

THE
Gregory School

*A Tradition of
Inspiring Excellence*

**Fifth Grade &
Middle School
Curriculum Guide
2020–2021**

2020 - 2021 Middle School Curriculum Outline

Fifth Grade

Required -

1. English/Language Arts 5
2. Fine Arts (students select 3 trimester-long courses)
3. Languages (French 5 or Spanish 5)
4. Mathematics (placed by the department)
5. Physical Education 5
6. Science 5
7. Introduction to Topics in History 5

Optional - Zero Hour Block (Beginning Band, Beginning Mandarin, Chess, The Farmyard Classroom, Garden to Table)

Seventh Grade

Required -

1. English 7
2. Fine Arts (students select courses to fill both semesters)
3. Languages (French, Latin, Mandarin or Spanish)
4. Additional Fine Arts *or* Second Language (students select courses to fill both semesters)
5. Mathematics (placed by the department)
6. Middle School Physical Education, Dance or Yoga
7. Science 7
8. Social Studies 7

Optional - Zero Hour Block (Beginning Band, Beginning Mandarin, Chess, The Farmyard Classroom, Garden to Table)

Sixth Grade

Required -

1. English 6
2. Fine Arts (students select 1 year-long, 2 semester-long, or 3 trimester-long courses)
3. Languages (French, Latin, Mandarin or Spanish)
4. Additional Elective (Fine Arts, Second Language, or Middle School Skills)
5. Mathematics (placed by the department)
6. Middle School Physical Education or Yoga
7. Science 6
8. Ancient and Medieval History 6

Optional - Zero Hour Block (Beginning Band, Beginning Mandarin, Chess, The Farmyard Classroom, Garden to Table)

Eighth Grade

Required -

1. English 8
2. Fine Arts (students select courses to fill both semesters)
3. Languages (French, Latin, Mandarin or Spanish)
4. Additional Fine Arts *or* Second Language (students select courses to fill both semesters)
5. Mathematics (placed by the department)
6. Middle School Physical Education, Conditioning for Athletes, Dance or Yoga
7. Science 8
8. Civics 8

Optional - Zero Hour Block (Beginning Band, Beginning Mandarin, Chess, The Farmyard Classroom, Garden to Table, Leadership)

2020 - 2021 Middle School Course Offerings

ENGLISH

The primary goal of the entire English curriculum is cultivating independent and critical thinkers. Across the middle school, we explore analytical, critical, and synthetic thinking skills that grow in sophistication as texts and ideas increase in difficulty of subject matter and style.

English 5 (Course number - 671)

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 structures, main idea and theme. Students will learn to accurately cite and quote text when drawing conclusions. The structure of the 5th 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. Students learn to refine and build skills in 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. Students will learn and correctly employ the eight parts of speech. Basic grammar usage and mechanics will be emphasized.

Fifth grade 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.

English 6 (Course number - 6)

Sixth graders build confidence, fluency and volume in writing. Students begin the year writing free-verse poetry. In addition, sixth graders engage in a study of conventions and grammar as it relates to their own writing. The second semester transitions into perfecting paragraphs and working on memoirs and short essays. Sixth grade English culminates in a major cross-disciplinary research project that incorporates Ancient History and Skills class. English and Skills class collaborate to work on bibliographies and appropriate citation of others' work. By the end of sixth grade students should be able to correctly punctuate sentences with accuracy and confidence. Throughout the year students are invited and encouraged to read original poems and stories aloud in class. This builds confidence in public speaking and offers an opportunity for praise of their written and oral work.

Sixth grade English begins the year with a thorough study of free verse poetry focusing on analysis and literary structure. Students learn to use text evidence to support their response to literature. Students read a variety of genres including: realistic fiction, realistic fiction (written in verse), historical fiction and nonfiction. Sixth grade also offers students the opportunity to develop their oral communication skills for effective collaboration in a variety of projects: independent book groups, student lessons, and movie projects.

English 7 (Course number - 7)

In seventh grade English, students begin their study of the literary canon by reading and discussing classic works of major authors, including Laurie Anderson, Stephen Crane, Harper Lee, Tanya Stone, and William Shakespeare. Students are urged to make connections between works of literature, between literary works and the world around them, and between literature and their own lived experience. In this way, students construct meaning and synthesize information to create new understandings. Students utilize reading strategies to comprehend literary elements of the novels we read together. Furthermore, students work on using textual citations to support their understanding of literary themes evident in the literature we read.

Students learn how to write formal, five paragraph essays on a variety of standard types too. Students write informally with frequency, such as journaling and homework notes, throughout the year with the goal of achieving increased fluency, voice, clarity, and evidence of learning and insight. All essay writings are shared in Google Docs, and teacher/students have an ongoing conversation about the writing process in real time. Seventh grade students continue to work on demonstrating proficiency in grammar and mechanics.

Seventh grade English offers students opportunities to develop their oral communication skills, including class discussions and presentations. Students will utilize the Fab Lab to construct a product for presentation that represents abstract and critical thinking about the content they have read. Seventh graders continue to develop the appropriate social skills to create vibrant and respectful class proceedings.

English 8 (Course number - 8)

Eighth grade English revolves around great book discussions. In addition to reading and studying works by Shakespeare, Bradbury, and Orwell, students are encouraged to read a wide variety of American literature to deepen their understanding of the American experience, both contemporary and historical. These texts push students to acknowledge the unique perspectives of differing cultures and communities, and 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 pushes students to write longer essays and to explore alternative writing structures. Students work to master incorporating 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. Grammar is taught in the context of good writing, and good writing starts with good sentences. Students focus on the skills necessary to facilitate clear and correct expression in their written work.

Eighth grade students are pushed to take leadership roles in class discussions. They prepare questions and presentations to bring to class and are encouraged to listen to their peers' ideas and build ideas together. Eighth graders 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.

Middle School Skills (Course number - 665)

Middle School Skills introduces sixth grade students to the research, study, and technology skills that they will need as successful Gregory School students. Students will learn and practice basic study and organizational skills, such as using a planner and taking notes, while learning to use technology in the classroom efficiently and effectively. Students will also gain valuable research skills with practice searching, evaluating and referencing internet resources as well as the library's physical and electronic collections. Skills students take part in an independent reading challenge that encourages them to read beyond their comfort zone and learn the value of becoming a lifelong reader.

Intro to Creative Writing: Fantasy Literature (Course number - 685)

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. Once per quarter, every student will read a fantasy book outside of class and will analyze the work through the lens of 'reading as a writer.' 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.

Intermediate Creative Writing (Course number - 686)

Prerequisite - Permission of the Instructor

The next level in the creative writing program is open to 8th grade students who are interested in serious pursuit of the craft of writing. Intermediate Creative Writing will focus on the short story and novella, with a long poetry unit in the spring. Students will be encouraged to write fiction in all genres and styles. There will be more study of technical elements of fine prose, with more 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.

FINE ARTS

Note for all performance based courses: It is important that students publicly present their achievements. Therefore, attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory except in case of serious medical or emergency situations.

Fine Arts 5

This class provides a fifth grade student the opportunity to explore the Fine Arts in trimesters. Fifth graders will choose three courses out of the options below:

A trimester of **Art 5** (*Course number - 682*) gives students a solid introduction to art elements and principles. Students will be encouraged to develop their own visual voice as they work with two- and three-dimensional media with an emphasis on creative, critical, and self-regulated thinking skills.

A trimester of **Choir 5** (*Course number - 679*) emphasises good vocal production, reading music, diction (both in English and other languages) and performance of one or two part music. No previous musical experience is required. This class meets *with* the existing Choir 1 class (middle school choir)

A trimester of **Music 5** (*Course number - 680*) focuses on musical arts by featuring a historical survey of Western art music, common instruments used through time, and by encouraging students to recognize and experiment with rhythm, melody, note reading, performance and creation of musical compositions. Students will develop music reading skills through the recorder and guitar.

A trimester of **Theater Arts 5** (*Course number - 681*) is devoted to drama and performance skills giving students experiences which build skills in public speaking, basic pantomime, creative movement, and creative playwriting. Class performances are often topic-oriented applying to themes from the curriculum.

Fine Arts 6

This class provides sixth grade students the opportunity to explore the Fine Arts in trimesters. Sixth graders will choose three courses out of the options below:

A trimester of **Art 6** (*Course number - 4*) 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.

A trimester of **Dance 6** (*Course number - 05*) 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, develop balance, coordination, flexibility, strength and endurance.

A trimester of **Drama 6** (*Course number - 28*) introduces students to basic skills of performance involving the voice, body, and mind. Class projects include playwriting, ensemble building, improvisation, creative movement and expression, and a class play.

A trimester of **Music 6** (*Course number - 37*) focuses on music by encouraging students to recognize and experiment with rhythm, melody, note reading, performance and creation of musical compositions. Students will develop the voice and body as instruments of musical expression.

Dance 1 (*Course number - 617*)

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, 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

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 builds 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

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 theatre elements: costumes, make-up, set design, and props.

Drama 7 (Course number - 147)

This class is designed to introduce seventh grade students to the basic concepts and skills of acting. Emphasis will be placed on improvement of performance skills that involve the voice, body, and the mind. Students will perform daily activities, partner, group, and solo pieces, performances, as well as participate in a class play. There will be scripted work, improvisation, and creative writing completed throughout the semester.

Drama 8 (Course number - 149)

Students will have the opportunity to explore many diverse types of theater in eighth grade drama. Improvisation games, public speaking, mime and physical theater, and vocal performance work will fill the first semester. Second semester we will apply the skills learned first semester to a full-length evening ensemble production. Past productions have included *The Wizard of Oz*, *Aladdin*, *Peter Pan*, *Sideways Stories from the Wayside School*, *Pinocchio*, and *James and the Giant Peach*.

Art 7 (Course number - 117)

The seventh grade comprehensive semester-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 one can utilize to express oneself visually.

Art 8 (Course number - 118)

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.

Theater Production 8 (Course number - 59)

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.

Middle School Yearbook (Course number - 22)

Recommended - Digital camera

Yearbook is designed to introduce seventh and eighth grade students to electronic and print media. Students create the middle school yearbook using digital cameras and Jostens Year-tech online software. Students create book layouts, cover events and sports at school, and finish page work according to company printing deadlines. Students are expected to participate in photo coverage of after school events and sports as part of their required coursework. Students must have a digital camera for the course.

Digital Design 1 (Course number - 60)

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. This course is offered to students in grades 7 - 12.

Digital Design 2 (Course number - 61)

Prerequisite - Beginning Digital Design, Digital Design 1 or portfolio of work that demonstrates the students understanding of various PhotoShop techniques

Digital Design 2 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. This course is offered to students in grades 8 - 12.

Beginning Digital Painting & Illustration (Course number - 55)

Prerequisite - Digital Design 1 or higher with approval from instructor

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 1A/Choir 1B (Course numbers - 83/84)

Choir 1 is for younger singers with unchanged voices and/or those at a beginning level. No previous musical experience is required. Emphasis is placed on good vocal production, reading music, diction (both in English and other languages) and performance of one or two part music. This course is offered to students in grades 6 - 8. Choir 1A and 1B are individual one-semester courses; students may take one or both.

Beginning Band (Course number - 96)

Beginning Band is designed for students in grades 5 - 8 to discover and learn how to play a standard wind or percussion instrument of their choice. Students do not need to know which instrument they want to play before enrolling in the class, however once an instrument decision is made in most cases the student will need to provide their own (either rented or purchased). The students will learn how to read and play music together in an ensemble setting. Fun music -based games, songs, and activities make this course a great way to learn to play music with your friends. Students will need to bring their instruments home regularly, since personal at-home practice outside of class meetings is expected. This course is performance-based and school concerts and other performances are included in the grading rubric. No previous experience is required. This class meets 4 days a week on Day 1 and Day 2 (typically Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings) from 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

Intermediate Band (Course number - 97)

Prerequisite - Beginning Band or permission of the instructor as determined through a short audition process. Intermediate Band is designed for students in grades 5 - 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 must provide their own instruments. Private lessons outside of school with an instructor specializing in the student's instrument are strongly encouraged. Students will have several required performances throughout the school year, and students will need to bring their instruments home regularly, since personal at-home practice outside of class meetings is expected. This course is performance-based and school concerts and other performances are included in the grading rubric. This class meets twice per week during zero hour.

MS Beginning Guitar 1A/MS Beginning Guitar 1B (Course numbers - 88/181)

Open to all middle school students in grades 6- 8, this course is intended as an introduction to the acoustic classical guitar, with an emphasis on the basic techniques required to play simple tunes and strum common chords. The course will also introduce common music notation and standard music theory, including rhythm concepts, music reading, tuning and performance of simple tunes and songs. Live solo and group performances are a part of the class expectation and grading rubric. No previous musical experience is required, and instruments for the class will be provided. Seventh grade students may take only the first semester, or continue in the course for the entire year.

Intermediate Guitar (Course number - 77)

Prerequisite - Beginning Guitar or Permission of the Instructor as determined through a short audition process.

Open to all middle school students in grades 6- 8, this course will build and develop classical acoustic guitar skills and concepts introduced in the beginning course. There will be an emphasis on performing in groups using contemporary performance techniques, standard music notation and a broad range of music styles common to the guitar. Mastering several common classical, rock and pop pieces is expected. There may be exploration of electric guitar and electric bass techniques. This course is performance-based, so live solo and group performances are a part of the class expectation and grading rubric. Instruments for the class will be provided.

Advanced Guitar (Course number - 689)

Prerequisite - Intermediate Guitar and Audition, or Permission of the Instructor as determined through a short audition process.

Open to all middle school students in grades 6-8 by audition only, this course will build and develop classical acoustic guitar skills and concepts introduced in the intermediate course. There will be an emphasis on performing in groups using contemporary performance techniques, standard music notation and a broad range of music styles common to the guitar. Advanced classical guitar ensemble repertoire will be explored, along with solo playing. This course is performance-based, so live solo and group performances are a part of the class expectation and grading rubric. Instruments for the class will be provided.

LANGUAGES

French 5 (Course number - 261)

This course is designed for 5th grade students to be actively involved in learning French. Emphasis will be on communication about everyday things such as describing people, expressing likes and dislikes, food, talking about sports and leisure activities, and so on. There will be projects, games, and activities. Emphasis will be on pronunciation and on building vocabulary. We will also study the culture of French-speaking countries.

French 1A (Course number - 238)

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. We will use the present tense. We will learn about various aspects of Francophone culture.

French 1B (Course number - 239)

This course is designed so that middle school students will be actively involved in learning the French language. In the 1B level, we will use the first month of the year to review the previous year's work in French

1A. Students 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. We will continue to learn about Francophone culture and French-speaking countries. We use primarily the present tense, but will learn the past tense near the end of the year. Upon successful completion of French 1A and French 1B, and if the student continues to study French in upper school, 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 1 or French 2 as determined by department.

French for Immersion Students (Course number - 262)

Prerequisite - An intermediate or high level of French, as determined by a placement test

The course is designed for students in grades 5-9 who are native speakers of French or who have spent at least four years in an immersion program and have reached an intermediate or high level of proficiency in French. We will continue to develop reading, writing, listening, grammar, and speaking skills, with emphasis on storytelling and the two past tenses. Students also study geography, develop vocabulary, and discuss cultural topics in the French-speaking world. Upon successful completion, and if the student continues to study French in upper school, they will be given one upper school credit for the course per year. Students with an immersion background will take a placement test for this class.

French 1 (Course number - 221 - Upper School Class)

Prerequisite - Eighth grade students with no prior experience with French or who earned less than a B- in French 1B are eligible to take French 1.

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. We will learn about Francophone culture and French-speaking countries. We use primarily the present tense. Upon successful completion of French 1, and if the student continues to study French in upper school, they will be given one upper school credit for the course.

French 2 (Course number - 222 - Upper School Class)

Prerequisite - Eighth grade students who earned a B- (80%) or better in French 1B (or equivalent) are eligible to take French 2 in the upper school.

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

Latin 1A and Latin 1B (Course numbers - 207/208 - Two years of classes)

The Latin program offers a comprehensive foundation in the language from the introduction of basic vocabulary and grammar through the study of grammatical syntax and literature. Our course is based on the universal stories of Ovid. Reading comprehension, translation, and Latin prose composition are emphasized in the course. Readings from ancient authors and modern retellings focus on classical culture, history, and mythology. We also deeply study words and ancient custom. To complement the epic stories that we read, the Iliad, the Odyssey, and the Aeneid, we tell stories through oral rhetoric, mosaic tesserae, anthropomorphic toys, painting murals, and racing chariots! This course is offered to students in grades 6 - 8. Upon successful completion of Latin 1A and Latin 1B, and if the student continues to study Latin in upper school, they will be given one upper school credit for the two courses.

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

Latin 1 (Course number - 201 - Upper School Class)

Prerequisite - Eighth grade students with no prior experience with Latin or who earned less than a B- in Latin 1B are eligible to take Latin 1.

The Latin program offers a comprehensive foundation in the language from the introduction of basic vocabulary and grammar through the study of grammatical syntax and literature. Our course is based on the universal stories of Ovid. Reading comprehension, translation, and Latin prose composition are emphasized in the latter part of the course. Readings from ancient authors and modern retellings focus on classical culture, history, and mythology. This course is offered to students in grades 8 - 12. Upon successful completion of Latin 1, and if the student continues to study Latin in upper school, they will be given one upper school credit for the course.

Latin 2 (Course number - 202 - Upper School Class)

Prerequisite - Eighth grade students who earned a B- (80%) or better in Latin 1B (or equivalent) are eligible to take Latin 2 in the upper school.

This course continues the study of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, and makes the transition from fabricated Latin to the original language. In the second semester students practice their new ability to read excerpts of the original works of Ovid's Metamorphoses and Fasti. Upon successful completion of Latin 2, and if the student continues to study Latin in upper school, they will be given one upper school credit for the course.

Beginning Mandarin (Course number - 258)

Beginning Mandarin is an introductory course in Chinese. Emphasis is on speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students will learn and explore the writing system and pinyin system, known as Chinese Romanization. Students will learn concrete vocabulary along with phrases that are useful in everyday life. By the completion of the first year, students should be able to: introduce oneself, others, and family members, to describe someone, to ask someone's age and birthday, to tell time, dates, months, explain daily routines, to express likes and dislikes, to talk about colors, clothing, etc. Students should also be able to identify about 100 characters, read simple Chinese texts, and write basic notes by the completion of the first year. Students will also be able to demonstrate basic knowledge and culture of the Chinese-speaking countries and regions.

Intermediate/Advanced Mandarin (Course number - 263)

Prerequisite - Level determined by placement exam

This course is an elective course designed for students who want to further their study of Mandarin Chinese. Students who have had prior instruction in Mandarin Chinese are required to take a placement assessment in order to be enrolled in this class. The objective of the course is to facilitate communication in Mandarin Chinese, both oral and written communication. The course will include the study of Chinese stories, Chinese culture, festivals, customs, comparisons of cultural differences, etc. Students will participate in individual, paired, and group activities, scenarios, games, oral presentations, etc. Field trips will be organized for students to have substantial comprehensive practice in the language and a deeper understanding of the Chinese culture. Students will be placed into the appropriate

Spanish 5 (Course number - 676)

This course is designed so that a fifth grade student will be actively involved in learning Spanish. At the completion of this course, students will be able to perform the following tasks at a novice level: introducing themselves and others, describing someone, asking someone's age and birthday, giving the time, the date, and the day, expressing likes and dislikes, talking about pastimes and sports, saying what they have and what they need. We will emphasize pronunciation and vocabulary. Also, we will study the culture of Spanish-speaking countries.

Spanish 1A (Course number - 217)

This course is designed so that middle school students will be actively involved in learning the Spanish language. At the completion of 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 of simple Spanish texts, 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. We will emphasize pronunciation and vocabulary. Also, we will study the geography and culture of Latin-speaking countries.

Spanish 1B (Course number - 218)

This course is designed so that middle school students will be actively involved in learning the Spanish language. In the 1B level, we will use the first quarter of the year to review last year's work. With an effective review effort, we should cover most of the content in the textbook by the end of the year. Students will learn: To ask for personal information and to respond, to comment on food, to make polite requests, to talk about daily routine, to give directions, to talk about how they feel, to give advice, to ask for and to give opinions, to say what they did and where they go, and to express hopes and wishes. Also, we will study the geography and culture of Latin-speaking countries. Upon successful completion of Spanish 1A and Spanish 1B, and if the student continues to study Spanish in upper school, 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, Spanish 2A, Spanish 2B, or Spanish 2 as determined by department.

Spanish 2A (Course number - 257)

Prerequisite - Middle school students who earned a C (73%) or better in Spanish 1A and Spanish 1B, and/or middle school and high school students with instructor's recommendation are eligible to take Spanish 2A as determined by the department.

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 2A, students will be eligible to take Spanish 2B the following academic year. Spanish 2A will continue 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 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.

Spanish 2B (Course number - 264)

Prerequisite - Middle school students who earned a C (73 %) or better in Spanish 2A or by instructor's recommendation.

This course is a continuation of Spanish 2A, meant to strengthen the foundation for Spanish 1 for students who wish to continue their studies in Spanish beyond middle school. Upon successful completion of Spanish 2B, students will be eligible to take Spanish 3 the following academic year. Spanish 2B will continue the four-skill approach through the introduction of the direct method, developing the student's ability to express themselves using the three modes of Spanish: indicative, imperative, and subjunctive modes. In addition, students will learn different aspects of past tense, such as preterite, imperfect, and past progressive. Vocabulary and cultural contents would focus on topics related to health, technology, and housing, with great emphasis on writing and communication skills. Upon successful completion of Spanish 2A and Spanish 2B, and if the student continues to study Spanish in upper school, they will be given one upper school credit for the two courses.

Advanced Middle School Spanish (Course number - 220)

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, and if the student continues to study Spanish in upper school, they will be given one upper school credit for the course per year.

Spanish 1 (Course number - 211 - Upper School Class)

Prerequisite - Eighth grade students with no prior experience with Spanish or who earned less than a C (73%) in Spanish 1B are eligible to take Spanish 1.

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 are able to introduce one friend to another, describe likes and dislikes, shop for food and clothing, order a meal in a restaurant, 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. Upon

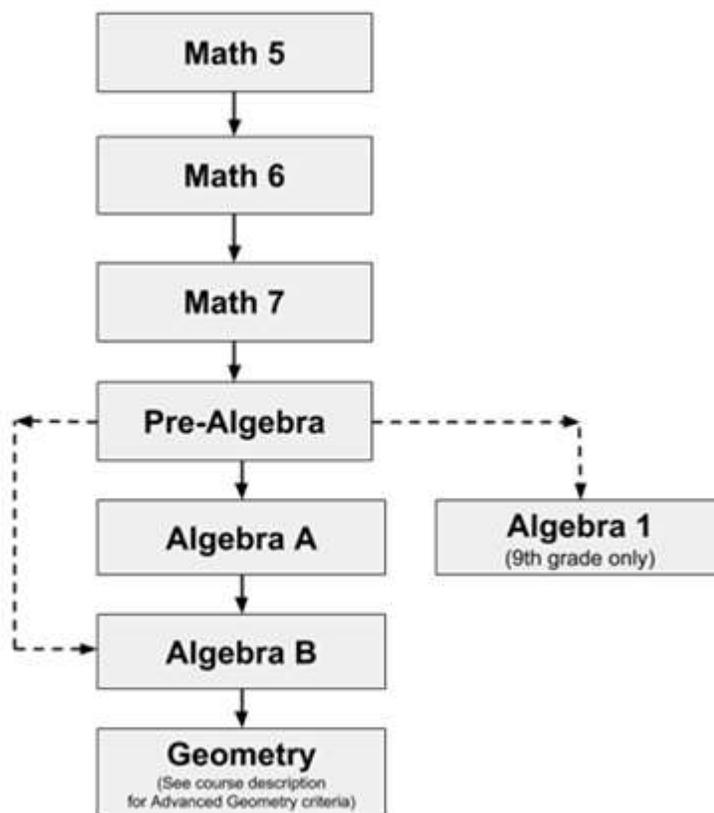
successful completion of Spanish 1, and if the student continues to study Spanish in upper school, they will be given one upper school credit for the course.

Spanish 2 (Course number - 212 - Upper School Class)

Prerequisite - Eighth grade students who earned a C (73%) or better in Spanish 1B (or equivalent) are eligible to take Spanish 2 in the upper school.

Spanish 2 continues the four-skill approach begun in Spanish 1 through the continued use of the direct method and develops the student's ability to begin to express abstract concepts such as desires, doubts, and possibilities, through the use of the subjunctive mood. Emphasis is also on commands, the contrast of the two past tenses (the preterite and imperfect), and the future tense. Cultural content is enhanced through the use of video material and short readings. Students at this stage are writing short compositions in Spanish on a variety of cultural and personal topics. Upon successful completion of Spanish 2, and if the student continues to study Spanish in upper school, they will be given one upper school credit for the course.

MATHEMATICS



Math 5 (Course number - 674)

Mathematics curriculum for fifth grade focuses on developing a solid mathematical foundation for students. Fifth grade builds upon prior student knowledge, extending multiplication and division to multi-digit numbers and developing understanding of decimals in the place value system and in operations. Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions is covered in depth. Student knowledge of geometry is extended to develop an understanding of volume concepts. Problem solving with real-world scenarios is woven throughout the curriculum. Students will be immersed in the following mathematical practices: making sense of problems, persevering in problem solving, modeling with mathematics, reasoning abstractly and quantitatively, constructing viable arguments, critiquing the reasoning of others, using appropriate tools strategically, looking for and making use of structure, and attending to precision.

Math 6 (Course number - 406)

Prerequisite - Grade level 6 student or at least 80% on Grade level 5 exit exam (if grade level 5 student). 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, geometry, one step equations with variables, area, volume, and problem solving.

Math 7 (Course number - 404)

Prerequisite - Grade level 7 student or at least 80% on grade level 6 exit exam (if grade level 5 or 6 student). The course begins with a review of operations and properties of numbers, and then moves on to a study of variables and algebraic expressions. Students then explore integers (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and rational numbers, including operations and applications with both decimals and fractions. The first semester concludes with a unit on proportional relationships, such as ratios, rates and proportions in simple geometric figures. The second semester begins with graphing on the coordinate plane and the relationship between fractions, decimals and percents. The year concludes with a study of data collection, organization and analysis, and a survey of basic plane geometry, including points, lines, angle relationships, congruence and constructions.

Pre-Algebra (Course number - 411)

Prerequisite - Grade level 8 student or at least 80% on Grade level 7 exit exam (if grade level 6 or 7 student). The Pre-Algebra course is designed to prepare students to be successful in mathematical problem solving while learning to think algebraically. It is the bridge course between Math 7 and Algebra. Pre-Algebra reinforces and extends concepts learned in arithmetic while emphasizing patterns, functions, and algebraic thinking. Topics of study include: Percent Applications, The Real Number System, The Law of Exponents and Scientific Notation, Introduction to Functions and Linear Modeling, The Theory of Equations, Transformational Geometry, Roots, Radicals and Pythagorean Applications, Volume, Surface Area, Probability and Statistics with Data Analysis.

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, command of linguistic expression using mathematical symbols and models.

Algebra A (Course number - 416)

Prerequisite - For continuing students at TGS, successful completion of Pre-Algebra. If new to TGS, at least 80% on the Pre-Algebra second semester final exam.

The Algebra A course is the first semester of an accelerated upper school Algebra 1 course taught over the entire academic school year. The course is designed to accommodate middle school students who have been successful in Pre-Algebra and are ready to transition to a significantly more abstract course of study. The course begins with an intensive review of Pre-algebra topics with an emphasis on the abstraction and application of topics in: Number systems, Percent, Theory of Equations and Algebraic Application of Geometric Principles. The focus of the course is on: Modeling and Solving Equations, Solving and Modeling Linear Systems of Equations and Inequalities and the Introduction of Polynomials.

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, command of linguistic expression using mathematical symbols and models.

Algebra B (Course number - 420)

Prerequisite - For continuing students at TGS, successful completion of Algebra A and teacher recommendation. If new to TGS, at least 80% on the Algebra A second semester final exam.

The Algebra B course is the second half of an 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 Algebra A 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, Radical Functions including the

Transformation of the Graphs (of said functions) with respect to their parent graphs. Problem Solving and Applications of each topic is 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, command of linguistic expression using mathematical symbols and models.

Advanced Geometry (Course number - 419 - Upper School Class)

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

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.”

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Chess (Course number - 80)

This class is geared for 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. This course is offered to students in grades 5 - 8.

The Farmyard Classroom - Interdisciplinary Studies of Real Life (Course number - 659)

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 the tending and care 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 study texts of 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 - 664)

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 directly 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 our very own dining hall, this will build a grand sense of pride and accomplishment! We will build a strong connection between our community garden, our science greenhouse, and the dining hall. 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 to supplying our dining hall with leafy greens, sweet potatoes, and crisp peas, we will host quarterly farmer's markets where we will sell vegetable starts, fresh eggs from the farmyard, and any surplus vegetables from our gardens.

Introduction to Leadership and Innovation (Course number - 341)

Introduction to Leadership and Innovation offers eighth grade and upper school students the zero hour opportunity to begin their understanding of leadership through the development and application of individual leadership skills. The course is based upon the notion that learning how to lead others begins with learning how to lead one's self.

The three interrelated phases of the course content are:

1. **Developing Skills to Lead Yourself:** Goal Setting and Effective Time Management; Skills of Organization and Self-Management; Avoiding Procrastination; Stress Management; Confidence

- Building; The Sixteen Habits of Mind; Growth vs, Fixed Mindsets; Problem-Solving and Decision-Making; Creativity and Innovation.
2. **Developing Skills to Lead Others:** Articulating; Active Listening; Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication; Written Communication; Public Speaking and Presentation Skills; Social Style Analysis; Finding Common Ground, Developing Rapport and Relationship Building; Emotional Intelligence; Behavior Analysis Through Choice Theory; Stewardship and the 6 C's.
 3. **Exploration of personal leadership philosophies and values.**

Advanced Leadership (Course number - 343)

In Advanced Leadership, eighth grade and upper school student students will extend their development of leadership skills, as they engage in learning activities in which they analyze positive and negative attributes of various styles of leadership including Authoritarian Leadership; Democratic Leadership; Servant Leadership; Transformational Leadership; Transactional Leadership; and Charismatic Leadership. Students will evaluate their own leadership philosophies and values as they study the careers and achievements of business and political leaders and well-known agents of change in society, who exemplify one or a combination of the above leadership styles.

The underlying objectives of the course are to empower students with the confidence and abilities to engage in leadership opportunities beyond and outside of their Gregory School experience, and to support their individual development as engaged citizens who are capable of leading and becoming innovative agents of change.

Middle School Physical Education (Course number - 623)

The goal of this class is to promote lifetime physical fitness through individual and team sport activities. Middle school students will show steady personal improvement in all activities throughout the year. Everyday 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 each class meeting. With the right mix of effort and attitude displayed in each meeting, we shall have great fun.

Middle School Yoga (Course number - 658)

This course is designed to introduce students in grades 6 - 8 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 which cultivate a calm mind, increase strength and flexibility, improve concentration, and give students the tools to manage stress in their daily lives.

Dance 1 (Course number - 617)

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, 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

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 builds 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

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 theatre elements: costumes, make-up, set design, and props.

MS Interscholastic Athletics

Fall	Girls' volleyball Boys' or girls' tennis Flag football Golf	Winter	Boys' and girls' co-ed soccer Girls' softball	Spring	Boys' and girls' basketball Boys' and girls' track
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SCIENCE

The purpose of The Gregory School (TGS) Middle School Science Program is to ensure that all students will be scientifically literate and ready for the rigors of any high school science course by the time they reach ninth grade.

The Middle School Science Program at TGS (grades 5 - 8) is taught using a framework of scientific inquiry, which 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

In addition, our science program is taught in such a way to develop the following skills:

- critical thinking and problem solving
- Systems Thinking
- teamwork and collaboration
- self-direction and leadership

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 it's applications in the community. Engineering skills are also provided throughout the program.

All of the above are emphasized in each grade level concentrating on particular content areas of science:

Science 5 (Course number - 675) - Human Body Systems, Light, Sound & Waves, Earth in Space, Seasons

Science 6 (Course number - 500) - Earth's Surface and Processes, Topographic Maps, Rocks and Minerals, River Systems, Weather

Science 7 (Course number - 501) - Ecology, Evolution through Natural Selection, Cells & Cellular Processes (Respiration, Photosynthesis & Cell Division), Genetics, DNA & RNA

Science 8 (Course number - 502) - Properties & Classification of Matter, Chemical Interactions, Atomic Structure, Periodic Table, Electricity & Magnetism, Forces, Newton's 3 Laws of Motion

Science and Engineering (Course number - 586)

This course is designed to engage seventh grade participants in science and engineering practices by promoting student directed learning and the 6Cs . First, students will learn about basic programming and engineering processes. Then, students will collaborate as a class to identify a particular problem, scientifically evaluate the problem, and design an innovative solution. Finally, students will have the opportunity to independently explore an area of science that is of personal interest to them.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Introduction to Topics in History 5 (Course number - 678)

Through the lens of a true historian, fifth grade students will explore topics ranging from: U.S. geography, early Native American Indian cultural regions, early European exploration, colonization of America, American Revolutionary War and the Civil War.

Students will analyze primary and secondary sources to understand important events. Students will research using a variety of sources and clearly and concisely write about their findings. Students will grapple with essential questions related to history such as: How are the studies of history and geography related in understanding how the land tells the story of the people? What is freedom? What are essential rights all humans should have?

Fifth grade historians will make connections from past to present, through an understanding of events and people who played pivotal roles in shaping early American history. Through hands-on projects and a variety of both historical fiction and historical non-fiction texts, fifth grade students will have an active role in discovering America's past come alive.

Ancient and Medieval World 6 (Course number - 303)

Sixth grade Ancient and Medieval World History is a year-long course that explores history from the Paleolithic Age to Medieval Europe. The year begins with an introduction to geography and the interaction between humans and the environment. Students will then learn how to analyze history in terms of geography, religion, social structure, government, culture, and economy. We will study ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, ancient China, the Indus River Valley civilization, ancient Greece, Rome and Medieval Europe. In addition, students will learn how to connect the past and present by studying current events and reading selections from nonfiction and historical fiction. Finally, the class will complete various projects in the Fab Lab.

Social Studies 7 (Course number - 304)

The seventh grade Social Studies course will guide students in the study of events, leaders, ideas and geography in economic and political systems and cultures throughout the history of the United States and its interconnectedness on a global scale. Woven throughout the content of the class will be all the aspects of a well-rounded Social Studies program: history, economics, government, geography and civics.

The course will begin with a comprehensive Geography unit that will continue throughout the year as daily bell work: Country of the Day. Upon the completion of this bell work unit, all seventh grade Social Studies and eighth grade Civics students at the Gregory School will have been briefly exposed to every country in the world!

We begin our historical studies with a review of Pre-Columbian America, Colonial America, The Revolutionary War, The Constitution, The Jeffersonian and Jacksonian Eras and the events leading up to The Civil War. Our

first comprehensive unit will be The Civil War and Reconstruction. We will then study the Industrial Revolution and Immigration, IIE (Isolationism, Imperialism and Expansionism), The Progressive Presidents, WWI, Women's Suffrage, The Great Depression, WWII/Holocaust, and finish with a look at the events that shaped the Contemporary Decades (50's to today).

Basic geography skills, cooperative learning activities, current events, and research projects are used to enhance student learning. Multidisciplinary lessons across the content areas are integrated throughout the curriculum. Students will use primary and secondary sources to obtain, analyze and question accurate and relevant historical information to better understand how and why events have happened or may happen again. We want students to learn to think like historians!

Upon completion of this course, students will have created a foundation for understanding how historical events and personalities influence and effect the present and the future both nationally and internationally and make connections between these major ideas and their own lives in our global community.

Civics 8 (*Course number - 308*)

Civics is a multi-faceted, exciting and thought provoking course. Civics is the study of the rights, responsibilities and duties of a citizen. Because the United States is a democracy, the job of a citizen is extremely important! To be an invested and informed citizen, you have to know how the country and your government functions and what your specific rights are.

Eighth grade students will be studying all aspects of Civics and Government. The class begins with a brief unit on Geography (there will also be an ongoing daily bell-work assignment that ties into geography - "Country of the Day") and Colonial America (including The American Revolution and The Declaration of Independence). Woven throughout the year will be the study of The Constitution. Students will analyze the entire document looking at its structure, intent and what it specifically does to create and monitor our government. Students will learn about all three branches of government including terms, limits, powers and responsibilities. We will read through all of the Amendments, focusing on the Bill of Rights and what they mean to Americans, and how they protect our individual rights. Students will examine the most influential and pivotal Supreme Court cases. They will learn exactly what your responsibilities as a citizen are, how you can exercise your rights, and how you can positively and negatively impact and change your country as an active and informed citizen!

This class will require active participation, experiential learning, understanding various points of view, critical thinking, the ability to be creative, and being able to transfer acquired knowledge into different applications. Students will gain a better understanding of how our government works, how it directly affects them, and what it means to them in the future: locally, nationally and globally!