



PAVVIRTUAL

CHARTER SCHOOL

Course Descriptions

Seventh Grade

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Language Arts

This course continues the development of comprehension and analysis of informational and fictional texts with an ongoing emphasis on reading strategies. Students express themselves using standard (formal) English in written and oral presentations. Analyzing and practicing the form and structure of various genres of writing enhances students' communication skills. Students study a variety of media to understand informational and persuasive techniques, explicit and implied messages, and how visual and auditory cues affect messages. Grammar, usage, and mechanics skills are deepened. Students continue to widen their vocabulary and apply acquisition strategies. Portfolios created by students provide a platform for them to set goals, monitor their progress, and reflect on their accomplishments and challenges. The course includes discussion activities that engage students in the curriculum while creating a sense of community.

Pre-Algebra

In this course, students take a broader look at computational and problem-solving skills while learning the language of algebra. Students translate word phrases and sentences into mathematical expressions; analyze geometric figures; solve problems involving percentages, ratios, and proportions; graph different kinds of equations and inequalities; calculate statistical measures and probabilities; apply the Pythagorean theorem; and explain strategies for solving real-world problems.

Life Science

The Life Science program invites students to investigate the world of living things at levels both large and small by reading, observing, and experimenting with aspects of life on Earth. Students explore an amazing variety of organisms, the complex workings of the cell and cell biology, the relationship between living things and their environments, and discoveries in the world of modern genetics. Students tackle such topics as ecology, microorganisms, animals, plants, cells, animals, species, adaptation, heredity, genetics, and the history of life on Earth. Lesson activities and assignments help students discover how scientists investigate the living world.

World History

Intermediate World History A surveys the story of the human past from the period before written records, prehistory, through the fourteenth century. The course is organized chronologically and, within broad eras, regionally. The course focus is the story of the human past and change over time, including the development of religion, philosophy, the arts, and science and technology. Geography concepts and skills are introduced as they appear in the context of the historical narrative. Students explore what archaeologists and historians have learned about the earliest hunter-gatherers and farmers and then move to a study of the four river valley civilizations. After a brief writing unit, they study the origins of Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Judaism and the eras in which they developed. The second half of the course traces the story of classical Greece and Rome, the Byzantine Empire, the origins of Christianity and Islam, and then continues through the fourteenth century in Europe, North Africa, and East Asia. Historical thinking skills are a key component of Intermediate World History. Students practice document and art analysis, conduct research, and write in a variety of formats. They also practice map reading skills and look at how historians draw conclusions about the past as well as what those conclusions are.

Math 7

Students focus on real-world scenarios and mathematical problems involving algebraic expressions and linear equations and begin to apply their understanding of rational numbers with increased complexity. The course lays the foundation for exploring concepts of angle, similarity and congruence, more formally addressed in Grade 8, as students work with scale drawings and construct and analyze relationships among geometric figures. Students also develop and apply understandings of proportional relationships.

Art

A follow-up course to Art 6, Art 7 continues students' instruction in the fundamental concepts of art, the evaluation of art, and understanding the mission of natural history museums. In this one-semester course, students explore world regions and study the unique art and architecture that defines the Medieval and Renaissance periods. Using relevant terminology, they learn how to identify and discuss formal elements, principles of design, and stylistic characteristics found in artworks from various world regions. Course content begins with a timeline of Medieval/Renaissance history and discussion of art criticism and is supplemented with hands-on activities, discussions, written assignments, and objective assessments.

Spotlight on Music

Spotlight on Music promotes successful music learning as students explore and build foundational music skills. The program includes enriching musical experiences that help students understand music concepts. Students are exposed to a variety of interactive learning activities, such as focused listening, singing, creative movement, dancing, real and virtual instruments, authentic recordings, videos, music theory exercises, and playing the recorder (grades 3–8). Spotlight on Music provides opportunities for students to make meaningful connections with math, language arts, science, social studies, and other subjects.



Family & Consumer Science

Family & Consumer Science prepares students with a variety of skills for independent or family living. Topics covered include child care, home maintenance, food preparation, money management, medical management, clothing care, and more. They also focus on household, personal, and consumer health and safety. In addition, students learn goal setting and decision-making skills, as well as explore possible career options.

Health & Physical Education

Students are exposed to diverse activities and learn a wide variety of fitness concepts that they can use in their everyday lives. Students learn skills for lifelong activities, such as strength training and power walking, as well as several options for aerobic activities. They are able to measure their progress and accomplishments through the completion of fitness tests. On completing this course, students will have the knowledge to stay fit and active well beyond middle school.