and modern approaches to art making. This comprehensive year-long course culminates in a trip to the University of Arizona Museum of Art where students pull inspiration from exhibits to develop a month-long personal project celebrating individual creativity and meaningful art-making.

**Drama 7****Course Number (Semester) 147****Course Number (Full year) 723***Course Offered: Year-long or semester-long**Grade Level: 7*

The seventh grade semester-long or year-long drama class encourages skills in creative movement and vocalization, acting, playwriting, memorization, facial expression, and ensemble performance. Whether students have some or no previous performance experience, they will develop their awareness of effective and expressive physical and verbal communication. Students will participate in scenes and monologues, as well as daily performance activities, through scripted work, improvisation, and creative writing.

**Drama 8****Course Number 149***Course Offered: Year-long**Grade Level: 8*

The eighth grade year-long drama class builds on advancing students' acting and playwriting skills. The class focuses on more progressive use of creative movement, vocalization, and facial expressions. Students are asked to further extend their memorization, ensemble development, and expressive communication. Whether students have previous performance experience or not, they will enhance their ability to bridge physical and verbal connections in order to tell a story. Students will participate in solo and group multi-week projects as well as daily performance activities. There will be scripted work, improvisation, and playwriting completed throughout the year.

**Theater Production 8****Course Number 59***Course Offered: Year-long**Grade Level: 8*

The overall objective of this eighth grade creative design class is to create original work using digital and concrete tools. Students will record, edit, design, and mix music for performances using GarageBand. They will create slideshows and digital stories using iMovie. Students will learn basic tool usage, safety considerations, and building techniques for theatrical production. Second semester this class will be responsible for designing audio and video elements, stage managing, house managing, running lights and sound, and performing backstage crew responsibilities for the middle school productions.

## MS Digital Design

Course Number 284

Course Offered: Semester-long

Grade Level: 7-8

Students will create digital images using basic photoshopping techniques by building and painting directly on the computer. They will develop design knowledge through balance, emphasis, texture, color theory and mixing. Students will gain an understanding of various digital formats for both print and web use and study various historical art movements related to their projects. Along with Photoshop, a variety of applications will be used to create various designs and images like Tinkercad, Fontstruct, and Google Drawings.

## Advanced MS Digital Design

Course Number 285

Prerequisite: MS Digital Design

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 8

Advanced MS Digital Design will be a continuation and building of more PhotoShop skills and tools, especially to build atmosphere and depth digitally through color contrast and size. In this class, students will discover a new means of drawing digitally through vector imaging and the bezier pen tool to create logos and their own typography. Students will also be challenged to work creatively by using traditional art making methods and turning them into digital images.

## Beginning Digital Painting and Illustration

Course Number 55

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 8-12

This course will use Photoshop and other digital software as a means of creating visual art and illustration. Learn the techniques and steps to visually illustrate your own stories and ideas from storyboard to character development to graphic novel. First semester we will begin to build the foundations for illustration and in the second semester you will take those foundations to create a product of your own, whether it's a storybook or graphic novel. Various elements and principles of art will be learned and applied to illustrations to give the illustrations a stronger visual impact. This course is offered to students in grades 8 - 12.

## Choir 7-8

Course Numbers 741

Course Offered: Semester-long

Grade Level: 7-8

This course emphasizes good vocal production, reading music, diction (both in English and other languages), and performing two and three-part music. While no previous experience is necessary, the development of each student's music reading skills, sight-singing, and music theory are expected. Choir 7-8 will perform pieces on their own and pieces with Choir 5-6 and Choir 3 (singers in grades 9-12).

## Beginning Band

Course Number (Zero Hour) 693

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 5-12

Beginning Band is designed for students in grades 5 - 12 to discover and learn how to play a standard wind or percussion instrument of their choice. Students do not need to know how to read music or have any prior experience in this course. Once students have registered for the class the instructor will arrange an appointment to help them choose instruments. Most students provide their own instruments, but Gregory School does have a limited number that can be borrowed. Students will learn how to read music, assemble and take care of their instruments, and learn how to play music from a variety of genres (pop, classical, rock, jazz, etc). Fun music-based games, songs, and activities make this course a great way to learn to play music with your friends. This course is performance-based and school concerts and other performances are included in the grading rubric.

## Intermediate Band

Course Number 97

*Prerequisite: Beginning Band or permission from the instructor as determined through a short audition process.*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6-12*

Intermediate Band is designed for students in grades 6 -12 to play standard wind or percussion instruments in an ensemble setting. Students must have played their instruments for at least one year and should be able to read music at a rudimentary level. In most cases, students provide their own instruments. This course is an extension of beginning band. Students will continue to develop their instrumental skills throughout the course while playing selections from a variety of musical styles. Since musical selections vary from year to year, this course may be repeated. Students will have several performances throughout the school year. This course is performance-based and school concerts and other performances are included in the grading rubric.

## Advanced Band

Course Number 98

*Prerequisite: Two years of band experience or private study AND approval of the band teacher.*

*Course Offered: Year-long; Zero hour 2x week*

*Grade Level: 9-12*

Advanced Band is for those students who are ready to perform more advanced music. Students must have had at least two years of previous experience playing a standard wind or percussion instrument, and they must have the recommendation and signed approval of the band teacher (unless they are currently in advanced band). An audition may be requested. Students will gain experience in playing more challenging and difficult music from a variety of musical genres. In most cases students will need to provide their own instrument. The students are encouraged to audition for the Arizona Regional Festival as well as solo and ensemble festival (participation is voluntary). This course is performance-based; participation in all on-campus performances is mandatory, and performances are included in the grading rubric. This is available to grades 9-12 and grades 7 and 8 by audition.

## Beginning Orchestra Strings

Course Number 67

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 5-12*

Beginning Orchestra Strings is designed for students in grades 5-12 to discover and learn how to play the standard string orchestra instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, or Upright Double Bass. Students do not need to know how to read music or have any prior experience in this course. Once students have registered for the class the instructor will arrange appointments to help them choose instruments. Students must provide their own instruments (which can be rented inexpensively from local music stores). Students will learn how to read music, how to care for their instruments, beginning bowing techniques, and how to play music from a variety of genres (pop, classical, rock, jazz, etc). Fun music-based games, songs, and activities make this course a great way to learn to play music with your friends. This course is performance-based and school concerts and other performances are included in the grading rubric.

## Intermediate Orchestra Strings

Course Number 269

*Prerequisite: Beginning orchestra or at least one year of playing experience on violin, viola, cello, or bass.*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6-12*

Intermediate orchestra is designed for students in grades 6-12 to play standard orchestral instruments (violin, viola, cello, or bass) in an ensemble setting. Students must have played their instruments for at least one year and should be able to read music at a rudimentary level. In most cases, students provide their own instruments. This course is an extension of beginning orchestra. Students will continue to develop their instrumental skills throughout the course while playing selections from a variety of musical styles. Since musical selections vary from year to year, this course may be repeated. Students will have several performances throughout the school year. This course is performance-based and school concerts and other performances are included in the grading rubric.

## Advanced Orchestra Strings

Course Number 286

*Prerequisite: Two years orchestra experience or private study AND recommendation and approval of the orchestra teacher.*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6-12*

Advanced Orchestra is for those students who are ready to perform more advanced music. Students must have had at least two years of previous experience playing a standard orchestral instrument (violin, viola, cello, and bass), and they must have the recommendation and signed approval of the orchestra teacher (unless they are currently in Advanced Orchestra). An audition may be requested. Students will gain experience in playing more challenging and difficult music from a variety of musical genres. In most cases students will need to provide their own instrument. The students are encouraged to audition for the Arizona Regional Festival as well as solo and ensemble festivals (participation is voluntary). This course is performance-based; participation in all on-campus performances is mandatory, and performances are included in the grading rubric.

## Beginning Piano

Course Number 267

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6-12*

Beginning Piano is designed for students in grades 6-12 with little to no piano and/or music experience. Time will be split between developing musicianship: the rudiments of music construction, proper technique for playing the piano, the ability to perform alone and with others, and proper practice techniques and discipline. Students will work on musicianship skills through in-class activities and online music theory resources. A commitment to consistent practice either at school or at home and performances in class and at music concerts are required.

By the end of the year, students should be proficient in understanding fundamental music theory concepts, performing scales with both hands simultaneously at an appropriate tempo, playing with rhythmic accuracy, developing independence of hands and fingers, performing by themselves and with other students, learning a new piece of music on their own.

Having an appropriate piano (digital or acoustic) at home to practice is crucial for success in completing this course. The instructor can assist families in finding an instrument for purchase or rent.

## Intermediate Piano

Course Number 268

*Prerequisite: Placement determined by permission of the instructor through a short audition/interview process*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6-12*

Intermediate Piano is designed for students in grades 6-12 with previous piano and/or music experience. The ideal candidate for this class should: be able to identify all notes on the treble and bass clefs, be familiar with playing scales and some arpeggios, have an appropriate level of rhythmic accuracy, and have an appropriate knowledge of rudimentary musicianship terms and concepts. Students in Intermediate Piano will cover intermediate-level musicianship and piano literature. Commitment to a disciplined practice routine and performances in class and in music concerts are required. Intermediate level skills and concepts include (but are not limited to): all major scales, introduction to minor scales and jazz scales; all chords (major, minor, diminished, and seventh chords). Students will perform on their own and with other students in class at evening concerts throughout the school year. Opportunities for performances outside of school may also be available.

Having an appropriate piano (digital or acoustic) at home to practice is crucial for success in completing this course. The instructor can assist families in finding an instrument for purchase or rent.

# 2026 - 2027 Middle School Course Offerings

## Languages\*

### French 1A

Course Number 238

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 6-8

This is an introduction to French for middle school students. Emphasis is on reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students learn to converse and write about everyday things, such as greetings, time, school, family, descriptions of people, likes and dislikes, activities, and sports. Class is spent practicing vocabulary and grammatical structure, reading short passages, and talking about culture. Students will use the present tense. They will learn about various aspects of Francophone culture.

### French 1B

Course Number 239

Prerequisite: French 1A

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 6-8

This course is designed so that middle school students will be actively involved in learning the French language. In the 1B level, students will use the first month of the year to review the previous year's work in French 1A. They will continue to learn familiar and concrete vocabulary along with phrases that are useful in everyday life or that they would use if they were to travel to a French-speaking country. Students will continue to learn about the Francophone culture and French-speaking countries. They will primarily use the present tense but will learn the past tense near the end of the year. Upon successful completion of French 1A and French 1B, they will be given one upper school credit for the two courses.

*Please note that middle school students who have completed French 1A and French 1B in middle school will be placed in French 1C or French 2 as determined by the department.*

### French 1C

Course Number 298

Prerequisite: French 1B

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 7-8

French 1C is designed to provide students with additional time and practice to strengthen foundational language skills before advancing to Upper School French 2. The course emphasizes review and reinforcement of essential elements of French, including pronunciation and the conjugation of commonly used verbs.

Students expand their vocabulary across a variety of practical topics, such as places in town, family, and giving directions. Class time is devoted largely to guided conversation and oral practice, while most written assignments are completed outside of class. This course supports confidence-building and skill development through sustained practice and repetition in a supportive learning environment.

### French 1

Course Number 221

Prerequisite: Level determined by placement exam or teacher recommendation

Upper School Class

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 7-12

This course assumes little or no prior instruction in French. Emphasis is on reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will learn familiar and concrete vocabulary along with phrases that are useful in everyday life or that they would use if they were to travel to a French-speaking country. They will learn about the Francophone culture and French-speaking countries. Students will primarily use the present tense. Upon successful completion of French 1, they will be given one upper school credit for the course.

## French 2

Course Number 222

*Prerequisite: Level determined by placement exam or teacher recommendation*

*Upper School Class*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 7-12*

Students further develop conversational skills through the study of concrete vocabulary and idiomatic expressions. They will study the culture, geography, and daily life of various Francophone regions. Writing assignments are more varied than those of French 1. Students will use storytelling to illustrate uses of the past tense, and they will write and illustrate a children's story, which they then will read to an audience. Students will do a thorough review of the present tense before working on passé composé and imparfait. Upon successful completion of French 2, they will be given one upper school credit for the course.

## French 3

Course Number 223

*Prerequisite: Level determined by placement exam or teacher recommendation*

*Upper School Class*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 8-12*

In French 3 students practice conversation about a wide variety of topics, such as art, the environment, and the working world. More emphasis will be given to reading and writing than in the past two years. Vocabulary and composition topics are varied. Students will examine the culture, literature, and music of French-speaking Europe, Africa, North America, and the Caribbean. They will read short selections from the French-speaking world. Tenses/moods covered: past tenses, present, conditional, future, and subjunctive. As a final assessment, students will do a job interview and give a presentation to French speakers from the community.

## Latin 1A

Course Number 207

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6-8*

This course is an introduction to the Latin language, with students learning about the history of Latin and its continued use and importance in our current age. Students will also be learning basic vocabulary, noun and verb forms, and will develop reading and translation skills. Students will be working their way through Unit 1 of the *Cambridge Latin Course* reading about a family in Pompeii and their various hilarious exploits; this also serves as an introduction into Roman culture.

## Latin 1B

Course Number 208

*Prerequisite: Latin 1A*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6-8*

At the Latin 1B level students will begin with a review of material from Latin 1A and then continue their exploration of the *Cambridge Latin Course*, learning more vocabulary and increasingly complex grammar by reading more sophisticated stories from the textbook. Students will read about the destruction of Pompeii and its impact on the characters we met in Latin 1A.

## Latin 1

Course Number 201

*Prerequisite: Level determined by placement exam or teacher recommendation*

*Upper School Class*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 8-12*

This course offers a comprehensive foundation for the Latin language. Students will be learning vocabulary, grammatical structures, syntactical analysis, and will develop reading and translation skills through the *Cambridge Latin Course* textbook series, which offers a balanced mix of practice exercises and stories to read, and is highly engaging. Students will be reading about the Roman presence in Britain and Egypt and will continue to learn about the culture of the Ancient Romans.

## Latin 2

Course Number 202

*Prerequisite: Level determined by placement exam or teacher recommendation*

*Upper School Class*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 8-11*

This course continues to build upon the foundations established in Latin 1, with students continuing to augment their Latin vocabulary, learning increasingly complex grammatical structures, and honing their translation and reading skills. Students will continue to use the *Cambridge Latin Course* and will be reading about the further adventures of Quintus and his frenemy, Salvius.

## Mandarin 1B

Course Number 272

*Prerequisite: Level determined by placement exam or teacher recommendation*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6-8*

This elective course is designed for students in grades 6-8. Emphasis will continue on pronunciation and on building vocabulary. Students will continue to develop skills in listening and speaking, reading, writing, and typing. Emphasis will be on communication about daily life such as describing people, expressing likes and dislikes, shopping, talking about hobbies, colors, body parts, and so on. There will be mahjong games, Chinese chess, calligraphy writing, dumpling making, and other activities.

## Mandarin 2

Course Number 273

*Prerequisite: Level determined by placement exam or teacher recommendation.*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6-12*

This elective course is designed for students in grades 6-12. The emphasis in this course continues on pronunciation, tones, and building vocabulary. The focus will be on reading comprehension, translation, ancient poems, and storytelling. Students further develop conversation and writing skills through the study of culture, songs, and Internet resources. There will be games: Chinese go, mahjong, Chinese chess, YoGo; calligraphy writing, dumpling making, and other activities.

## Mandarin 3

Course Number 274

*Prerequisite: Level determined by placement exam or teacher recommendation.*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6-12*

This course is an elective course designed for students in grades 6-12 who want to further their study of Mandarin Chinese. Students will continue their development of conversational skills and presentational skills (both oral and written) through the study of the culture, geography, tours, history, food, festivals, regional dialects, and idiomatic expressions in Chinese people's daily life, comparisons of cultural differences and similarities. Level determined by placement exam or teacher recommendation.

## Advanced Mandarin

Course Number 277

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6-12*

The course is designed for middle school students who are heritage speakers of Mandarin or who have spent at least five years in an immersion program and have reached a high level of proficiency in Mandarin. It is meant to help them develop their skills until they are old enough to test into an upper-school Mandarin class. Upon successful completion, they will be given one upper school credit for the course per year.

## Spanish 1A

Course Offered: Year-long

Course Number 217

Grade Level: 6-8

This course is designed so that middle school students will be actively involved in learning the Spanish language. After this course, students will be able to perform the following tasks at a novice level: listening and speaking within enjoyable, engaging, and interactive activities, reading simple Spanish texts, and writing to demonstrate basic knowledge and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will learn: to introduce themselves, to introduce others, to describe someone, to ask someone's age and birthday, to give the time, the date, and the day, to express likes and dislikes, to talk about pastimes and sports, to say what they have and what they need, to describe people and family relationships, to talk about classes and responsibilities, to talk about plans, and to invite others to do something. Students will emphasize pronunciation and vocabulary. Also, they will study the geography and culture of Latin-speaking countries.

## Spanish 1B

Prerequisite: Spanish 1A

Course Offered: Year-long

Course Number 218

Grade Level: 6-8

This course is designed so that middle school students will be actively involved in learning the Spanish language. In the 1B level, students will use the first quarter of the year to review last year's work. Students will learn to: ask for personal information, respond to comments on food, make polite requests, talk about the daily routine, give directions, talk about how they feel, give advice, ask for and give opinions, say what they did and where they went, and express hopes and wishes. Also, they will study the geography and culture of Latin-speaking countries. Upon successful completion of Spanish 1A and Spanish 1B, they will be given one upper school credit for the two courses.

*Please note that middle school students who have completed Spanish 1A and Spanish 1B in middle school will be placed in Spanish 1 or Spanish 2 as determined by the department.*

## Advanced Middle School Spanish

Prerequisite: Recommendation of department

Course Offered: Year-long

Course Number 220

Grade Level: 6-8

The course is designed for middle school students who are native speakers of Spanish or who have spent at least five years in an immersion program and have reached a high level of proficiency in Spanish. It is meant to help them develop their skills until they are old enough to test into an upper-school Spanish class. Upon successful completion, they will be given one upper school credit for the course per year.

## Spanish 1

Prerequisite: Level determined by placement exam or teacher recommendation

Course Offered: Year-long

Course Number 211

Upper School Class

Grade Level: 8-9

Spanish 1 is an introductory course primarily in Spanish, which assumes no prior knowledge of the language. Emphasis is on developing the student's ability to use the language for basic communicative competence by developing the four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Culture is introduced through the videos and readings. The emphasis in the classroom is the use of oral Spanish. By the completion of the first year, students can introduce one friend to another, describe likes and dislikes, shop for food and clothing, order a meal in a restaurant, and talk about daily routines, weekend activities, classes, family, health, and holidays. Students are able to speak, read, and write in the present, past, and future.

## Spanish 2

Course Number 212

*Prerequisite: Level determined by placement exam or teacher recommendation*

*Upper School Class*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

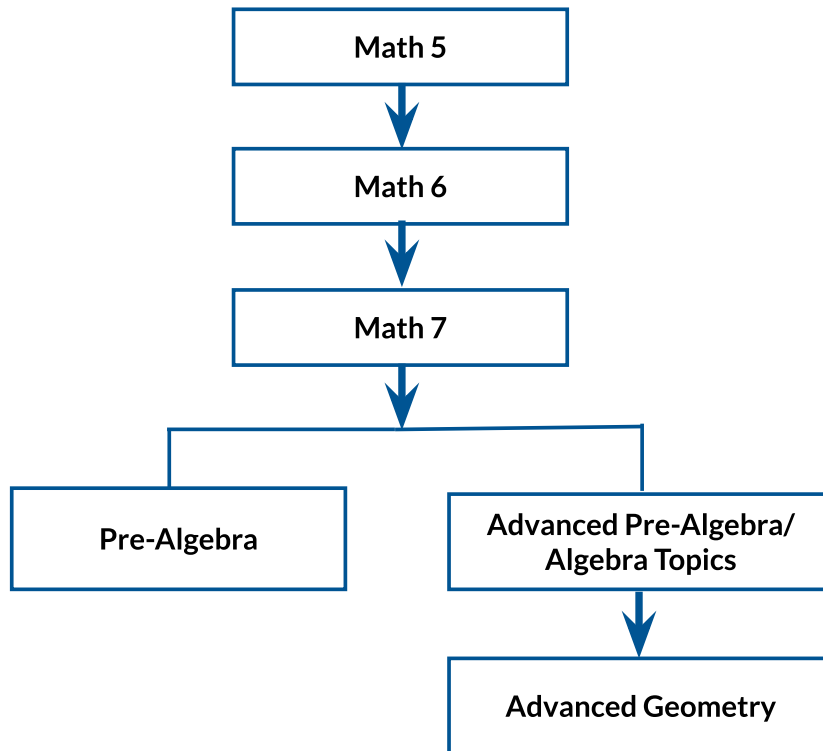
*Grade Level: 8-12*

This course is meant to strengthen the foundation for Spanish 1A, 1B, or Spanish 1 for students who wish to continue their studies in Spanish beyond middle school. Upon successful completion of Spanish 2, students will be eligible to take Spanish 3 the following academic year. Spanish 2 continues the four-skill approach through the introduction of the direct method, developing the student's ability to begin to express abstract concepts in different tenses, such as present, preterite, and present progressive. Cultural content is enhanced through the use of video material and short readings, as well as the introduction of different Latin American rhythms. Students at this stage continue writing short compositions in Spanish, with a more complex variety of cultural and personal topics, adding new grammatical and syntactical structures.

*\*Or placement determined by Language Department faculty*

# 2026 - 2027 Middle School Course Offerings

## Mathematics



### Math 6

Course Number 406

*Prerequisite: Grade level 6 student or at least 85% on grade level 5 exit exam (if Grade level 5 student).*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6*

The purpose of Math 6 is to solidify numeracy skills learned in elementary school. We introduce new computational, reasoning, and problem-solving skills needed for the continued study of higher mathematics. Students encounter a wide selection of topics and use their newly acquired skills to solve a variety of application problems. Providing a thorough preparation for Math 7, this course focuses on addition, subtraction, multiplication, division of both fractions and decimals, ratios, rates, graphing, integers, and geometry, along with one-step equations with variables.

### Math 7

Course Number 404

*Prerequisite: Grade level 7 student or at least 85% on grade level 6 exit exam (if Grade level 5 or 6 student).*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 7*

Seventh grade mathematics builds on students' foundational understanding of number sense and prepares them for the transition to more advanced algebraic and geometric thinking. During this course, students will deepen their understanding of rational numbers by performing operations with positive and negative numbers and applying these skills to real-life problem solving. Proportional reasoning is a major focus, including ratios, rates, unit rates, and percentages, enabling students to analyze and solve multi-step problems. Students explore expressions, equations, and inequalities, developing the ability to model and solve mathematical situations using algebraic reasoning. The course also introduces key concepts in geometry, such as angle relationships, area and circumference of circles, and volume and surface area of three-dimensional figures.

statistics and probability, students learn to collect, represent, and interpret data, make inferences, and assess the likelihood of events.

## Pre-Algebra

Course Number 411

*Prerequisite: Grade level 8 student or at least 85% on grade level 7 exit exam (if Grade level 6 or 7 student).*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 8*

The 8th grade Pre-Algebra course is designed to strengthen and extend students' understanding of foundational mathematical concepts while preparing them for the precision of Algebra I. This course emphasizes problem solving, mathematical reasoning, and the application of mathematics to real-world situations.

Key areas of study include rational and irrational numbers, integer operations, exponents and square roots, proportional relationships, and linear equations. Students learn to analyze and represent relationships using tables, graphs, and equations, and to interpret and compare linear models. The course also introduces the concept of functions, systems of equations, and geometric relationships, including the Pythagorean Theorem and transformations.

Throughout the course, students are expected to explain their thinking, justify solutions, and use appropriate mathematical vocabulary and tools. Emphasis is placed on developing perseverance, precision, and strategic problem-solving skills.

## Advanced Pre-Algebra/Algebra Topics

Course Number 744

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math 7 at 94% or higher each semester, and teacher recommendation. If new to TGS, 90% on 7th grade exit exam.*

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 8*

Advanced Pre-Algebra/Algebra Topics is an accelerated, year-long course designed to integrate key concepts from both Pre-Algebra and Algebra 1. This course is intended for students who are prepared for a fast-paced, challenging curriculum that emphasizes deep conceptual understanding and strong problem-solving skills. A central focus of the course is thinking and working algebraically—recognizing patterns, making connections across topics, and applying mathematical reasoning to authentic, real-world contexts. Students are expected to communicate their thinking clearly and persevere through complex, multi-step problems.

Students will explore a wide range of topics, including operations with irrational numbers, laws of exponents, and applications of the Pythagorean Theorem. The course develops fluency in solving algebraic equations and inequalities, graphing and interpreting linear functions, and analyzing real-world situations through a mathematical lens. Students will also learn to solve systems of equations, factor polynomials, use the quadratic formula, and engage with foundational geometry concepts.

Due to the accelerated nature of the course, students should demonstrate strong organizational and study skills, as well as a readiness to engage with challenging material. Successful completion of Advanced Pre-Algebra/Algebra Topics will prepare students for placement in either Advanced Geometry or Geometry in the following academic year.

## Advanced Algebra 1

Course Number 478

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Adv. Pre-Algebra at 90% or higher each semester, and teacher recommendation. If new to TGS, 90% on the Pre-Algebra exit exam.*

Upper School Class

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 8-9*

The Advanced Algebra course is a year-long accelerated upper school Algebra 1 course taught over the entire academic school year. The course is designed to accommodate students who have been successful in Advanced Pre-Algebra and are ready to transition to a significantly more abstract course. The course focuses on non-linear forms: Factoring, Quadratic and Cubic Functions, Rational Functions, and Radical Functions including the Transformation of the Graphs (of said functions) with respect to their parent graphs. Problem-Solving and Applications of each topic are an integral part of the course.

Mathematical Practices are emphasized throughout the course. Process standards include problem-solving, reasoning and proof, communication, representation, and connections. Additionally, mathematical fluency of expression is modeled by teaching adaptive reasoning, strategic competence, and command of linguistic expression using mathematical symbols and models.

## Advanced Geometry

Course Number 419

*Prerequisite: B (85%) or higher in both semesters of Adv. Algebra 1 and teacher recommendation  
If new to TGS, at least 80% on the Adv. Algebra 1 second semester final exam.*

Upper School Class

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 7-10*

Advanced Geometry is a full-year course taught over the two semesters of the academic school year. This is an accelerated course that will emphasize deductive and inductive reasoning to develop the notion of geometric proof. Students will engage in a variety of activities that extend their learning and allow them to explore geometric concepts in depth and with rigor via in-class experiments and projects. The course begins with exploring relationships and patterns in geometric shapes in the world around us. Students will then explore topics in constructions using traditional tools as well as geometry software, numerical and spatial invariants, reasoning and proof, congruence, similarity, measurement, polygons and circles on the coordinate plane as well as three-dimensional figures, and right-triangle trigonometry. This course will include an applied Statistical Unit to prepare students for the “new SAT.”

# 2026 - 2027 Middle School Course Offerings

## Physical Education

### Middle School Physical Education

Course Number - Grade 6 - 633

Grade 7 - 634

Grade 8 - 635

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6-8*

The goal of this class is to promote lifetime physical fitness through individual and team sports activities. Middle school students will show steady personal improvement in all activities throughout the year. Every day all students must keep trying to get better in all aspects of Physical Education. In each class, we shall discuss health topics, work aerobically and anaerobically, practice proper stretching and strengthening techniques, train skills in various individual and team sports, and play. Cooperative behavior and good sportsmanship are reinforced in each class meeting.

### Middle School Physical Conditioning

Course Number 698

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 8*

This year-long physical education course is designed to offer eighth grade students the opportunity to develop key fitness components to enhance their physical performance. This course will focus on building students' strength, flexibility, cardiovascular endurance, and ability to achieve their personal fitness goals. This course will move away from sport-based skill development classes that are already offered at TGS and provide an alternative that is more strictly based on fitness development for students that do not necessarily have a strong desire to participate in traditional sports. Students will keep track of improvements in areas like heart rate, weight, strength, speed, vertical jump, and cardiovascular endurance. Activities will include but are not limited to Sprint work, long-distance running, interval training, plyometrics, strength training, yoga and flexibility, biking, jump roping, speed ladders, and fitness games.

### Middle School Yoga

Course Number 658

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 6-8*

This year-long course is designed to introduce students to the basic postures, breathing techniques, and relaxation methods of yoga. Yoga is an ancient healing practice known to calm the body, mind, and emotions. Students will learn yoga poses, breathing, and relaxation exercises that cultivate a calm mind, increase strength and flexibility, improve concentration, and give students the tools to manage stress in their daily lives. This class is open to grades 6-8.

### Dance 1

Course Number 617

*Course Offered: Year-long*

*Grade Level: 7-12*

The purpose of this course is to promote a balanced dance program that enables students to develop an appreciation of the use of the body as a means of communication and expression. Students will receive instruction in basic dance techniques and choreographic principles as they engage in movement activities designed to develop an understanding of the elements of dance, and develop balance, coordination, flexibility, strength, and endurance. This course is offered to students in grades 7 - 12.

## Dance 2

Course Number 618

Prerequisite: Dance 1 or approval of instructor

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 8-12

The purpose of this course is to promote a balanced dance program that enables students to develop an appreciation of and skill in the use of the body as a means of communication and expression. Students will receive instruction in both dance techniques and choreographic principles that build on skills developed in Beginning Dance. They will engage in dance activities designed to increase movement skills (balance, coordination, agility, flexibility, strength, and endurance); develop their ability to effectively utilize the elements of dance in performance and the choreographic process; and develop their expressive performance skills. There will be performance opportunities. This course is offered to students in grades 8 - 12.

## Choreography Lab

Course Number 619

Prerequisite: Audition or approval of instructor

Course Offered: Year-long

Grade Level: 8-12

This course is designed for intermediate/advanced dance students who love to choreograph, create, and design dance. This course will focus on refining technical proficiency, artistic expression, and creative fluency. Students will engage in the processes of creation, rehearsal, and performance of original student dance choreography; ensemble skills; repertoire maintenance, and performance disciplines. A variety of opportunities will be provided for performances of completed works. This course is offered to students in grades 8 - 12.

- *The student will be able to:*
- Compose original dance works for performance applying each step of the choreographic process.
- Analyze, critique, and discuss choreography in an intelligent, productive manner.
- Learn, recall with accuracy and expressively perform original choreography and the choreography of peers and others.
- Collaborate with others in creating and performing dance works.
- Work creatively and efficiently under deadlines.
- Manage rehearsals effectively.
- Recall choreography and perform it with confidence and accuracy.
- Effectively use technical theater elements: costumes, make-up, set design, and props.

## MS Interscholastic Athletics

Fall	Winter	Spring
Girls volleyball	Co-ed soccer	Boys and girls basketball
Co-ed tennis	Girls softball	Co-ed track
Co-ed flag football		

# 2026 - 2027 Middle School Course Offerings

## Science

Science 6  
Science 7  
Science 8

Course Number 500  
Course Number 501  
Course Number 502

The TGS Middle School Science curriculum is a unique and innovative spiral curriculum that is built around progression. It is designed to:

- engage and enthuse students and foster their natural curiosity
- give students the knowledge, understanding, and ability to apply that knowledge and understanding to a range of increasingly complex and unfamiliar problems, giving them an excellent preparation for High School Science
- incorporate best practices informed by cognitive science

Students will study Biology, Chemistry and the Earth, and Physics and Space in all four years of Middle School. Each subject area is divided into three strands:

	Strand A	Strand B	Strand C
<b>Biology</b>	Ecology, Evolution and Reproduction	Systems	Cells
<b>Chemistry and the Earth</b>	Particles and States, Atoms, Elements	Reactions, Acids and Alkalis	Earth and Atmosphere
<b>Physics and Space</b>	Forces and space	Light and Sound	Electricity and Magnetism, and Energy

All strands will be studied each year. Teachers will begin the study of each subject area by revisiting previous learning, giving students an opportunity to identify gaps and consolidate their knowledge and understanding. Full details of what will be studied within each strand in each grade level will be available in the course syllabi. By regularly revisiting prior learning in increasingly complex and unfamiliar contexts students will develop a thorough understanding of the core concepts, and be able to apply them widely. This will form an excellent foundation for Upper School Science courses.

The in-class student experience is hands-on, lab-based, and has deliberate inbuilt continuity and progression throughout the grade levels. The science inquiry skills that are emphasized via the content in each grade level include the following:

- generating scientific questions
- predicting and hypothesizing
- designing investigations
- observing and data collecting
- analyzing and concluding
- interacting science with society
- communicating

The safe and appropriate use of lab equipment and technology is developed throughout the four years. A variety of techniques are used to encourage students to foster their sense of wonder and understanding of the natural phenomena that occur in our universe. Students' science literacy skills will become increasingly more complex as they progress through the program. Students will develop an understanding of the connections between science and its applications in the community and the wider world.

## Engineering

Course Number 597

*Course Offered: Semester-long*

*Grade Level: 7-8*

This course promotes critical thinking by applying computational thinking to identify and analyze complex problems. Through a series of hands-on projects, students learn a formal Engineering Design Process. Students will develop basic technical skills through teacher-led instruction, moving to more collaborative work as they address real-world problems. The course concludes with an independent capstone project, where students apply engineering skills to explore their interests in a STEAM field.

# 2026 - 2027 Middle School Course Offerings

## Social Sciences

The Middle School social science program focuses on four essential questions: What is freedom? What is a civilization? Who is America? What is a Citizen? We provide students with a global perspective of how the past and present connect through a variety of diverse representations and voices.

### Social Studies 6: What is Civilization?

Course Number 396

The sixth grade social studies course will explore the question: What is a civilization? In this yearlong course, students will explore history from the Paleolithic Age to Medieval Europe while focusing on the essential components of civilization: geography, religion, social structure, government, culture, and economy. We will study ancient civilizations of the Eastern Hemisphere, including Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, ancient China, the Indus River Valley civilization, ancient Greece, Rome, and Medieval Europe. Students will also hone their reading, writing, and research skills. By year's end, students will be able to answer the question: "What is a civilization?"

### Social Studies 7: Who is America?

Course Number 304

The seventh grade Social Studies course will explore the question: Who is America? This class will guide students through the history of the United States and its global interconnectedness from the Civil War to modern times. Woven throughout the course will be all aspects of a well-rounded Social Studies program: history, economics, government, geography, and civics. Students will analyze primary and secondary sources, learn research skills, and hone their nonfiction reading and writing. Students will think like historians!

### Civics 8: What is a Citizen?

Course Number 308

The eighth grade Civics course will explore questions such as: Why do we have government? How do governments balance individual rights with the common good? What does it mean to be a "good" citizen? In addition to daily geography, eighth graders study the historical roots of democracy through the Enlightenment and then focus on the American Revolution and Declaration of Independence to understand why our government was created. They will analyze the Constitution—examining its structure, intent, and role in shaping our government. Students explore all three branches of government, the 27 Amendments, pivotal Supreme Court cases, and the Civil Rights movement. Through critical reading, research, writing, and digital literacy development, students will actively participate, consider multiple viewpoints, think critically, and apply their knowledge creatively. By year's end, students will understand how government works, how it affects them, and what citizenship means locally, nationally, and globally.

# 2026 - 2027 Middle School Course Offerings

## Enrichment

### Chess

Course Number 80

Course Offered: Semester-long

Grade Level: 5-8

This class is geared toward the more serious chess student who is interested in improving their chess skills and playing in tournaments. Students are asked to commit to the entire semester. Goals/Topics: Combinative Tactics, Visualization, Chess Geometry, Winning Strategies, Time/Stress Management, Attacking, and Defending. Will also include speed chess, bughouse (team chess), blindfold chess, and lots of fun. Students may take one or two semesters of Chess.

### The Farmyard Classroom

Course Number (Zero Hour) 0014

Course Offered: Year-long; 1x week

Grade Level: 5-12

In this zero-hour class, students in grades 5 – 12 will deepen their responsibilities and learning with activities tailored to their individual interests and skill levels. The foundational tier of this class is tending and caring for our animals. Beyond care, this will be a building and design class: not only upkeeping doors and latches, but also creating chairs, swings, and a total environment where the aesthetics of the yard contribute to the health of the animals. To contribute to the total experience of the yard, students will use texts on anatomy, physiology, ecology, and behavior. When students link nutrition, behavior, play, leisure, sleep, arts, and the environment of the animals with their own needs in life, The Gregory School will find our students thinking of the whole of each and every life.

### Garden to Table

Course Number 0015

Course Offered: Year-long; 1x week

Grade Level: 5-12

In this zero-hour class, students will work together to turn our 6 community garden plots into a productive, food-producing farm. The produce harvested from our new school farm will go home with students and to the dining hall where everyone will enjoy the “fruits of our labors.” Growing one's own food is an act of empowerment. When students learn to grow food, and contribute that food to their family table, and our very own dining hall, this will build a grand sense of pride and accomplishment! We will study the soil, the environment, water use, and will learn exactly how to grow nutrient-rich produce in our desert climate. In addition, we hope to host quarterly farmer's markets where we can sell vegetable starts, fresh eggs from the farmyard, and any surplus vegetables from our gardens.