



# **HORIZON HONORS**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**2018-2019**

**Scheduling Handbook**

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# **HORIZON HONORS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **COMMUNITY**

Horizon Honors Secondary School is comprised of Horizon Honors Middle School, grades 7-8, and Horizon Honors High School, grades 9-12, and is chartered by Horizon Community Learning Center (HCLC). We are located in the Ahwatukee/Foothills area of Phoenix. Horizon Honors students come from all areas of the valley. HCLC celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> year of operation in 2016. HCLC is a tuition-free, public charter school providing continuous learning from kindergarten through high school. Of the 1500 students on campus, 280 are members of Horizon Honors Middle School, and 450 are members of Horizon Honors High School. Horizon Honors is accredited by North Central Association AdvancEd. Horizon Honors Secondary School exceeds all state standards placed on public schools, including the areas of curriculum, student achievement, fiscal management and public accountability. The school provides a rigorous education for university bound students and is rated an "A" school by the AZ Department of Education.

## **CLASS STRUCTURE**

Horizon Honors offers two semesters per year. Typical students attend 8 class periods. Classes are scheduled in 85-minute blocks, some meeting alternate days, four periods per day.

## **ARIZONA'S COLLEGE AND CAREER READY STANDARDS (ACCRS)**

Horizon Honors has always aimed high with the expectation of graduates pursuing a college education. In fact, we have been preparing students for the university experience, including the elite university track, so the onset of the ACCRS is in complete alignment with the school mission and vision for our students. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, are evidence-based, aligned with college and work expectations and include rigorous content and skills reflecting the knowledge that our young people need for success in college and careers. The standards help students, parents, and teachers by setting clear and realistic goals for success.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE PLACEMENT**

Seventh grade courses are especially designed to meet the needs of students transitioning to middle school. Middle School students who show readiness for an honors level course will receive advisement by Horizon Honors administration or faculty. To be eligible for an honors course, students must have teacher recommendation, meet grade and class prerequisites, pass the placement rubric, and earn proficient scores on the most recent appropriate AZMerit tests prior to enrolling in an honors class. Students who need accommodations or curriculum modifications may be best served in a grade level course, depending on ability.

## **HONORS FOCUS**

Horizon Honors Middle School aligns with the National Collegiate Honors Council's expectations for university honors course pedagogy **at an introductory level**. Most honors courses will have the following objectives or some variation in the delivery of the content:

1. Discussion and writing are hallmarks of honors classes. Students become better writers by using writing, both in class and out, as a means to express their ideas.
2. Honors program courses are discussion-oriented rather than lectures. The instructor provides background to inform the discussion and guide the research, as students are given time in advance to prepare their responses in writing.
3. Students develop the ability to think about a broad range of ideas and come to understand how scholars and artists work by reading and responding to primary source material, by exploring issues and problems in depth rather than quickly and superficially, and by being carefully exposed to and guided through the methods of many disciplines. Students learn to see the broad implications of each issue, as well as learn to analyze and synthesize the material.
4. Students become more independent and critical thinkers, demonstrating the ability to use knowledge and logic when discussing an issue or an idea, while considering the consequences of their ideas for themselves, for others, and for society. The classroom environment is open to many perspectives and points of view, where students are encouraged to take intellectual risks and feel safe doing so.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION & SECTION 504**

Horizon Honors special education and Section 504 services are provided based on the student's individualized education plan (IEP) and/or 504 Accommodation Plan.

## **GETTING INVOLVED**

### **ATHLETICS**

HHMS is a member of the VCSL Middle School League. Our student/athletes participate in games against other middle school teams in our AIA region.

### **SPORTS OFFERED:**

Girls: Volleyball, Basketball, and Softball

Boys: Basketball and Baseball

Co-Ed: Cross Country, Spirit Line, and Soccer

### **CLUBS**

We provide our students with a wide variety of clubs to meet their diverse needs. Clubs vary from year to year based on student interest. See our website for the Student Handbook, which includes an explanation of all of the clubs.

## **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Horizon Honors Middle School Student Council organizes and plans social activities and events that are developmentally appropriate for their age. These include small pep rallies, evening socials, and community service events.

## **PERFORMING ARTS**

Horizon Honors offers comprehensive Band, Chorus, Guitar, and Drama programs that are competitive with other middle and high school programs of any size throughout the state. There are several performing arts groups, with placement based on ability level. The groups have several concerts/performances each year for the school community and some participate in local music festivals and regional and state music auditions. The afterschool Theatre Arts program performs Broadway style musicals and classic plays each year involving students at all skill levels in acting, singing, technical skills, and leadership.

# **More Important Things to Know**

## **Attendance Requirements**

To receive credit in a class, a student cannot miss more than 10 days a semester. This includes both excused and unexcused absences. When students miss class it is impossible for the teacher to replicate all of the material. Any student who misses more than 10 class periods of the same class in one semester will not receive credit for the course and may be withdrawn.

**Excused Absences:** Students with excused absences will be given one class contact day for each day of absence to make up any missed assignments. If an assignment was due on the first day of student's excused absence(s), that assignment is due upon student's return to class.

**Unexcused Absences:** An unexcused absence will result in a zero for all work done in class that day.

**Tardies:** It is also important for students to be on time to class each day. New instruction and review of critical material is missed if a student is late to class. Three unexcused tardies will result in a detention. Excessive excused tardies will be addressed with administration.

## **Books, Materials and Supplies**

Library books are checked out for a 2-week period. Textbooks are also checked out through the Media Center. Any books lost or damaged must be paid for before any other materials are borrowed. Final grades, transcripts and promotion certificates will be held until the books are returned or fees are paid. A supply list is available on the Horizon Honors Secondary website describing the necessary materials for each class. Students will also need separate PE clothes, as listed in the dress code. Locks for locker use during PE are available in the front office for a rental charge of \$5. Band and Chorus classes also require specific uniforms.

## **School Store**

The Eagle's Nest is open to middle school students from 2:35 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Students can purchase a variety of food items, drinks, school supplies and Horizon Honors fan gear.

## **Fees**

Some elective classes require fees for consumable supplies. The fees are listed in the Scheduling Handbook and on the course request form. Students who cannot afford fees may apply for financial assistance through our finance office. Fees must be paid by the first day of classes, or the students will be re-scheduled into a non-fee course. Any unpaid fees must be taken care of before promotion or at the time of withdrawal. MS students with outstanding fees or materials will not be allowed to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion exercises.

## **E-mail**

You can email Horizon Honors staff at: [firstname.lastname@horizonclc.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@horizonclc.org). All email addresses are posted on Horizon's website: [www.horizonclc.org](http://www.horizonclc.org). All students at Horizon are issued their own school email addresses to be used for school purposes only. Their addresses are set up as: [firstname.lastname@student.horizonclc.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@student.horizonclc.org).

## **PowerSchool and Google Classroom**

PowerSchool is a grade management program. Students and parents can use PowerSchool to track progress throughout the quarter and semester. Google Classroom facilitates academic communication between students and teachers. Students can view classroom announcements, access assignments, and organize their homework via the Google Classroom tools. Parents are encouraged to request access to their child's Google Classroom.

## **Homework Over Breaks**

All courses may assign homework over a break but no greater in magnitude than an assignment typically completed over a weekend.

## **Community Service - Middle School**

Although not required, Horizon Honors Middle School encourages students to get in the habit of completing community service. Horizon Honors would like to help students gain valuable life skills, as well as assist in the college scholarship search, by encouraging community service. Students who perform supervised community service on a regular basis can document the hours and submit a copy of the form to the counseling offices. Students who achieve supervised service can receive a notation of it on their transcript. Through e-blasts and the website, Horizon Honors provides information to students about many local organizations that need teen volunteers.

# GRADING POLICY MIDDLE SCHOOL

The following grading scale is utilized at Horizon Honors Middle School:

Percentage	Letter Grade	Explanation
90-100	A	Superior
80-89	B	Above Average
70-79	C	Average
60-69	D	Below Average (Not passing)
0-59	F	Failure
	P	Passing

Successful completion requires passing classes with a “C” or better. If a student earns lower than a C in an honors course, he/she may be removed from the course at the next grading period and moved to a standard level course. Incomplete coursework must be made up within the following quarter; the deadline will be determined between the teacher, parent and student. Failure to do so will result in the earned grade, reflecting the zeros for the outstanding coursework. Middle School students who do not pass risk retention. Students will not receive a promotion certificate to attend high school unless they successfully complete their K-8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum.

## PROMOTION CRITERIA

Humanities	2
Math	2
Science	2
Scholastic Lab	2
Technology	1
Electives	2-5

To enter high school in Arizona, all students are required to earn an 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion certificate. Students must successfully complete the entire K-8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum, and a comprehensive review of all school records will occur before a Horizon Honors Middle School certificate will be issued.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL REMEDIATION

Students may only be enrolled full time in one middle school; therefore, remediation must occur during summer break. Students who fail a semester or more of a class are required to complete the remediation of that class prior to the first day of the following school year. Students will be placed in the failed course until successful completion of the course is brought back. Failure to remediate may jeopardize promotion to high school on time. Summer school or correspondence may be utilized for remediation, although Horizon Honors is not responsible for remediation or the costs associated with alternative courses. **Students must obtain counseling staff signature and approval prior to signing up for any remediation course.**

## GRADES/ILP CONFERENCES

All parents and students must attend Individual Learning Plan (ILP) conferences. PowerSchool for parents and students is available to monitor student progress online. All grades, including quarter and semester final grades, are found online. PowerSchool is a helpful tool to see student grades, but it does not replace the need for students to keep track of upcoming assignments. Please refer to each course syllabus for specific grading criteria. GPA is generated on a 4.0 scale for Middle School students.

## HIGH SCHOOL COURSES TAKEN BEFORE 9TH GRADE

Credit recorded to the high school transcript must be earned during grades 9-12. The only exception granted is if students pass the ACE test (Accelerated Credits by Examination) in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Horizon Honors. Credit can be earned and applied to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade transcript. The letter grade is calculated into the high school GPA. Horizon Honors will honor credit taken in middle school for advanced placement, although if a student transfers to another school, the receiving school may not award credit to any course taken prior to high school, depending on school policy. **NCAA** regulations dictate that students continue to take the traditional number of classes required beginning in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year and only recognizes classes/credits taken from grades 9-12. Some scholarships are based on students completing requirements starting in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year. Students who do not follow Horizon Honors class recommendations risk potential non-admissions into universities, loss of scholarships or inability to play athletics in college.

## GRADE REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

To be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, students must have a GPA of at least a 2.0 and may not be failing any classes during the season or pre-season. Refer to the specific sport or activity guidelines for more information.

## Class Scheduling Guidelines

Students will be asked to complete a course request form to schedule classes. Official schedules will be available at the beginning of the school year. All Horizon Honors classes are yearlong. The counseling staff will attempt to accommodate classes requested, but course offerings/scheduling may make some class requests unfeasible. Please choose your classes carefully. Not all classes are offered every year.

### Minimum/Maximum Course Load

Middle School students must enroll in 7 class blocks and one scholastic lab. **NO EXCEPTIONS** to minimum course requirements.

### Class Size Variables

Class sizes can vary. The average class size is 22 students per teacher. Every attempt is made to cap classes at 30 students. If a course does not have at least 15 students we may not be able to hold that course during that year. Students wishing to enter a class that has been closed will be placed on a wait list.

## **Scholastic Lab**

Due to Horizon Honors' rigorous course load, students in middle school will attend Scholastic Lab. To support students in the highest level of achievement, staff commit to sponsoring a scholastic lab within the school day. Students will receive ILP goal assistance to foster confidence, improve study skills, and provide tools for future success (AZCIS). Students will have an opportunity to have support for their academic courses within the school day. All students, regardless of grade, will be allowed to request one Scholastic Lab. Students may not have more than two Scholastic Labs and eligibility for a second Scholastic Lab will be determined by the administration. For 7<sup>th</sup> grade and incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, the required Scholastic lab is paired with Digital Citizenship & Technology. Some high school level math courses also pair with a Scholastic Lab.

## **Schedule Adjustments**

Schedule adjustments are made only for direct academic need and/or to meet promotion requirements. If you require a schedule change due to incorrect academic placement, you must apply for this change within the first 10 days of the school year. No further schedule changes can be made after this date in order to utilize all valuable class instruction time. Students must have parent permission to pursue a schedule adjustment. All schedule adjustments are subject to administrative approval.

## **Class Requests-Learning Environments**

Requests for specific learning environment must be submitted with the Course Selection Sheet. We are unable to process learning environment choices after the start of the school year due to balancing class sizes and ability grouping.

## **Block Scheduling**

Horizon Honors offers a comprehensive educational program. Horizon Honors has found that block scheduling best prepares students for college. Classes will be formatted in a two day schedule, Silver and Blue. On Silver days, students will attend periods 1, 2, 3 and 4. On Blue days, students will attend periods 5, 6, 7 and 8. Most classes are 90 minutes in length. Announcements and advisory topics are covered in blocks 2 and 6.

### **Middle School Bell Schedule\***

\*See Sample Schedules by grade level in Course Description section

<b>Silver Day Blocks</b>		<b>Blue Day Blocks</b>	
1	8:00-9:30	5	8:00-9:30
2	9:33-11:08	6	9:33-11:08
Lunch	11:08-11:39	Lunch	11:08-11:39
3	11:42-1:12	7	11:42-1:12
4	1:15-2:45	8	1:15-2:45

# **Tips for Success in Middle School**

## **Soarin' Eagle Day**

Soarin' Eagle Day is a unique day that all secondary students experience on the first day of school. Students are asked to start their day in their 5<sup>th</sup> block classes. From there, students attend mini-workshops designed specifically for their grade level, including an assembly with our Secondary Principal and built in social time. These mini-workshops are a great opportunity to help students start off the year on a positive note by meeting adults here at Horizon Honors Middle School that they can use as resources and support. Be ready to participate 110%!

## **Lanyards**

All students are required to wear a school-issued lanyard and photo I.D. at all times while on campus. Students who are not wearing their lanyard/photo I.D. will be issued a detention for non-compliance and will be required to wear a temporary badge with their name for the remainder of the school day. Avoid this problem by always placing your lanyard in your backpack when you leave campus each day. Replacement lanyards and I.D.s may be purchased in the front office for \$5 each.

## **Lunch**

There is open seating in the courtyard with indoor seating options available for middle school students. School lunches through the lunch program are available on the first day of school; however, please remember that the order deadline for the lunch program is the Friday before. Students have access to vending machines for cold drinks, as well as microwaves for warming up lunches brought from home. Sit with others and make new friends.

## **Parent Universities**

Parent Universities are special opportunities for parents, but not for students, to get a head start on the various subjects of interest for the middle school level. We offer Parent Universities regarding the transition to 7<sup>th</sup> grade in July, as well as an Early College Planning 101 Parent University in late fall. Be sure to watch the e-blasts for further information about specific dates.

## **Best Use of Scholastic Lab Time**

Follow the guidelines set by your teacher. Scholastic Lab time, when used effectively, is an amazing tool for aiding in a student's success in middle school. Some tips for maximizing your time in Scholastic Lab are:

- Make it a weekly practice to empty out old papers in your binder/folders/backpack to keep organized.
- Make a realistic goal at the start of each scholastic lab period to get work done.
- Work with your Scholastic Lab teacher to set your goal and prioritize your assignments. Utilize peer support for studying for tests, editing essays or collaborating on group projects.
- Use this time to e-mail your teachers with any questions you may have about assignments.
- Make up absent work and quizzes/tests.
- Take advantage of the AZCIS\* curriculum that is given during Scholastic Lab to start narrowing down your area of focus for academics and beyond school. Every student has his/her own individual login for this valuable career planning tool.

## **After School Support**

Teachers are available after school from 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for after school support. Students can come in to get questions answered, work with the teacher on assignments or test prep, or just quietly work on homework. If your teacher is not available on a particular day, others teachers in that department will be available. Students are encouraged to utilize this valuable time for support. Technology is typically available during this time for student use.

## **Organization & Time Management**

Good organization and time management skills can help you set the year off on the right foot. These are some best practices:

- Use ONE binder for ALL classes, regardless of Silver or Blue day. This eliminates the possibility of leaving the appropriate binder at home thinking it was the alternate day's schedule.
- Use a brightly colored homework folder for ALL of the homework for ALL of your classes. This way, you always know where your homework is because it's the same place for all classes.
- Plan to work on homework the night it is assigned. The information is fresh in your mind, and it affords you the opportunity to reach out to the teacher to get questions answered before the assignment is due.
- Use a planner system that works for you, whether it is a paper planner, the Google Classroom Calendar or To Do List, the Google Calendar through your student e-mail account and Google Classroom, or something else that works better for you. If you choose a paper planner, keep it in your homework folder.
- Make the best use of your scholastic lab time. (See above.)

## **Growth Mindset and Performing Your Personal Best**

Remember, we are all on our own individual path. What is right for you may not be what is right for someone else. It is important to always focus on improvement and growth and what that means for you, and not anyone else. One word that you need to include in your vocabulary is "yet". Instead of "I did not earn a proficient score on AZMerit", try "I did not earn a proficient score on AZMerit **yet**." And then take the steps to help yourself in the growth process. Reach out to your teachers, Student Advisor, and/or Admin Team. Even as adults, we never stop learning, growing and improving.

## **Best Practices for Middle School**

- Know Horizon Honors' attendance policy, code of conduct and dress code, which is located in the Middle School Student Handbook on the school website.
- Make your 6-year plan of middle school and high school courses needed to graduate.
- Work hard to earn good grades.
- Perform at your highest ability level on AZMerit—prerequisite for many courses.
- Start participating in volunteer activities to prepare for high school community service. These activities can be added to the extracurricular portfolio.
- Parents should attend Parent Universities, including: *7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation* in July and *College 101*.
- Complete personality profiles on the Arizona Career Information System (AZCIS\*) website to explore college majors, colleges and careers.
- Attend the *Chart Your Course* Infosession to prepare for high school.

## **Look Ahead to Freshman Year**

- Know Horizon Honors' High School attendance policy, code of conduct and dress code, located in the High School Student Handbook on the school website.
- Revise your 4-year plan of high school courses needed to graduate.
- Grade point averages (GPA) start in 9th grade to count toward college admissions, scholarships and grants.
- Work hard to earn good grades.
- Perform at your highest ability level on AZMerit—prerequisite for many courses.
- Realize any semester grade that is a D or F will result in having to repeat the class, either in summer school or the following year. Repeating the following year could result in delaying graduation.
- Discuss career and college plans with your parents.
- Read and save any reports or information sent from the school. Start an academic and extracurricular portfolio about you. Participate in community service to add to your extracurricular portfolio.
- If you are behind in credits at the end of the year, make a remediation plan.
- Encourage your parents to attend Parent Universities, including: *Freshman Orientation* in July.
- Complete personality profiles on the Arizona Career Information System (AZCIS\*) website to explore college majors, colleges and careers.

\*Note: All students in Arizona are required by the State to complete curriculum from AZCIS (Arizona Career Information System).

## Secondary Course Planning

Please map out your curriculum for the next 6 years of secondary school. This is your draft to keep for future reference.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Humanities		Humanities	
Math		Math	
Science		Science	
DC/Tech* & SLAB*		SLAB*	
Elective		Elective	
Elective		Elective	

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

English		English	
Math		Math	
Science		Science	
Spanish		Spanish	
PE		Social Studies	
SLAB*		SLAB*	
Elective		Elective	
Elective		Elective	

### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

English		English	
Math		Math	
Science		Gov/Econ	
Social Studies		Optional Science	
Optional Foreign Language		Optional Foreign Language	
Elective		Elective	
Additional Core Subjects		Additional Core Subjects	
SLAB* or Elective		SLAB* or Elective	

### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

\* DC/Tech = Digital Citizenship/Technology; EL = Elective; SLAB = Scholastic Lab

# Student Self-Reflection for Honors Placement

Fill in the blank for each subject in which you are considering signing up for an honors course. It could be that a science environment as described would be a great match for you, but a social studies environment like this would be less acceptable or vice versa. Please give yourself the time to carefully think through these statements.

## In this subject, am I an Honors student?

1. In the subject of \_\_\_\_\_ I enjoy explaining my thinking to others.
2. In the subject of \_\_\_\_\_ I enjoy homework that is preparation for discussion in class even if it involves extensive research and writing.
3. In the subject of \_\_\_\_\_ I enjoy solving word problems when I am NOT told what to do step by step.
4. In the subject of \_\_\_\_\_ I enjoy attempting to answer the “why” question.
5. In the subject of \_\_\_\_\_ I enjoy finding alternative ways to solve problems.
6. In the subject of \_\_\_\_\_ I enjoy being challenged to find multiple paths to the correct answer.
7. In the subject of \_\_\_\_\_ I enjoy a class structure where the instructor is the guide and facilitator and I am more responsible for my own learning.
8. In the subject of \_\_\_\_\_ I enjoy wrestling with ambiguity.
9. In the subject of \_\_\_\_\_ I enjoy learning for the sake of learning.

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Descriptions

Classes are listed sequentially by grade level. All courses adhere to the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards (AZCCRS), unless indicated otherwise. Courses will only be offered if enrollment is above the minimal class number.

## HUMANITIES

### Humanities 7

In Humanities 7, English Language Arts and Social Studies Literacy Standards are integrated to develop an environment that fosters an awareness of the global relevance of literacy skills. Students will read challenging complex pieces, including literature, and primary and secondary source material from the Renaissance and Enlightenment Period to the beginnings of the colonies, the Revolutionary War, the Early Republic, the foundations of the U.S. government, and through the Antebellum Period. Students will compare and contrast different interpretations of a topic (including various visual mediums), identifying author choices in presenting key pieces of information. Students will trace the development of an argument and assess the validity of the evidence. By the end of Humanities 7, students will recognize the interplay of key components within a text and compose objective summaries. Students will write arguments, acknowledge opposing claims, and use and cite relevant evidence. The development of writing includes using the writing process and writers' workshop strategies, emphasizing cohesion and clear relationships among ideas. All writing will incorporate the rhetorical situation and be void of any trace of plagiarism. Literacy skills will be further refined through application in a collaborative setting, where students interact with an audience through cohesive speaking, listening, and presenting.

Grade Level	7
Frequency	This course meets daily
Standards	AZCCRS

## MATH

*Please Note: Four years of math are required starting in 9<sup>th</sup> grade regardless of courses taken in middle school. High School courses taken in Middle School do not receive High School credit. They do support advanced placement in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. NCAA regulations also only recognize classes/credits taken from grades 9-12. Additionally, some scholarships are based on students completing requirements starting in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year.*

### Middle School Math 1

In this course students will apply and expand their use of operations with fractions, whole numbers, and decimals. Students will develop an understanding of proportional relationships, develop an understanding of all operations with rational numbers as they work with expressions, inequalities, and linear equations. Students will also engage in mathematical problem solving involving angle measures, area, surface area, and volume, as well as drawing, constructing, and describing geometrical figures. Throughout this course, students will be expected to apply math concepts, with precision, and construct viable oral and written arguments.

Grade Level	7
Entrance Requirements	Successful completion of Elementary School Mathematics Fluency in all operations with fractions, whole numbers, and decimals, as well as order of operations.
Frequency	This course meets daily
Standards	AZCCRS

### Middle School Math 2

In this course students will develop an understanding of expressions and equations, solving linear equations, and systems of linear equations. Students will also develop an understanding of the concept of a function and irrational numbers. Geometry concepts include transformations, angles, similarities, congruence and Pythagorean Theorem. Throughout this course, students will be expected to apply math concepts, with precision, and construct viable oral and written arguments.

Grade Level	7-8
Entrance Requirements	Successful completion of Middle School Math 1 or a qualifying score on the placement test Fluency in all operations with rational numbers
Frequency	This course meets daily
Standards	AZCCRS

### Pre-Algebra Honors

This course will cover algebra readiness concepts at a quicker pace and with a greater level of challenge, depth, and complexity than Middle School Math 2. Students will work to become more independent as critical thinkers. A student in this course must be self-motivated and continue to demonstrate high mathematic ability and achievement. The student must be able to work in a fast paced atmosphere and at an abstract level. This course emphasizes problem solving, reasoning, communication, connections, representations, and technology from an in-depth perspective.

Grade Level	7-8
Entrance Requirements	Successful completion of Middle School Math 2 or a qualifying score on the placement test Proficiency or above on AZMerit Math 7 or Proficiency or above on AZMerit Math 6 and a qualifying score on the placement test Qualify on placement rubric Self-reflection on "Am I an Honors Student?"
Frequency	This course meets daily
Standards	AZCCRS

## Algebra 1-2 Honors

In this course, students will develop new algebraic skills and concepts such as methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions, extending their understanding of linear and exponential relationships, and applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. In preparation for Geometry, the understanding of the analytical geometry of lines will be solidified. As students acquire mathematical tools from the study of algebra and functions, they will be able to solve a wide variety of word problems in multiple ways and support their reasoning with viable oral and written arguments. A student in this course must be self-motivated and continue to demonstrate high mathematic ability and achievement. The student must be able to work in a fast paced atmosphere and at an abstract level.

Grade Level	7 – 8 (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	Completion of Pre-Algebra Honors with a B or higher or completion of Middle School Math 2 with an A and a qualifying score on the placement test Proficiency or above on AZMerit Math 8 or Proficiency or above on AZMerit Math 7 and a qualifying score on the placement test Qualify on Placement Rubric Self-reflection on “Am I an Honors Student?”
Frequency	This course meets daily for ½ of the block, the other ½ of the block is the student’s Scholastic Lab
Materials	Scientific calculator required
Standards	AZCCRS

## SCIENCE

### Science 7

This course focuses on concepts within life science and physical science, including fundamental skills required for scientific method discovery, discovery, safety and labs. Physics includes the exploration of motion, forces, energy and wave mechanics. Biology includes the exploration of cell structure, function and basic body systems. This class is group- and lab-based.

Grade Level	7
Standards	AZ State Standards

## TECHNOLOGY

### Digital Citizenship and Technology

This course is designed to educate students on the norms of appropriate and responsible behavior with regard to technology use so they may seek diverse perspectives, gather and use information ethically, and use social tools responsibly and safely. This course will also teach students basic computing skills such as: keyboarding, Google and Microsoft platforms, Google Classroom and managing digital accounts.

Grade Level	7
Frequency	This course meets for ½ of the block, the other ½ of the block is the student’s Scholastic Lab

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

*Please Note: High School credit for Spanish 1-2 may be earned if an ACE test (Accelerated Credits by Examination) is taken in 8<sup>th</sup> grade; the letter grade earned on the ACE test is assigned to Spanish 1-2 on the high school transcript and is calculated into the high school GPA. Horizon Honors will accept ACE Spanish credit taken in middle school. If a student transfers to another high school, the incoming school may have policy to not award credit to courses taken prior to high school.*

### MS Spanish

This course uses a thematic approach to study the Spanish language through the major facets of modern language learning. It may be taken for 1 or 2 years with themes and vocabulary alternating annually. Through each theme, students will examine and interpret authentic written and spoken communication from a variety of media from all Spanish speaking countries. Emphasis will be placed on developing communication strategies to apply in situations such as creative oral and written presentations, skits, improvisation dialogues, original stories and real life travel experiences. Throughout all of these activities, students will gain a strong understanding of basic vocabulary and grammar. This course also focuses on examining the many cultures of the Spanish speaking world. Students will investigate cultural elements such as artifacts, themes, ideas, customs, dialects, food, and education and compare and contrast them to their own.

Grade Level	7-8 (may be taken both years)
Materials	Highly Recommended - Langenscheit Spanish/English Dictionary
Standards	AZ State Standards

### MS Spanish Honors

Honors Middle School Spanish uses a thematic approach and content as described in MS Spanish but with a strong emphasis on communication in an authentic manner-original, spontaneous production from the student- in the areas of speaking, reading, writing, listening and presenting. Students must be intrinsically motivated to actively communicate exclusively in Spanish.

Grade Level	7-8 (may be taken both years)
Entrance Requirements	Qualify on Placement Rubric and self-reflection on “Am I an Honors Student?” A minimum of 1 year of Spanish in Intermediate School or Middle School. An honors recommendation from current Spanish Teacher.
Materials	Highly Recommended - Langenscheit Spanish/English Dictionary
Standards	AZ State Standards

# **PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH/FITNESS**

## **Middle School PE/Health**

This course will offer students the opportunity to engage in a variety of both traditional and non-traditional sports/activities. The course will provide for both individual and team concepts. The health and nutrition curriculum will enlighten students about the value of making educated decisions for a healthy lifestyle. The outdoor activities will not begin until heat indexes are low enough for students to safely participate. This course may be repeated for credit over multiple years.

Grade Level	7-8
Materials	PE Uniform as stated in the dress code
Fees	\$5 lock rental fee (optional)
Standards	AZ State Standards

# **FINE ARTS**

## **Visual Arts Classes**

### **Introduction to Art**

This course blends academic and technical understanding with creative development and problem solving to help foster respect for and appreciation of the arts. Throughout the Introduction to Arts course, students will learn how culture, time, and place influence artists and the art they create. We will study the art of various cultures, for example Egyptian Hieroglyphics, Ukrainian eggs, and Mexican Dia de los Muertos and Grecian Masks. Students will study the elements of line, shape, form, color, texture, space and principles of design - the rules that govern how the elements are organized in a composition. Students will also analyze the different reasons for creating art, as well as how to critically analyze other people's art and their own. Students will examine how art can be used to express themselves and their ideas by creating their own works using different skills and techniques learned in this course. Their work will be displayed in our Art Shows and will be collected in a portfolio throughout the duration of the course. Knowledge will be assessed through individual and group projects and practice, written assignments, worksheets, quizzes and exams.

Grade Level	7-8
Fees	\$100 annual fee
Standards	AZ State Standards

## **Instrumental Music Classes**

### **Middle School Eagles Band**

This course is a performance-based program designed to provide students at all levels of ability with musical instruction and experiences, which will increase their aesthetic awareness and music's effect on them and the world. Students will experience various styles and genres of music. Students typically repeat this course both years of Middle School.

Grade Level	7 - 8
Entrance Requirements	Minimum of one year of playing experience on a band instrument OR Students new to an instrument will need to seek additional instruction outside of school. Mandatory performances evenings and possibly weekends Ability to attend occasional night or weekend practices
Materials	Must provide/purchase specific performance attire Must provide Instrument and Band Book as specified in the syllabus
Fees	\$100 annual fee
Standards	AZ State Standards

## **Vocal Music Classes**

### **Dolce Voce Chorus**

This course is a women's performance-based program designed to provide students at all levels of ability with musical instruction and experiences, which will increase their aesthetic awareness and music's effect on them and the world. Students will experience various styles and genres of vocal music and will perform in both large and small ensembles. Solo opportunities are also available as desired by the student. Students may repeat this course multiple years for credit.

Grade Level	7-8
Entrance Requirements	No Audition required Mandatory performances evenings and possibly weekends Ability to attend occasional night or weekend practices
Materials	Must rent specific performance attire - uniform
Fees	\$100 annual fee, \$30 uniform fee
Standards	AZ State Standards

### Salendo Chorus

This course is a performance-based mixed chorus of both boys and girls designed to provide students at all levels of ability with musical instruction and experiences, which will increase their aesthetic awareness and music's effect on them and the world. Students will experience various styles and genres of vocal music and will perform in both large and small ensembles. Solo opportunities are also available as desired by the student. Students may repeat this course multiple years.

Grade Level	7 – 8 (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	No Audition required Mandatory performances evenings and possibly weekends Ability to attend occasional night or weekend practices
Materials	Must rent specific performance attire - uniform
Fees	\$100 annual fee, \$30 uniform fee
Standards	AZ State Standards

### Bella Voce Chorus

This course is an advanced women's performance-based program designed to provide more advanced vocal students with musical instruction and experiences, which will increase their aesthetic awareness and music's effect on them and the world. Students will experience various styles and genres of vocal music and will perform in both large and small ensembles. Solo opportunities are also available as desired by the student. Students may repeat this course multiple years.

Grade Level	7 – 8 (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	Entrance by Audition Only Mandatory performances evenings and possibly weekends Ability to attend occasional night or weekend practices
Materials	Must rent specific performance attire - uniform
Fees	\$100 annual fee, \$30 uniform fee
Standards	AZ State Standards

### Theatre Arts Classes

#### Introduction to Acting

This course focuses on the fundamentals of acting, voice and movement, in order to create believable characters. Students will explore various acting techniques through movement studies, vocal exercises, monologues, scenes, blocking work, and improvisation. Students will analyze the literary elements of theatrical storytelling and apply them to the development of characters. Within the course, students will develop a common dramatic vocabulary as they learn about an actor's instrument. Students will not only develop a greater self-expression by engaging in this study of acting, but they will also become critical thinkers about performance through engagement in peer critiques. Students may repeat this course multiple years.

Grade Level	7-8
Standards	AZ State Standards

#### Drama 1-2

The course focuses on the roles within theatre. Students first explore the role of the actor as they develop skills to allow them to portray roles in monologues and dramatic and comedic scenes. The course will also explore the origins and development of drama in the forms of theatre, film, and television. The second semester is focused on the roles of the playwright, designer & technician, director, and critic. The roles will be explored through production of student written and existing works. Acting skills will be expanded as the new roles are added to the complexity of production. The course will explore these roles in relation to the origin and development of drama in the forms of theatre, film, and television. Analysis of the influence of cultures, historical periods, social and political trends, prominent artists, and personal beliefs on the content and production of works will be expanded as productions become more expansive and demand greater collaborative efforts amongst students. Students may repeat this course multiple years.

Grade Level	7- 8 (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	Entrance by Audition Only Mandatory spring evening performance Ability to attend possible after-school rehearsals for evening performance
Standards	AZ State Standards

## ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

### Journalism

Journalism is an exploratory course, offering students a survey of the various components of reporting, publication, & production. Students will understand the role of journalism in a democratic society and will learn and apply journalistic ethics and AP (Associated Press) style requirements to the fulfillment of that role. Students will incorporate classic writing styles of journalism within sections of a news publication, focusing on purpose and audience, identifying relevant/irrelevant information, interviewing, and integrating primary and secondary source information. Students will also explore journalism through a visual lens, and will understand the basics behind visual theory and application of video production, photography, layout, and design. Students may repeat this course multiple years for credit.

Grade Level	7 – 8 (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	Passing grade in English/Humanities course
Fee	\$100 annual fee

### Myth, Folklore, and Legend

This course is a survey course of myth, folklore, and legends as they are found throughout various cultures in history. Students will explore literary, artistic, and cultural interpretations of stories and discuss purposes, meanings, and influences behind each story. Activities and assessments come from a variety of media including video, internet, presentation formats, writing assignment, projects, art, etc.

Grade Level 7 – 8 (blends with high school class)

### Video Broadcasting and Production

Students will understand and apply basic concepts of Video Broadcasting such as news and reporting, interviewing, short story films and features, media and commercials, acting, and directing. These video projects will incorporate on camera skills such as framing, audio, lighting, and green screen. Students will produce videos with an editing software, layout and design, voice over work, and music. Students will also understand how to write and tell stories on camera by creating outlines that focus on the purpose of their project and the audience. Students must be able to work in teams that require different roles and learn how to take on multiple roles. Students in Video Broadcasting will cover and feature school events such as performing arts, sports, clubs, pep rallies, and the student body. Students are also encouraged to connect with their community to produce films to feature various places and activities.

Grade Level 7-8 (blends with high school class)

### Yearbook

In Yearbook, students collaborate in a lab setting to produce a creative, innovative yearbook that documents school activities throughout the year. Students learn and apply journalistic skills (reporting, writing, photography, design, production, business, publication law), technology skills (computers, word processing, digital imaging, electronic publishing), and life skills (communication, people management, time management, problem solving). Students also gain useful, real-world skills in time management, marketing, teamwork, and design principles. Students are required to attend activities outside of school hours. Students may repeat this course multiple years for credit.

Grade Level 7-8 (blends with high school class)

Entrance Requirements Ability to attend activities outside of school hours

## Sample 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Schedules

**Sample 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Schedule**

Silver Day Blocks		Course	Blue Day Blocks		Course
1	8:00-9:30	Humanities 7	5	8:00-9:30	Humanities 7
2	9:33-11:08	Math 1	6	9:33-11:08	Math 1
Lunch	11:08-11:39	Lunch	Lunch	11:08-11:39	Lunch
3	11:42-1:12	Digital Citizenship & Tech + SLAB	7	11:42-1:12	Scholastic Lab
4	1:15-2:45	Science 7	8	1:15-2:45	MS Spanish

**Sample 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Schedule**

Silver Day Blocks		Course	Blue Day Blocks		Course
1	8:00-9:30	Digital Citizenship & Tech + SLAB	5	8:00-9:30	Intro to Acting
2	9:33-11:08	Humanities 7	6	9:33-11:08	Humanities 7
Lunch	11:08-11:39	Lunch	Lunch	11:08-11:39	Lunch
3	11:42-1:12	Pre-Algebra Honors	7	11:42-1:12	Pre-Algebra Honors
4	1:15-2:45	Science 7	8	1:15-2:45	Journalism

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Descriptions

Classes are listed sequentially by grade level. All courses adhere to the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards (AZCCRS), unless indicated otherwise. Courses will only be offered if enrollment is above the minimal class number.

## HUMANITIES

### Humanities 8

In Humanities 8, English Language Arts and History/Social Studies Literacy Standards are integrated to develop an environment that furthers awareness and fosters application of literacy skills in a global climate. Students will read high-quality, complex nonfiction texts (primary and secondary source material), as well as great works of literature focusing on the U.S. and world views from the Civil War to modern day. Students will question authors' assumptions and assess accuracy of claims. By the end of Humanities 8, students will evaluate the interplay of key elements within a rhetorical situation and compose cohesive analyses. Students will write increasingly sophisticated arguments, clarify and distinguish relationships among alternate or opposing claims, and incorporate and cite the most effective evidence. The development of writing includes using the writing process and writers' workshop strategies, emphasizing organization and precision through increased use of academic language. All writing will incorporate the rhetorical situation and be void of any trace of plagiarism. Literacy skills will be further refined through application in a collaborative setting, where students interact with an audience through cohesive speaking, listening, and presenting.

Grade Level	8
Frequency	This course meets daily
Standards	AZCCRS

### Humanities 8 Honors

This course will cover the standards as described above in Humanities 8 with a greater level of challenge, depth, and complexity in many of the text.

This course aligns with the National Collegiate Honors Council's expectations for university Honors course pedagogy at an introductory level. The course format will follow these objectives in the delivery of the content:

1. Discussion and writing are the hallmarks of Honors classes. Students will consistently use writing, both in class and out, as a means to express ideas and prepare for discussions.
2. The course is discussion-oriented rather than lecture. The instructor provides background to inform the discussion and guide the research, as students are given time in advance to read, research and prepare their responses in writing.
3. Students work to develop the ability to think about a broad range of ideas and come to understand how scholars and artists work by reading and responding to primary source material, by exploring issues and problems in depth rather than quickly and superficially, and by being carefully exposed to and guided through the methods of many disciplines. Students learn to see the broad implications of each issue, as well as learn to analyze and synthesize the material.
4. Students work to become more independent as critical thinkers, demonstrating the ability to use knowledge and logic when discussing an issue or an idea, while considering the consequences of their ideas, for themselves, for others, and for society. The classroom environment is open to many perspectives and points of view, where students are encouraged to take intellectual risks and feel safe doing so.

Grade Level	8
Entrance Requirements	Proficiency or above on AZMerit ELA 7 Grade of A in Humanities 7 or a B in Humanities 7 with teacher recommendation Qualify on placement rubric Self-reflection on "Am I an Honors Student?"
Frequency	This course meets daily
Standards	AZCCRS

## MATH

*Please Note: Four years of math are required starting in 9<sup>th</sup> grade regardless of courses taken in middle school. High School courses taken in Middle School do not receive High School credit. They do support advanced placement in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. NCAA regulations also only recognize classes/credits taken from grades 9-12. Additionally, some scholarships are based on students completing requirements starting in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year.*

### Middle School Math 2

In this course students will develop an understanding of expressions and equations, solving linear equations, and systems of linear equations. Students will also develop an understanding of the concept of a function and irrational numbers. Geometry concepts include transformations, angles, similarities, congruence and Pythagorean Theorem. Throughout this course, students will be expected to apply math concepts, with precision, and construct viable oral and written arguments.

Grade Level	7-8
Entrance Requirements	Successful completion of Middle School Math 1 or a qualifying score on the placement test Fluency in all operations with rational numbers
Frequency	This course meets daily
Standards	AZCCRS

## Pre-Algebra Honors

This course will cover algebra readiness concepts at a quicker pace and with a greater level of challenge, depth, and complexity than Middle School Math 2. Students will work to become more independent as critical thinkers. A student in this course must be self-motivated and continue to demonstrate high mathematic ability and achievement. The student must be able to work in a fast paced atmosphere and at an abstract level. This course emphasizes problem solving, reasoning, communication, connections, representations, and technology from an in-depth perspective.

Grade Level	7-8
Entrance Requirements	Successful completion of Middle School Math 2 or a qualifying score on the placement test Proficiency or above on AZMerit Math 7 or Proficiency or above on AZMerit Math 6 and a qualifying score on the placement test Qualify on placement rubric Self-reflection on "Am I an Honors Student?"
Frequency	This course meets daily
Standards	AZCCRS

## Algebra 1-2 Honors

In this course, students will develop new algebraic skills and concepts such as methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions, extending their understanding of linear and exponential relationships, and applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. In preparation for Geometry, the understanding of the analytical geometry of lines will be solidified. As students acquire mathematical tools from the study of algebra and functions, they will be able to solve a wide variety of word problems in multiple ways and support their reasoning with viable oral and written arguments. A student in this course must be self-motivated and continue to demonstrate high mathematic ability and achievement. The student must be able to work in a fast paced atmosphere and at an abstract level.

Grade Level	7 – 8 (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	Completion of Pre-Algebra Honors with a B or higher or completion of Middle School Math 2 with an A and a qualifying score on the placement test Proficiency or above on AZMerit Math 8 or Proficiency or above on AZMerit Math 7 and a qualifying score on the placement test Qualify on Placement Rubric Self-reflection on "Am I an Honors Student?"
Frequency	This course meets daily for ½ of the block, the other ½ of the block is the student's Scholastic Lab
Materials	Scientific calculator required
Standards	AZCCRS

## Geometry Honors

This course will cover concepts at a greater level of challenge, depth, and complexity than Geometry. Students will work to become more independent as critical thinkers. A student in this course must be self-motivated and continue to demonstrate high mathematic ability and achievement. The student must be able to work in a fast paced atmosphere and at an abstract level. Students will apply skills related to congruency, similarity, right triangles, trigonometry, circles, expressions of geometric properties with equations, geometric measurement, dimension, and modeling. By the end of this course, students will be able to show fluency in using coordinates to establish geometric results, calculating lengths and angles, using geometric representations as modeling tools, and using construction tools to draft models of geometric phenomenon leading to conjecture and proof. As students progress through the class, they will be expected to present logical oral and written arguments in regards to geometric models and word problems using precise language.

Grade Level	7 – 8 (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	Completion of Algebra 1-2 Honors with a B or higher or a qualifying score on the placement test Proficiency or above on AZMerit Algebra 1  Qualify on placement rubric Self-reflection on "Am I an Honors Student?"
Frequency	This course meets daily for ½ of the block, the other ½ of the block is the student's Scholastic Lab
Materials	Scientific calculator required
Standards	AZCCRS

## SCIENCE

### Science 8

This course focuses on observation skills as students examine science in an exploratory setting. Students will be introduced to chemistry with a focus on matter, its states and properties. An introduction to genetics and adaptation will follow with an emphasis on understanding how traits are passed from parent to offspring. This class will include the Horizon Honors Human Growth and Development program. Students will also explore earth and space science with an emphasis on the process of change that happens over time. Throughout the year, students expand their knowledge of the scientific method and develop skills that lead them to the completion of a comprehensive Virtual Science Fair experiment and competition.

Grade Level	8
Standards	AZCCRS

## Science 8 Honors

This course will cover the standards as described above in Science 8 with a greater level of challenge, depth and complexity in texts and problem solving. This course aligns with the National Collegiate Honors Council's expectations for university Honors course pedagogy at an introductory level. The course format will follow these objectives in the delivery of the content:

1. Discussion and writing are the hallmarks of Honors classes. Students will consistently use writing, both in class and out, as a means to express ideas and prepare for discussions.
  2. The course is discussion-oriented rather than lecture. The instructor provides background to inform the discussion and guide the research, as students are given time in advance to read, research and prepare their responses in writing.
  3. Students work to develop the ability to think about a broad range of ideas and come to understand how scholars and artists work by reading and responding to primary source material, by exploring issues and problems in depth rather than quickly and superficially, and by being carefully exposed to and guided through the methods of many disciplines. Students learn to see the broad implications of each issue, as well as learn to analyze and synthesize the material.
  4. Students work to become more independent as critical thinkers, demonstrating the ability to use knowledge and logic when discussing an issue or an idea, while considering the consequences of their ideas, for themselves, for others, and for society. The classroom environment is open to many perspectives and points of view, where students are encouraged to take intellectual risks and feel safe doing so.
- This honors course covers all of the topics of the Science 8 class. The students in this class will be expected to operate at a high level of independence and be able to successfully perform a variety of computations in homework, in laboratory exercises, and during class lectures.

Grade Level	8
Entrance Requirements	Proficiency or above on AZMerit ELA 7 and Math 7 or higher (most recent test taken in spring) Grade of A in Science 7 or a B in Science 7 and teacher recommendation Qualify on placement rubric Self-reflection on "Am I an Honors Student?"
Standards	AZCCRS

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

*Please Note: High School credit for Spanish 1-2 may be earned if an ACE test (Accelerated Credits by Examination) is taken in 8<sup>th</sup> grade; the letter grade earned on the ACE test is assigned to Spanish 1-2 on the high school transcript and is calculated into the high school GPA. Horizon Honors will accept ACE Spanish credit taken in middle school. If a student transfers to another high school, the incoming school may have policy to not award credit to courses taken prior to high school.*

### MS Spanish

This course uses a thematic approach to study the Spanish language through the major facets of modern language learning. It may be taken for 1 or 2 years with themes and vocabulary alternating annually. Through each theme, students will examine and interpret authentic written and spoken communication from a variety of media from all Spanish speaking countries. Emphasis will be placed on developing communication strategies to apply in situations such as creative oral and written presentations, skits, improvisation dialogues, original stories and real life travel experiences. Throughout all of these activities, students will gain a strong understanding of basic vocabulary and grammar. This course also focuses on examining the many cultures of the Spanish speaking world. Students will investigate cultural elements such as artifacts, themes, ideas, customs, dialects, food, and education and compare and contrast them to their own. They will be expected to apply language skills and cultural awareness in settings outside of the classroom.

Grade Level	7-8 (may be taken both years)
Materials	Highly Recommended - Langenscheit Spanish/English Dictionary
Standards	AZ State Standards

### MS Spanish Honors

Honors Middle School Spanish uses a thematic approach and content as described in MS Spanish but with a strong emphasis on communication in an authentic manner-original, spontaneous production from the student- in the areas of speaking, reading, writing, listening and presenting. Students must be intrinsically motivated to actively communicate exclusively in Spanish.

Grade Level	7-8 (may be taken both years)
Entrance Requirements	Qualify on Placement Rubric and self-reflection on "Am I an Honors Student?" A minimum of 1 year of Spanish in Intermediate School or Middle School. An honors recommendation from current Spanish Teacher.
Materials	Highly Recommended - Langenscheit Spanish/English Dictionary
Standards	AZ State Standards

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH/FITNESS

### Middle School PE/Health

This course will offer students the opportunity to engage in a variety of both traditional and non-traditional sports/activities. The course will provide for both individual and team concepts. The health and nutrition curriculum will enlighten students about the value of making educated decisions for a healthy lifestyle. The outdoor activities will not begin until heat indexes are low enough for students to safely participate. This course may be repeated for credit over multiple years.

Grade Level	7-8
Materials	PE Uniform as stated in the dress code
Fees	\$5 lock rental fee (optional)
Standards	AZ State Standards

# **FINE ARTS**

## **Visual Arts Classes**

### **Introduction to Art**

This course blends academic and technical understanding with creative development and problem solving to help foster respect for and appreciation of the arts. Throughout the Introduction to Arts course, students will learn how culture, time, and place influence artists and the art they create. We will study the art of various cultures, for example Egyptian Hieroglyphics, Ukrainian eggs, and Mexican Dia de los Muertos and Grecian Masks. Students will study the elements of line, shape, form, color, texture, space and principles of design - the rules that govern how the elements are organized in a composition. Students will also analyze the different reasons for creating art, as well as how to critically analyze other people's art and their own. Students will examine how art can be used to express themselves and their ideas by creating their own works using different skills and techniques learned in this course. Their work will be displayed in our Art Shows and will be collected in a portfolio throughout the duration of the course. Knowledge will be assessed through individual and group projects and practice, written assignments, worksheets, quizzes and exams.

Grade Level	7-8
Fees	\$100 annual fee
Standards	AZ State Standards

### **Art 1-2**

Beginning Art will introduce art concepts, themes, medias, design principles, and guidelines used in producing original artwork. Students will learn to draw, paint, and sculpt using creative class planning and a multitude of techniques. They will be introduced to Art History through various presentations. They will also gain a strong understanding of how to constructively critique the artwork created by themselves and their peers. Their work will be displayed in our Art Shows and will be collected in a portfolio throughout the duration of the course. Semiannual Art Shows will allow students to present their artwork to an outside audience (family, teachers and peers). Knowledge will be assessed through individual and group projects and practice, written assignments, worksheets, quizzes and exams.

Grade Level	8 (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	Successful Completion of Introduction to Art
Fees	\$100 annual fee
Standards	AZ State Standards

## **Instrumental Music Classes**

### **Guitar 1-2**

This course is a performance based program and is designed to provide students at all levels of ability with musical instruction and experiences, which will include note reading, picking, strumming and chord progressions. Students will be provided various styles and genres of music and will perform in both large group and small ensembles. Solo opportunities are also available as desired by the student.

Grade Level	8 (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	Mandatory performances evenings and possibly weekends Ability to attend occasional night and weekend practices
Materials	Must provide/purchase specific concert attire Must provide method book as specified in the syllabus Must provide Acoustic Guitar (nylon strings preferred)
Fees	\$100 annual fee
Standards	AZ State Standards

### **Middle School Eagles Band**

This course is a performance-based program designed to provide students at all levels of ability with musical instruction and experiences, which will increase their aesthetic awareness and music's effect on them and the world. Students will experience various styles and genres of music. Students typically repeat this course both years of Middle School.

Grade Level	7 - 8
Entrance Requirements	Minimum of one year of playing experience on a band instrument OR Students new to an instrument will need to seek additional instruction outside of school. Mandatory performances evenings and possibly weekends Ability to attend occasional night or weekend practices
Materials	Must provide/purchase specific performance attire Must provide Instrument and Band Book as specified in the syllabus
Fees	\$100 annual fee
Standards	AZ State Standards

### **Concert Band**

This course is a high school performance-based class designed to provide more advanced instrumental students with musical instruction and experiences, which will increase their aesthetic awareness and music's effect on them and the world. Students will experience various styles and genres of music and will perform in both large group and small ensembles. Solo opportunities are also available as desired by the student.

Grade Level	8 <sup>th</sup> grade highly advanced musicians by audition (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	Entrance by Audition Only Mandatory performances evenings and possibly weekends Ability to attend occasional night or weekend practices
Materials	Must provide/purchase specific performance attire Must provide Instrument and Band Books as specified in the syllabus Various pieces of full band and small ensemble literature will be utilized
Fees	\$100 annual fee
Standards	AZ State Standards

## Vocal Music Classes

### Dolce Voce Chorus

This course is a women's performance-based program designed to provide students at all levels of ability with musical instruction and experiences, which will increase their aesthetic awareness and music's effect on them and the world. Students will experience various styles and genres of vocal music and will perform in both large and small ensembles. Solo opportunities are also available as desired by the student. Students may repeat this course multiple years for credit.

Grade Level	7-8
Entrance	No Audition required
Requirements	Mandatory performances evenings and possibly weekends Ability to attend occasional night or weekend practices
Materials	Must rent specific performance attire - uniform
Fees	\$100 annual fee, \$30 uniform fee
Standards	AZ State Standards

### Salendo Chorus

This course is a performance-based mixed chorus of both boys and girls designed to provide students at all levels of ability with musical instruction and experiences, which will increase their aesthetic awareness and music's effect on them and the world. Students will experience various styles and genres of vocal music and will perform in both large and small ensembles. Solo opportunities are also available as desired by the student. Students may repeat this course multiple years.

Grade Level	7 – 8 (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	No Audition required Mandatory performances evenings and possibly weekends Ability to attend occasional night or weekend practices
Materials	Must rent specific performance attire - uniform
Fees	\$100 annual fee, \$30 uniform fee
Standards	AZ State Standards

### Bella Voce Chorus

This course is an advanced women's performance-based program designed to provide more advanced vocal students with musical instruction and experiences, which will increase their aesthetic awareness and music's effect on them and the world. Students will experience various styles and genres of vocal music and will perform in both large and small ensembles. Solo opportunities are also available as desired by the student. Students may repeat this course multiple years.

Grade Level	7 – 8 (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	Entrance by Audition Only Mandatory performances evenings and possibly weekends Ability to attend occasional night or weekend practices
Materials	Must rent specific performance attire - uniform
Fees	\$100 annual fee, \$30 uniform fee
Standards	AZ State Standards

### Cantabile Honors Chorale

This course is a performance-based program designed to provide honors level vocal students with musical instruction and experiences, which will increase their aesthetic awareness and music's effect on them and the world. Students will experience various styles and genres of vocal music and will perform in both large and small ensembles. Solo opportunities are also available as desired by the student. Students may repeat this course multiple years.

Grade Level	8 <sup>th</sup> grade highly advanced vocalists by audition (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	Proficiency or above on AZMerit ELA 7 or higher (most recent test taken in spring) Entrance by Audition Only Mandatory performances evenings and possibly weekends Ability to attend occasional night or weekend practices
Materials	Must rent specific performance attire - uniform
Fees	\$100 annual fee, \$30 uniform fee
Standards	AZ State Standards

## Theatre Arts Classes

### Introduction to Acting

This course focuses on the fundamentals of acting, voice and movement, in order to create believable characters. Students will explore various acting techniques through movement studies, vocal exercises, monologues, scenes, blocking work, and improvisation. Students will analyze the literary elements of theatrical storytelling and apply them to the development of characters. Within the course, students will develop a common dramatic vocabulary as they learn about an actor's instrument. Students will not only develop a greater self-expression by engaging in this study of acting, but they will also become critical thinkers about performance through engagement in peer critiques. Students may repeat this course multiple years.

Grade Level	7-8
Standards	AZ State Standards

## Drama 1-2

The course focuses on the roles within theatre. Students first explore the role of the actor as they develop skills to allow them to portray roles in monologues and dramatic and comedic scenes. The course will also explore the origins and development of drama in the forms of theatre, film, and television. The second semester is focused on the roles of the playwright, designer & technician, director, and critic. The roles will be explored through production of student written and existing works. Acting skills will be expanded as the new roles are added to the complexity of production. The course will explore these roles in relation to the origin and development of drama in the forms of theatre, film, and television. Analysis of the influence of cultures, historical periods, social and political trends, prominent artists, and personal beliefs on the content and production of works will be expanded as productions become more expansive and demand greater collaborative efforts amongst students. Students may repeat this course multiple years.

Grade Level	7-8 (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	Entrance by Audition Only Mandatory spring evening performance Ability to attend possible after-school rehearsals for evening performance
Standards	AZ State Standards

## Drama 3-4

This course follows the same format as Drama 1-2 but at a greater level of challenge and complexity within each role. First semester students work to further develop skills as actors as they portray roles in more complex monologues and dramatic and comedic scenes. The second semester the depth and complexity of the other theatrical roles are explored and actively taken on by the more advanced students. Students may repeat this course multiple years.

Grade Level	8 <sup>th</sup> grade highly advanced student by teacher recommendation only (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	Successful completion of Drama 1-2 and teacher recommendation Qualify on placement rubric Mandatory spring evening performance Ability to attend possible after-school rehearsals for evening performance
Standards	AZ State Standards

## ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

### Journalism

Journalism is an exploratory course, offering students a survey of the various components of reporting, publication, & production. Students will understand the role of journalism in a democratic society and will learn and apply journalistic ethics and AP (Associated Press) style requirements to the fulfillment of that role. Students will incorporate classic writing styles of journalism within sections of a news publication, focusing on purpose and audience, identifying relevant/irrelevant information, interviewing, and integrating primary and secondary source information. Students will also explore journalism through a visual lens, and will understand the basics behind visual theory and application of video production, photography, layout, and design. Students may repeat this course multiple years for credit.

Grade Level	7 – 8 (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	Passing grade in English/Humanities course
Fee	\$100 annual fee

### Multi-Media Technology 1-2

This course is designed to foster creativity, productivity, and communication. The basics of computer hardware and software, networks and storage are introduced. Students will use the computer as a tool to create projects with a variety of software packages. Students will develop and refine their skills in using technology to access information, while assessing the validity of the source.

Grade Level	8 (blends with high school class)
Materials	Flash drive required
Fee	\$100 annual fee

### Myth, Folklore, and Legend

This course is a survey course of myth, folklore, and legends as they are found throughout various cultures in history. Students will explore literary, artistic, and cultural interpretations of stories and discuss purposes, meanings, and influences behind each story. Activities and assessments come from a variety of media including video, internet, presentation formats, writing assignment, projects, art, etc.

Grade Level	7 – 8 (blends with high school class)
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### Video Broadcasting and Production

Students will understand and apply basic concepts of Video Broadcasting such as news and reporting, interviewing, short story films and features, media and commercials, acting, and directing. These video projects will incorporate on camera skills such as framing, audio, lighting, and green screen. Students will produce videos with an editing software, layout and design, voice over work, and music. Students will also understand how to write and tell stories on camera by creating outlines that focus on the purpose of their project and the audience. Students must be able to work in teams that require different roles and learn how to take on multiple roles. Students in Video Broadcasting will cover and feature school events such as performing arts, sports, clubs, pep rallies, and the student body. Students are also encouraged to connect with their community to produce films to feature various places and activities.

Grade Level	7-8 (blends with high school class)
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### Yearbook

In Yearbook, students collaborate in a lab setting to produce a creative, innovative yearbook that documents school activities throughout the year. Students learn and apply journalistic skills (reporting, writing, photography, design, production, business, publication law), technology skills (computers, word processing, digital imaging, electronic publishing), and life skills (communication, people management, time management, problem solving). Students also gain useful, real-world skills in time management, marketing, teamwork, and design principles. Students are required to attend activities outside of school hours. Students may repeat this course multiple years for credit.

Grade Level	7- 8 (blends with high school class)
Entrance Requirements	Ability to attend activities outside of school hours

# Sample 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Schedules

## Sample 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Schedule

Silver Day Blocks		Course	Blue Day Blocks		Course
1	8:00-9:30	Humanities 8	5	8:00-9:30	Humanities 8
2	9:33-11:08	Math 2	6	9:33-11:08	Math 2
Lunch	11:08-11:39	Lunch	Lunch	11:08-11:39	Lunch
3	11:42-1:12	Scholastic Lab	7	11:42-1:12	Myth, Folklore & Legend
4	1:15-2:45	Science 8	8	1:15-2:45	PE

## Sample 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Schedule

Silver Day Blocks		Course	Blue Day Blocks		Course
1	8:00-9:30	Humanities 8 Honors	5	8:00-9:30	Humanities 8 Honors
2	9:33-11:08	Eagles Band	6	9:33-11:08	Yearbook
Lunch	11:08-11:39	Lunch	Lunch	11:08-11:39	Lunch
3	11:42-1:12	Algebra 1-2 Honors + SLAB	7	11:42-1:12	Algebra 1-2 Honors + SLAB
4	1:15-2:45	Science 8 Honors	8	1:15-2:45	PE