

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULA

The Bridges Academy strives to develop its program that not only meets the expectations of the Common Core curriculum but surpasses it. Reference to New York State and national standards including the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), National Council of Teachers of Math (NCTM), Next Generation Standards in Science as well as the standardized testing offered by the Educational Records Bureau (ERB) afford us the opportunity to consistently monitor, analyze and refine all aspects of our students' experience.

Sixth Grade

>> English Language Arts

Students in 6th grade ELA will be exposed to a variety of classic and contemporary literature through which their critical reading, writing, and thinking skills will be developed.

A particular focus will be placed on developing reading skills that enhance the students' ability to...

- Determine theme and main/central idea in text
- Demonstrate an understanding of explicit information in fiction and nonfiction texts (literal interpretations)
- Make inferences and draw conclusions from implicit information (figurative interpretations)
- Develop an understanding of denotative and connotative meaning
- Deepen comprehension through a close reading of text (annotating and deciphering)
- Analyze diction and voice in written text
- Compare and contrast texts, characters, topics/themes, genres, etc.
- Make text-to-text and text-to-life connections
- Identify and understand literary elements and techniques used to enhance text (plot, setting, characterization, theme, symbolism, imagery, metaphor, hyperbole, etc.)
- Apply a developed understanding of the biographical approach to reading text
- Identify and define vocabulary in context

In addition, this course will focus on developing writing skills that will enhance the students' ability to...

- Support opinions with information and details from a text
- Develop a point of view using reasoning and information from text and research
- Create informative and explanatory texts that develop an idea/topic in a logical and structured format

- Develop creative pieces that demonstrate originality and an understanding of effective technique
- Develop language that is sophisticated and in keeping with audience and purpose
- Effectively use language and structure to develop a sense of voice and fluency
- Edit and revise written work according to the fundamentals of language and usage (grammar and conventions)

Grammar and conventions will be reinforced throughout the year and will include instruction on...

- Capitalization
- Punctuation
- Nouns/pronoun use
- Verbs/verb tense
- Spelling (homonyms)
- Interjections, prepositions, and conjunctions (the use and function of)
- Syntax

Students at this level will also be encouraged to...

- Come to class prepared to participate in classroom discussions
- Engage in student-centered “Socratic Seminars”
- Enhance/lead discussions by answering questions or by posing questions and concerns
- Share ideas with peers and teachers through a variety of collaborative assignments/tasks
- Create and present multimedia projects in an effort to communicate and convey ideas and knowledge
- read the following major works:
 - The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi
 - The Adventures of Ulysses by Bernard Evslin
 - Crispin by Avi

>> Social Studies

The sixth grade curriculum is an exploration of World History from the Paleolithic Era through the European Renaissance. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in the National History Bee and the National Geographic Bee.

- Early History
 - The Ice Age & The World's First Cultures
 - The Fertile Crescent - Mesopotamia
 - The Nile River Valley - Ancient Egypt
 - The Indus River Valley - Ancient India
 - The Huang He Valley - Ancient China

- The Ancient World
 - Ancient Greece
 - Ancient Rome
 - Barbarian Invasions
- Medieval World
 - Medieval Europe
 - Rise of Islam
 - The Byzantine Empire
- The Renaissance
 - European Renaissance
 - Rise of Absolute Monarchs in Europe

Before each of the above chapters, students will construct a map of the region in study.

Throughout the course of study, students will be exposed to more advanced writing, including an introduction to writing Document Based Question (DBQ) essays. Students will be able to analyze both primary and secondary documents with the help of guided scaffolding questions. Students will also engage in the following types of writing:

- Narrative Paragraphs
- Argumentative Essays
- Narrative Essays
- Multimedia Research Reports

>> **Mathematics**

Sixth Grade students will follow-up on the basic mathematical skills they have learned in previous grades. They have mastered the four basic fundamental operations and are now ready for a more challenging year of computations, equations, and mathematical problems.

Grade 6 Math will enhance the basic math skills, number sense & operations, using formulas, and problem solving. The students will also be studying equations and inequalities which is their first introduction to the Algebra they will be using for years to come.

Geometry will also be taught, where students are to learn about the different geometric figures. The latter part of the course will be on measurements, and how to solve for perimeter, circumference, area, volume, and more.

The 6th grade math curriculum focuses on four critical areas:

1. connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems
2. completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers
3. writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations

4. developing understanding of statistical thinking.

Key Practices for Mathematics:

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.
- Attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure.
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Concepts:

- Properties of Operations
- Order of Operations
- Understanding Decimals
- Adding, subtracting multiplying, and dividing decimals
- Writing algebraic expressions
- Solving addition, subtraction, multiplication ,and division equations
- Exponents
- Prime Numbers
- Greatest Common Factor
- Least Common Multiple
- Distributive Property
- Simplifying algebraic expressions
- Multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers
- Equations with fractions
- Ratios, Unit Rates
- Understanding percents
- Percents, Fractions, and Decimals
- Finding the percent of a number
- Integers (with Negative Numbers)
- Comparing and Ordering Rational Numbers
- Inequalities
- Solving one step inequalities
- Points in the coordinate plane
- Functions
- Graphing functions
- Area of Parallelograms, triangles, and polygons
- Surface area and volume of prisms and pyramids
- Mean, Median, mode, range
- Box and whisker plots
- Statistical questions
- Frequency Tables

>> Science

Students will be engaged in an activity-based curriculum that develops their process and problem-solving skills. This course focuses on physical science.

- Introduction to Matter
 - Describing Matter
 - Classifying Matter
 - Measuring Matter
 - Changes in Matter
- Solids, Liquids, and Gases
 - States of Matter
 - Changes of State
 - Gas Behavior
- Elements and the Periodic Table
 - Introduction of Atoms
 - Organizing the Elements
 - Metals
 - Nonmetals and Metalloids
 - Radioactive Elements
- Atoms and Bonding
 - Atoms, Bonding, and the Periodic Table
 - Ionic Bonds
 - Covalent Bonds
 - Bonding in Metals
- Chemical Reactions
 - Observing Chemical Changes
 - Describing Chemical Reactions
 - Controlling Chemical Reactions
- Acids, Bases, and Solutions
 - Understanding Solutions
 - Concentration and Solubility
 - Describing Acids and Bases
 - Acids and Bases in Solution
- Motion
 - Describing Motion
 - Speed and Velocity
 - Acceleration
- Forces
 - The Nature of Force
 - Friction and Gravity
 - Newton's Laws of Motion
 - Momentum
 - Sinking and Floating
- Work and Machines
 - Work and Power
 - Understanding Machines
 - Inclined Planes and Levers
 - Putting Machines Together

- **Energy**
 - Understanding Energy
 - Forms of Energy
 - Energy Transformations and Conservation
- **Thermal Energy and Heat**
 - Temperature, Thermal Energy, and Heat
 - The Transfer of Heat
 - Thermal Properties
- **Characteristics of Waves**
 - Understanding Waves
 - Properties of Waves
 - Interactions of Waves
- **Sound**
 - The Nature of Sound
 - Properties of Sound
 - Music
 - Hearing Sound
 - Using Sound
- **Electromagnetic Waves**
 - The Nature of Electromagnetic Waves
 - Waves of the Electromagnetic Spectrum
 - Wireless Communication
- **Light**
 - Light and Color
 - Reflection and Mirrors
 - Refraction and Lenses
 - Seeing Light
 - Using Light
- **Electricity**
 - Electric Charge and Static Electricity
 - Electric Current
 - Electric Circuits
 - **Electric Power and Safety**
- **Magnetism and Electromagnetism**
 - Understanding Magnetism
 - Magnetic Fields
 - Electromagnetic Force
 - Electricity, Magnetism, and Motion
 - Electricity from Magnetism

Seventh Grade

>> English Language Arts

Students in 7th grade ELA will be exposed to a variety of classic and contemporary literature through which their critical reading, writing, and thinking skills will be developed.

A particular focus will be placed on developing reading skills that enhance the students' ability to...

- Read and comprehend increasingly complex texts
- Develop an understanding of the historic and social significance of text
- Determine theme and main/central idea in text
- Demonstrate an understanding of explicit information in fiction and non-fiction texts (literal interpretations)
- Make inferences and draw conclusions from implicit information (figurative interpretations)
- Demonstrate an understanding of denotative and connotative meaning
- Deepen comprehension through a close reading of text (annotating and deciphering)
- Analyze the impact of diction and voice in written text
- Cite clear and relevant details from text to support sophisticated analysis
- Make text-to-text and text-to-life connections
- Identify and understand literary elements and techniques used to enhance text (plot, characterization, theme, symbolism, irony, imagery, figurative language, metaphor, allusion, etc.)
- Apply a developed understanding of the biographical approach to analyzing text
- Identify and define vocabulary in context

In addition, this course will focus on developing writing skills that will enhance the students' ability to...

- Support opinions with information and details from a text
- Develop a point of view using reasoning and information from text and research
- Create informative and explanatory texts that develop an idea/topic in a logical and structured format
- Develop creative pieces that demonstrate originality and an understanding of effective technique
- Develop language that is sophisticated and in keeping with audience and purpose
- Effectively use language and structure to develop a sense of voice and fluency
- Edit and revise written work according to the fundamentals of language and usage (grammar and conventions)

Grammar and conventions will be reinforced throughout the year and will include instruction on...

- Capitalization and punctuation

- Pronoun use (subjective, objective, and possessive cases)
- Verbs/verb tense
- Spelling (homonyms)
- Interjections, prepositions, and conjunctions (the use and function of)
- Clauses and non-essential phrases
- Syntax and structure (complex and compound sentence structure)
- Consistency in style and tone

Students at this level will also be encouraged to...

- Come to class prepared to participate in classroom discussions
- Engage in student-centered “Socratic Seminars”
- Enhance/lead discussions by answering questions or by posing questions and concerns
- Share ideas with peers and teachers through a variety of collaborative assignments/tasks
- Create and present multimedia projects in an effort to communicate and convey ideas and knowledge
- **Read the following major works:**
 - Nothing But the Truth by Avi
 - Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
 - *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

>> Social Studies

The seventh grade curriculum is an exploration of American History from the Pre-Columbian Era through the Causes of the American Civil War. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in the National History Bee and the National Geographic Bee.

- **Beginnings of American History**
 - Early Human Migration
 - Natives of the Ancient Americas
 - Native American Tribes of North America
 - European Exploration
 - Formation of the American Colonies
 - Life in the 13 English Colonies
- **Forming a New Nation**
 - The Road to Revolution
 - The American Revolution
 - The Constitution of the United States of America
- **The New Republic**
 - Presidency of George Washington

- Formation of Political Parties
- Age of Jefferson
- War of 1812
- Age of Jackson
- **The Nation Expands and Changes**
 - The Industrial Revolution
 - Westward Expansion
 - The Mexican-American War
- **Civil War**
 - Tensions over Slavery
 - The Underground Railroad
 - Sectionalism
 - The Civil War
 - The Emancipation Proclamation

Throughout the course of study these topics will be addressed through a variety of activities, including the application of the following writing styles.

- **Document Based Question (DBQ) Writing**
 - Which will require the analysis of both primary and secondary sources related to the essay topic.
- **Argumentative Essays**
- **Narrative Essays**
- **Expository Essays**
- **Creative Writing**

>> Mathematics

The Seventh grade class is split by ability into a Math 7 class and Pre-Algebra (Accelerated) class that are both designed to prepare students for successful placement into an Introduction to Algebra Class or Algebra in 8th grade. Students will be placed into these classes based upon their progress during their time in middle school, along with their readiness to be challenged by more abstract work. As it moves at a faster pace, the Pre-Algebra course is offered primarily to students who have proven their ability to confidently recall and apply mathematical concepts, both in concrete applications as well as more abstract problem solving.

Topics covered in both classes include techniques in problem solving, operations with rational numbers, operations with integers, number theory, probability and statistics, algebra, geometry and measurement.

The 7th grade math curriculum focuses on four critical areas:

1. Developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships
2. Developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equation

3. Solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume
4. Drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Key Practices for Mathematics:

- **Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.**
- **Reason abstractly and quantitatively.**
- **Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.**
- **Model with mathematics.**
- **Use appropriate tools strategically.**
- **Attend to precision.**
- **Look for and make use of structure.**
- **Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.**

Concepts:

- **Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing integers and rational numbers**
- **Fractions and decimals**
- **Algebraic Expressions**
- **Solving 1 and 2 step equations**
- **Solving equations involving distributive property**
- **Solving inequalities by multiplying, dividing, adding, and subtracting**
- **Ratios, Unit Rates, Proportions**
- **Solving proportions**
- **Similar Figures**
- **Maps and scale drawings**
- **Proportional relationships**
- **Percents, fractions, and decimals**
- **Simple Interest**
- **Finding percent of change**
- **Angle measures**
- **Area of parallelogram, triangle and complex figures**
- **Circumference and area of a circle**
- **Three-dimensional objects**
- **Surface Area and Volume of prisms and cylinders**
- **Cross sections**
- **Random Samples and Surveys**
- **Inferences**
- **Probability**
- **Sample Space**
- **Compound Events**

>> Science

This course emphasizes the living environment portion of the Intermediate Level Science curriculum. The scope of the course includes such topics as cells, human physiology, reproduction and genetics, evolution, equilibrium, plant physiology, and ecology.

- **Introduction to Living Things**
 - Understanding Life
 - Classifying Life
 - Domains and Kingdoms
 - Evolution and Classification
- **Introduction to Cells**
 - Discovering Cells
 - Looking Inside Cells
 - Chemical Compounds in Cells
 - The Cells in its Environment
- **Cell Processes and Energy**
 - Photosynthesis
 - Cellular Respiration
 - Cell Division
- **Genetics: The Science of Heredity**
 - Heredity
 - Probability and Heredity
 - Patterns of Inheritance
 - Chromosomes and Inheritance
- **DNA: The Code of Life**
 - The Genetic Code
 - How Cells Make Proteins
 - Mutations
 - Human Inheritance
 - Advances in Genetics
- **Change Over Time**
 - Darwin's Theory
 - Evidence of Evolution
 - Rate of Change
- **Viruses, Bacteria, Protists, and Fungi**
 - Viruses
 - Bacteria
 - Protists
 - Fungi
- **Plants**
 - Understanding Plants
 - Classifying Plants
 - Plant Structures
 - Plant Reproduction
 - Plant Responses and Growth
 - Plants in Everyday Life
- **Introduction to Animals**

- What is an Animal?
- Animal Body Plans
- Introduction to Invertebrates
- Introduction to Vertebrates
- Vertebrate Diversity
- **Animals Life Processes**
 - Skeletons and Muscles
 - The Nervous System
 - Animal Movement
 - Obtaining Energy
 - Animal Reproduction and Fertilization
 - Development and Growth
- **Introduction to the Human Body**
 - Body Organization
 - Systems Interactions
 - Homeostasis
 - The Skeletal System
 - The Muscular Systems
 - Skin
- **Managing Materials in the Body**
 - Digestion
 - The Circulatory System
 - The Respiratory System
 - Excretion
- **Controlling Body Processes**
 - The Nervous System
 - The Endocrine System
 - The Male and Female Reproductive Systems
 - Pregnancy and Birth
- **Fighting Disease**
 - Infectious Disease
 - The Body's Defenses
 - HIV and AIDS
 - Infectious Disease and Your Health
 - Noninfectious Disease
- **Populations and Communities**
 - Living Things and the Environment
 - Populations
 - Interactions Among Living Things
 - Changes in Communities
- **Ecosystems and Biomes**
 - Energy Flow in Ecosystems
 - Cycles of Matter
 - Biomes
 - Aquatic Ecosystem
 - Biodiversity

Eighth Grade

>> English Language Arts

Students in 8th grade ELA will be exposed to a variety of classic and contemporary literature through which their critical reading, writing, and thinking skills will be developed.

A particular focus will be placed on developing reading skills that enhance the students' ability to...

- **Read and comprehend increasingly complex and culturally diverse texts**
- **Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the historic and social significance of text**
- **Demonstrate a clear understanding of explicit and implicit information (literal/figurative interpretations)**
- **Demonstrate an understanding of denotative and connotative meaning**
- **Deepen comprehension through a close reading of text (annotating and deciphering)**
- **Analyze the impact and significance of diction and voice in written text**
- **Cite clear and accurate a developed understanding of the biographical approach to analyzing text (cultural perspective)**
- **Identify evidence from text to support sophisticated analysis**
- **Make text-to-text and text-to-life connections**
- **Identify and understand literary elements and techniques used to enhance text (plot shifts, character development, tone, mood, symbolism, irony, satire, allusion, juxtaposition, etc.)**
- **Apply and define increasingly difficult vocabulary in context**

In addition, this course will focus on developing writing skills that will enhance the students' ability to...

- **Develop an understanding of rhetoric (ethos, logos, pathos) in an effort to enhance persuasive/argumentative speech and writing**
- **Develop a point of view using relevant information from text and research**
- **Create informative and explanatory texts that develop an idea/topic in a logical and structured format**
- **Gather and assess information from a variety of sources to conduct research**
- **Develop creative pieces that demonstrate originality and an understanding of effective technique**

- Develop language that is sophisticated and in keeping with audience and purpose
- Effectively use language and structure to develop a sense of voice and fluency
- Edit and revise written work according to the fundamentals of language and usage (grammar and conventions)

Grammar and conventions will be reinforced throughout the year and will include instruction on...

- Capitalization and punctuation
- Pronoun use (subjective, objective, and possessive cases)
- Verbs verb tense (active and passive voice)
- Spelling (homonyms)
- Interjections, prepositions, and conjunctions (the use and function of)
- Clauses and non-essential phrases
- Syntax and Parallel structure (compound and complex sentence structure)
- Consistency in style and tone (voice)

Students at this level will also be encouraged to...

- Engage in student-centered “Socratic Seminars”
- Become increasingly independent in developing/leading rational discourse
- Enhance/lead discussions by responding to inquiries and by posing questions that require higher level thought and analysis
- Create and present multimedia projects in an effort to communicate and convey ideas and knowledge
- Read the following major works:
 - The Lord of the Flies by William Golding
 - To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
 - Animal Farm by George Orwell
 - And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

>> Social Studies

The eighth grade curriculum is an exploration of America History from the American Civil War through the Vietnam War. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in the National History Bee and the National Geographic Bee.

- **The Nation Reunites**
 - The Reconstruction Era
- **An Age of Industry**
 - The American West
 - The Second Industrial Revolution
 - The Gilded Age

- Rise of Big Business
- Immigration
- Urbanization
- Progressive Reform
- Progressive Presidents - Theodore Roosevelt
- Women's Rights Movement
- Temperance Movement
- Early Civil Rights Movement
- **A New Role in the World**
 - American Imperialism
 - The Spanish-American War
 - World War I
 - The Roaring Twenties
- **Depression and War**
 - The Great Depression
 - FDR and The New Deal
 - World War II
 - The Cold War
 - The Korean War
- **Moving Towards the Future**
 - The Civil Rights Era
 - The Vietnam War

Throughout the course of study these topics will be addressed through a variety of activities, including the application of the following writing styles.

- **Document Based Question (DBQ) Writing**
 - Which will require the analysis of both primary and secondary sources related to the essay topic.
- **Narrative Essays**
- **Multimedia Research Reports**
- **Persuasive Essays**
- **Argumentative Essays**

>> Mathematics

The Introduction to Algebra and Algebra courses are designed to emphasize the study of multiple representations of linear functions. They include mathematical concepts for working with rational numbers, various expressions, analyzing and solving linear equations & inequalities, data analysis, polynomials and geometry. Students will use hands-on materials and calculators, when needed, in solving problems where the algebra concepts are applied. The Algebra I course culminates in a New York State Regents exam.

The 8th grade math curriculum focuses on three critical areas:

1. formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, solving linear equations and systems of linear equations
2. grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships
3. analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Key Practices for Mathematics:

- **Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.**
- **Reason abstractly and quantitatively.**
- **Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.**
- **Model with mathematics.**
- **Use appropriate tools strategically.**
- **Attend to precision.**
- **Look for and make use of structure.**
- **Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.**

Concepts:

- **Rational Numbers**
- **Irrational Numbers**
- **Cube Roots**
- **The Pythagorean Theorem**
- **Distance in the coordinate plane**
- **Solving 2 step equations**
- **Solving multi step equations**
- **Functions**
- **Proportional Relationships**
- **Linear and nonlinear functions**
- **Understanding Slope**
- **Graphing linear functions**
- **Comparing functions**
- **Solving systems by graphing, substitution, and elimination**
- **Scientific Notation**
- **Exponents and Multiplication**
- **Exponents and Division**
- **Pairs of Angles**
- **Similar Figures**
- **Angles and Polygons**
- **Translations, reflections, dilations, and rotation**
- **Transformations and similarity**
- **Volume of prisms, cylinders, pyramids, and cones**
- **Spheres**
- **Scatter Plots**
- **Modeling Data with lines**

>> Science

Working in sync with the Mathematics curriculum, the 8th grade science program will be split into two sections with one being eligible to take the New York State Regents Exam in Earth Science. To do so, students must complete 1200 minutes of laboratory work to be eligible.

- **Unit 1: Earth's Materials**
 - Introduction to Earth Science
 - Minerals
 - Rocks Earth's Resources
- **Unit 2: Sculpturing Earth's Surface**
 - Weathering, soil, and Mass Movements
 - Running Water and Groundwater
 - Glaciers, Deserts, and Wind
- **Unit 3: Forces Within**
 - Earthquakes and Earth's interior
 - Plate Tectonics
 - Volcanoes and Other Igneous Activities
 - Mountain Buildings
- **Unit 4: Historical Geology**
 - Geologic Time
 - Earth's History
- **Unit 5: Oceanography**
 - The Ocean Floor
 - Ocean Water and Ocean Life
 - The Dynamic Ocean
- **Unit 6: Meteorology**
 - The Atmosphere: Structure and Temperature
 - Moisture, Clouds, and Precipitation
 - Air Pressure and Wind
 - Weather Patterns and Severe Storms
 - Climate
- **Unit 7: Astronomy**
 - Origin of Modern Astronomy
 - Touring Our Solar System
 - Studying the Sun
 - Beyond Our Solar System

Foreign Language Curriculum

French, Spanish and Mandarin

The central communicative goals in modern language learning are listening, speaking, reading and writing. These skills are used for the purposes of socializing, providing and acquiring information, expressing personal feelings and opinions, and getting others to adopt a course of action. Both our Lower School and Upper School grades benefit from:

- An engaging and developmentally appropriate curriculum that reflects the needs and interests of the child.
- Modes of instruction that include individual and choral repetition, total physical response, paired and small group work, differentiated instruction and interactive lessons using digital media.
- Concepts presented in a way that challenges students' thinking skills; for example, instead of just naming or labeling animals, students classify them by habitat or size.
- The opportunity to enroll and be acknowledged within National Assessments, such as the National French Exam, an annual competition sponsored by American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) that ranks students of French across the country.
- The teaching of New York State Learning Standards as outlined by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) aligned with the Core Curriculum State Standards (CCSS).

Middle School students receive instruction enhanced by the standards set forth by ACTFL:

- Communication
 - *Interpersonal mode*: participate in basic conversations (oral and written) in a variety of familiar and predictable topics, using isolated words and learned phrases.
 - *Interpretive mode*: comprehend short written or oral exchanges on topics that use learned vocabulary and grammatical structures.
 - *Presentational mode*: present using learned phrases and expressions (written or oral) on familiar topic
- Cultures, Connections & Comparisons
 - Describe and reproduce common practices of other cultures
 - Summarize information gathered from resources connected to other content areas (i.e: current events)
 - Study similarities and differences of basic structural patterns of student's own language and the target language. (i.e: Latin roots, cognates)

- Structure
 - Articles, nouns, adjectives, subject pronouns, *tu* vs. *vous*, present tense, *er, ir, re* verbs, irregular verbs, past tense, negation, possessive adjectives, yes/no questions, commands, prepositions, adverbs
- Context
 - Personal information, greetings/leave-takings, alphabet, numbers, calendar, weather/seasons, time/schedules/24 hour clock, emotions/feelings, expressions of well-being, opinions, sports/leisure activities, food/drinks/cafés, school, celebrations, nationalities, professions, geography, currency, basic health, parts of the body

6th-8th Grade Physical Education, Music, Fine Art Curricula

Physical Education

6th – 8th Grade

Fitness and Nutrition

- Fitness testing
- Cardiovascular endurance
- Muscular Strength and Endurance
- Flexibility
 - Create a self fitness plan
 - Balance of proper nutritious foods and exercise

Manipulative Skills

Demonstrate proficiency in:

- Throwing and Catching
- Kicking and punting
- Passing and shooting
- Dribbling
- Volleying and striking
- Tumbling

Cooperative Games/Team Building

- Working together

- Communication
- Problem-solving skills
- Leadership and listening
- Critical thinking
- Good Sportsmanship

Sports Skills and Activities

- Understanding and demonstrating strategy in games
- Understanding rules of various sports
- Having a basic understanding of various team sports and being able to demonstrate the basic and advanced skills required to play:
 - Soccer
 - Football
 - Team Handball
 - Basketball
 - Scooter Hockey
 - Volleyball
 - Badminton
 - Gymnastics
 - Lacrosse
 - Kickball
 - Wiffle ball

Music

The students will focus on:

- Genre studies
- Exposure to historical figures in music and their cultural significance
- Recognizing historically significant pieces of music
- Study of multicultural music and the cultures of the countries studied
- Performing pieces of music individually or as a group
- Performing music either vocally or instrumentally

Recorders

The students will focus on:

- Fluency in reading lines and spaces on a staff in the treble clef
- Demonstrating expressive qualities of music such as dynamics and tempo through playing instruments
- Perform on an instrument individually or as a group

Band/Lessons

The students will focus on:

- Performing music with technical accuracy and stylistic expression, such as tempo and dynamics
- Demonstrate performance decorum, such as stage presence, attire, and behavior

- Demonstrate audience etiquette appropriate for venue, purpose, and context
- Apply teacher provided and collaboratively developed feedback to evaluate ensemble performances.

Chorus

The students will focus on:

- Performing music with technical accuracy and stylistic expression, such as tempo and dynamics
- Demonstrate performance decorum, such as stage presence, attire, and behavior
- Demonstrate audience etiquette appropriate for venue, purpose, and context
- Display appropriate posture and breathing techniques for performing ensembles
- Apply teacher provided and collaboratively developed feedback to evaluate ensemble performances.

We teach New York State and National Standards in Music Education.

Fine Art

Both our Lower School and Middle School grades benefit from:

- Learning problem solving skills and building their confidence
- Small class size ensures individual attention and help with drawing skills, painting techniques, sculpting with clay
- A non-competitive environment; every child is talented in their own unique way
- Students develop concentration and observation skills
- Fun, age-appropriate curriculum keeps the students engaged
- Students learn about the proper use of artist mediums
- Introduction to color theory and art history
- Watch appropriate videos on the subject matter or artist of the week
- Explore art from various historical periods and world cultures
- We teach New York State Department of Education standards in Fine Art:

What does NY State require children to learn in the area of Fine Art? "Students will make works of art that explore different kinds of subject matter, topics, themes, and metaphors. Students will use a variety of art materials, processes, mediums, and techniques, and use appropriate technologies for creating and exhibiting visual art works."

MIDDLE SCHOOL FINE ART CURRICULUM focuses on:

- Drawing and painting animals, people, landscapes and master artist works.
- How to use chalk and oil pastels, watercolor paints, markers, colored pencils.
How to blend the medium for a more 3-dimensional effect
- Combining mediums, learning which mediums work well together
- Learning color wheel: primary, secondary, complementary, tertiary, neutral colors
- Understanding positive and negative space

- Drawing proportions of the face and the human figure
- Elements of Art: line, shape, color, value, texture, form and space
- How to choose a medium for a project and what types of brushes to use for each type of paint
- Painting on canvas
- Using clay to make animals
- Building art appreciation by viewing artworks by famous artists and re-creating an artwork
- One and two point perspective drawing
- Introduction to photography
- Understanding the process of printmaking
- Creating a collaborative project with the class for our Art Auction
- Preparing artwork to be displayed in the three yearly art shows
- How to use technology in Art
- Learning about careers in the Art field
- Art Portfolio preparation for those looking to continue art in High School