



# **Middle School Planning Guide 2020-2021**

The Middle School Planning Guide is designed to assist students and families in understanding programs and courses offered at the Middle School. Students at Pine Lake will complete a required core academic program of English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Spanish and Healthful Living. Students will also participate in an elective program that allows them to select courses from an array of offerings.

Families are encouraged to review the course offerings carefully so that they understand the courses they are required to take and the courses they may choose from in order to fulfill their middle school requirements.

## The Middle School Day

Students attend seven classes daily from 7:55 am – 3:05 pm. Each class period is 45 minutes long with the exception of English/Language Arts, which is a double block class. As a double block class, each student will have this course for 90 minutes a day for the entirety of the school year. All students at the Middle School will follow a second-block schedule as highlighted:

Daily Bell Schedule		
Period	Time	Period
1	7:10 am – 7:55 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Block
2	7:55 am – 8:45 am	2 <sup>nd</sup> Block
3	8:50 am – 9:35 am	3 <sup>rd</sup> Block
4	9:40 am – 10:25 am	4 <sup>th</sup> Block
5	10:30 am – 11:15 am	5 <sup>th</sup> Block
6	11:20 am – 12:05 pm	6 <sup>th</sup> Block
-	12:05 pm – 12:30 pm	Lunch
7	12:35 pm – 1:20 pm	7 <sup>th</sup> Block
8	1:25 pm – 2:10 pm	8 <sup>th</sup> Block
9	2:15 pm – 3:05 pm	9 <sup>th</sup> Block

## Exceptional Children Programs and Services

Pine Lake Preparatory's program for Exceptional Children is dedicated to ensuring that all students with disabilities will have access to a full continuum of educational opportunities and services based on individual needs. Pine Lake Preparatory provides special education services and related services according to the federal mandates of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act. This department is also responsible for the 504 plans that are written for students with medical or mental impairment that significantly impairs a major life activity. This plan is part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1993. Pine Lake Preparatory also provides support and training to the regular education teachers as needed to implement interventions, accommodations and modifications in the regular education classroom setting.

For additional information related to Exceptional Children's services please contact the Director of Exceptional Children – Mr. Luke Ruggieri at [Luke.Ruggieri@pinelakeprep.org](mailto:Luke.Ruggieri@pinelakeprep.org).

## School Counseling Services

Pine Lake offers guidance services to our students and families. Our counselors help all students in the areas of academic achievement, personal/social development and career development, ensuring that they develop into productive well-adjusted young adults.

Counseling services at the Middle School level also include, but are not limited to, issues surrounding friendship(s), bullying, academic achievement, family/home life issues and/or crises.

For additional information related to Middle School counseling services please contact Ms. Natalie Goodwin at [natalie.goodwin@pinelakeprep.org](mailto:natalie.goodwin@pinelakeprep.org).

## Athletics

As a member of the Piedmont Charter Athletic Conference, Middle School athletics are open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students currently enrolled at Pine Lake Preparatory.

Pine Lake is dedicated to the academic success of our student athletes. The following guidelines will be followed for students to be eligible for extracurricular athletic activities:

- A student must have passed a minimum load of work and carry a 2.5 GPA during the preceding semester to be eligible at any time during the current semester. Semesters at Pine Lake will be considered half of the academic year, consequently semester 1 will include August – December (Term 1-2) and semester 2 will include January – June (Term 3-4).
- Eligibility of students in programs for exceptional children will be in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines.
- A minimum load is defined as six courses and the GPA considered will be weighted.
- A student, upon first entering grade seven, is academically eligible for competition on middle school teams.

A student who is not academically eligible at the beginning of the semester is not eligible at any time during the semester. Likewise, a student who is academically eligible at the beginning of a semester remains academically eligible throughout the semester.

Middle School sports offerings include (subject to change):

<b>Fall Sports</b>	<b>Winter Sports</b>	<b>Spring Sports</b>
Cross Country (boys)	Basketball (boys)	Baseball (boys)
Cross Country (girls)	Basketball (girls)	Golf (Co-Ed)
Volleyball (girls)	Swimming (boys)*	Tennis (Co-Ed)
Soccer (boys)	Swimming (girls)*	Softball (girls)
Football	Cheerleading	Soccer (girls)
Cheerleading		Lacrosse (boys)

\* Swimming is open to sixth grade students

It is important to recognize the time commitment associated with each team varies. For information specific to commitment, potential practice schedules, and games schedules please contact Mr. Brett Hayford at [AD@PineLakePrep.org](mailto:AD@PineLakePrep.org) (Athletic Director).

## National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is an organization that promotes recognition for middle school students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship and character. Membership in NJHS is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a student at Pine Lake Preparatory. Eligibility for National Junior Honor Society is limited to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have maintained a 4.0 combined G.P.A in seventh grade and excel in the five NJHS pillars/ideals – scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship and character. Students are accepted and inducted in a formal ceremony that takes place in the fall.

## Middle School Excursions (subject to change)

Pine Lake is excited to offer three tremendous excursions to supplement and enrich the classroom learning.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Historic Jamestown and Colonial Williamsburg

Go back in time and explore the revolutionary city of Colonial Williamsburg. Walk across the bridge and transport yourself to the 18th century. See the homes and gardens of Williamsburg's 18th century residents, and get a first hand perspective from a curator. On to Jamestown where your guide will show you the original James Fort site and tell the stories of the nearly two million artifacts found by the Jamestown Rediscovery archaeological team. Finally feed your need for adrenaline rush and adventure at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Virginia!

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Washington D.C.

Washington D.C. provides a backdrop for the Social Studies curriculum and offers students the opportunity to explore historic landmarks. The U.S. Capitol, the National Mall, US Holocaust Museum, National Archives, Arlington National Cemetery, Air and Space Museum, Natural History Museum, White House, American History Museum and the National Zoo are just a few of our many stops.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Philadelphia, PA.

Come Explore Philadelphia's Rich History and Culture! Visit historic sites like Gettysburg, Valley Forge, and Independence Hall. Have some cheesesteaks and run the Rocky Steps! Ghost tour, US Mint and Eastern State Penitentiary, and so much more included!

## Grading Scale

Pine Lake Preparatory operates on a ten point grading scale. Student letter grades and grade point averages will be identified as follows:

Percentage	Letter	Standard Weight
90% - 100%	A	4.00
89% - 80%	B	3.00
79% - 70%	C	2.00
69% - 60%	D	1.00
≤ 59%	F	0.00

Pine Lake Preparatory will publish a semester based Honor Roll for students who have earned all A's or students who have earned all A's and B's.

## Honor Code

Membership in a community carries responsibilities and rights and the Honor Code at Pine Lake Preparatory serves to protect the rights of all by requiring standards of academic integrity. As a citizen of the Pine Lake Preparatory community, its members understand that engaging in academic dishonesty, no matter the degree or form, undermines the character of the school at large. Together the students and staff of the Middle School will uphold the standards of academic integrity through our collective attitudes and actions.

Together we pledge (Honor Pledge):

*I pledge to support the Honor Code of Pine Lake Preparatory. I will refrain from any and all forms of academic dishonesty or deception, such as cheating or plagiarism. I will neither give nor receive unauthorized assistance on any academic exercise. I am aware that as a member of the Pine Lake academic community, it is my responsibility to report all suspected violations of the Honor Code.*

Violations and consequences specific to the Honor Code (cheating, plagiarism and falsification) can be found in the Family Guidebook.

## Student Placement

Student placement into classes is decided upon by the appropriate administrator per North Carolina law. The administration will take into account teacher recommendations, term grades, and EOG and i-Ready score(s) when making decisions regarding student placement into all classes.

## Co Curricular Opportunities

Understanding that the Middle School experience goes beyond the core academic program, Pine Lake offers a variety of co-curricular programs to promote student growth. Co-curricular opportunities are open to students in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> and are subject to change yearly. Following are some examples:

Yearbook  
Science Olympiad

Yoga  
Campus Musical

PLPNC

## Science Technology Engineering and Math

Middle School STEM courses at Pine Lake Preparatory utilize the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) curriculum: the nation's leading provider of STEM programs. This world-class curriculum and high-quality teacher professional development model, combined with an engaged network of educators and corporate and community partners, help students develop the skills necessary to succeed in our global economy.

There are PLTW programs in more than 5,000 elementary, middle, and high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. PLTW schools can be found in rural, urban, and suburban districts; across all income levels; as well as in public, private, and charter schools. PLTW's success in preparing students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed has been recognized by colleges and universities, Fortune 500 businesses, and numerous national organizations including Change the Equation, the Social Impact Exchange, and more. (<https://www.pltw.org/about-us>)

Enrollment in the STEM program is open to students in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> each year. If program registrants exceed our grade level capacity, student selection will be based on academic proficiencies as exhibited by course work and End of Grade testing. Each course is one semester long and will alternate with a PE class.

### **Design and Modeling and some Green Architecture (6th Grade)**

In 6th Grade STEM students will learn to use 3D CAD software (AutoDesk Inventor) and learn how to use a 3D printer. We will also do a 3 week unit learning about Green Architecture, in it they will learn to use BIM software to model their "Dream Bedroom."

### **Automation and Robotics (7th Grade)**

In 7th Grade STEM students learn how mechanical systems work. They then use that knowledge with the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program robots to solve real-world problems.

### **Flight and Space (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil. Custom-built simulation software allows students to experience space travel.

### **Medical Detectives (8th Grade)**

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital

signs, dissecting a sheep brain, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction.

## PowerSchool and Canvas

In 2013, North Carolina began updating its web-based student information system, which affects all public schools including Pine Lake Preparatory. The system, called PowerSchool, provides numerous functions and applications for students, teachers, and parents - including attendance management, administrator dashboards, faculty management, discipline management and reporting, centralized enrollment, student scheduling, family information databases, and grade books.

For convenient access to the PowerSchool login site, we have created a link in the “Parents” tab of PineLakePrep.org. As a parent or a student, you have 24-hour access to attendance records and grades through this portal.

In conjunction with PowerSchool, PLP will be using Canvas, a secure online learning platform where teachers and students can collaborate, share content, and use educational apps to augment in-classroom learning. Within this private learning environment, managed by classroom teachers only, students can only interact with others in the class. Canvas provides a safe and easy way to connect and support learning beyond the classroom.

The goal of Canvas at the Middle School is to enhance our use of technology in the classroom while facilitating college and career readiness for our students. Canvas provides teachers with the ability to gather feedback, opinions and responses through polls, use notes to encourage student dialogue, use quizzes for formative and summative assessments and organizes student assignments within an interactive classroom community. Although the target audience for Canvas is the students, parents will have access to monitor the group through a parent code. Parent codes must be requested by the student and cannot be accessed by school personnel.

## Attendance

Attendance to class is critical for academic success at Pine Lake Preparatory. Students who are ill should remain at home to recover however, parents and students should be aware that frequent absences often result in academic difficulties. We encourage scheduling of appointments and travel during non-school hours and scheduled breaks. Please remember to send a note or documentation explaining your child’s absence each day they are required to be out of school. You must submit an excuse or provide a written explanation of the absence within two days of your child’s return to school or the absence will be unexcused. In line with the North Carolina School Compulsory Attendance Law students are afforded 10 unexcused absences for the year.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Required Courses

### English/Language Arts 6

Language Arts 6 is based on the Common Core State Standards for English/Language Arts. Students will read a range of challenging novels, articles, and poems, and will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of the material by answering critical thinking questions and contributing to class discussions. In sixth grade, students will be expected to integrate information and compare and contrast different sources and texts. Students will write a variety of texts including short stories, research essays, and persuasive papers. Students will continue to work on their use of language, sentence structure, and organization of ideas.

### Social Studies 6

Beginning of Human Society to the Emergence of the First Global Age (1450)

Students in sixth grade will continue to expand the knowledge, skills and understandings acquired in the fourth and fifth grade studies of North Carolina and the United States by connecting those studies to their first formal look at a study of the world. Sixth graders will focus heavily on the discipline of geography by using the themes of location, place, movement, human-environment interaction and region to understand the emergence, expansion and decline of civilization and societies from the beginning of human existence to the Age of Exploration. Students will take a systematic look at the history of culture of various world regions including the development of economic, political and social systems through the lens of change and continuity. As students examine the various factors that shaped the development of civilization, societies and regions in the ancient world, they will examine both similarities and difference among these areas. In addition to content acquisition, students will master skills related to examining, interpreting and understanding information.

### Science 6

Science in sixth grade is a combination of life science, physical science and earth science. The integration of science content, inquiry, experimentation, and technological design are merged with each of the following topics: Astronomy, Earth Science, Plants, Ecosystems, Forces and Motion, Matter and Oceanography.

### Math 6

Mathematics 6 is based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for sixth grade mathematics. Instructional time 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 expression and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. Students in sixth grade also build on their work with area in elementary school by reasoning about relationships among shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume.

### Spanish 1A

This course builds on the lower school Spanish curriculum while providing a solid foundation for Spanish 1 at the Middle School level. While actively participating in the four areas of language learning: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, the course will have an added emphasis on oral/aural

communication. Students in Middle School Spanish will participate in a wide range of activities inclusive of a variety of learning styles to encourage a comfort level in using the Spanish language.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education (Semester Class)**

Physical education is required for all sixth grade students and is based on the North Carolina Essential Standards for Healthful Living. Broken into health education and physical education, middle school students will develop the skills necessary to maintain a healthy and physically active lifelong lifestyle. Health Education standards are broken into five strands, Mental/Emotional Health, Alcohol/Tobacco/Other Drugs, Nutrition/Physical Activity, Interpersonal Relationships/Communication, and Personal/Consumer Health. Physical education standards are broken into four strands, Motor Skills, Movement Concepts, Health Related Fitness, and Personal/Social Responsibility.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Courses**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Visual Arts**

Visual Arts class is designated for students to share their visual art talent through many mediums, not including your typical arts and crafts. Drawing, painting, computer art, and 3D modeling will all be a part of this class. A level of technical skills is expected and outofthebox thinking is a must. Students' creative ways through all visual art mediums. Skills to consider for this class are patience, attention to detail, problem solving, confidence to express yourself, and ability to take risks. Over the course of the year, each student should challenge himself or herself to become stronger in every possible way as a visual artist. Prospective students do not have to be gifted in the area of art but rather display exemplary efforts.

### **Orchestra**

Orchestra is a class designated to the study of orchestral string instruments. Instrumental choices include the violin, viola, cello, and bass. In this class students will learn how to read music and play their instrument while fostering a love for music literature, theory, and history. Students with a high interest in instrumental music will enjoy this class. No previous musical experience is necessary however, it is important to understand students will be placed in an ability-leveled class.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus**

6th Grade Chorus is a non-auditioned mixed voice ensemble. Students do not need to have any previous singing or choral experience. Students will learn singing techniques and how to perform in an ensemble. Students will begin work on building their music theory and aural skills, with a strong emphasis on sight-reading and musical literacy. Students will sing a wide array of music from different time periods and different cultures. We will also sing popular music from today and have auditioned solo opportunities for those interested (not required). This is a performance-based class, so there will be up to, but no more than, four required performances throughout the school year. There will also be non-required performance opportunities for students who would like more performance experience.

### **Instrumental Band**

Band is a class designated to the study of select woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Instrumental choices include: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, and trombone. After a year of band study, a wind player may audition for placement in percussion, at the recommendation of their director. Students in each level of Instrumental Band will learn to play in a concert band atmosphere. No previous

musical experience is necessary however, it is important to understand students will be placed in an ability-leveled class.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Theatre Arts**

Theatre Arts class is designated for students to share their theatrical talents in both written and verbal venues. The theatre arts program in 6th grade will provide an opportunity for students to explore and master skills in creative dramatics. Classroom activities include pantomime, improvisation, characterization, role-playing, original dialogue, puppetry, reader's theatre, costume and set design, and play production. Emphasis will be placed on a variety of in-class performances and presentations. The class includes original written work in play writing. Students will perform monologues and plays in front of their classmates as well as the Pine Lake community. The students will have opportunities to relate theatre to history, society, and culture. Skills to consider for this class are imagination, creativity, cooperation, collaboration, creative writing and performing.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade STEM Cohort / Service and Success 101A**

### **Service and Success 101A (Semester Class)**

Collaboratively, students will take the initiative to research, develop, and implement a community service project to better the community in which they live. Through the process, students will be strengthening necessary academic skills, which include keyboarding, research methods, procedural and time management, computer applications, and public speaking. The goal of the course will be to grow our academic capacity through the successful implementation of a beneficial societal change in the school or community.

### **Design and Modeling and some Green Architecture (6th Grade Semester Class)**

In 6th Grade STEM students will learn to use 3D CAD software (AutoDesk Inventor) and learn how to use a 3D printer. We will also do a 3 week unit learning about Green Architecture, in it they will learn to use BIM software to model their "Dream Bedroom."

*The STEM course in 6<sup>th</sup> grade will take the place of a Service and Success 101A.*

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Required Courses**

### **English/Language Arts 7**

Language Arts 7 is based on the Common Core State Standards for English/Language Arts. Students will read complex texts (fictional and nonfictional) including short stories, novels, plays, and poems. Students will develop skills related to citing evidence when analyzing a text or support their own arguments. During various writing tasks, students will focus on introducing topics clearly, providing concluding statements, organizing their ideas clearly, using appropriate grammar, providing smooth transitions, and using precise language to explain a topic.

### **Social Studies 7**

The Great Global Convergence (1400-1800) to the Present

Students in seventh grade will continue to expand upon the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired in the sixth grade examination of early civilizations. Seventh graders study the world from the Age of Exploration to contemporary times in order to understand the implications of increased global interactions. The focus will remain on the discipline of geography by using the themes of location, place, movement, human-environment interaction and region to understand modern societies and regions. This course will guide students through patterns of change and continuity with a focus on conflict and cooperation, economic development, population shifts, political structure and organization, cultural values and beliefs and the impact of the environment over time. Through an investigation of various factors that shaped the development of societies and regions in the modern world and global interactions, students will examine both similarities and differences. In addition to content acquisition, students will master skills related to examining, interpreting and understanding information.

### **Science 7**

Science in seventh grade is a combination of life science, physical science and earth science. The integration of science content, inquiry, experimentation, and technological design are merged with each of the following topics: Atmosphere and Weather, Human Body Systems, Heredity and Genetics, and Motion and Forces.

### **Math 7**

Mathematics 7 is based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for seventh grade mathematics. Instructional time focuses on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operation with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (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; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

### **Spanish 1B**

In the first half of the two year middle school Spanish 1 sequence, students will actively participate in the four areas of language learning: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with an emphasis on oral/aural communication. The basic functions covered will be formulating questions and both positive and negative responses, giving and receiving directions, communicating in the simple present and future, and indicating needs and desires. Through individual and cooperative learning activities students will practice such specific topics as talking about people, describing everyday items, ordering meals in restaurants, shopping for food, and other common daily activities. Students will also learn about the Hispanic world and its varied cultures, particularly as underscored by the language via formal and informal address, concepts of family and nationality, and gesture, among others.

*Successful completion of this two-year sequence (Spanish 1A and Spanish 1B) is the equivalent to Spanish 1. A grade earned in Spanish 1 will appear on the high school transcript however; it will not be factored into the high school G.P.A.*

### **7th Grade Physical Education (Semester Class)**

Physical education is required for all seventh grade students and is based on the North Carolina Essential Standards for Healthful Living. Broken into health education and physical education, middle school students will develop the skills necessary to maintain a healthy and physically active lifelong lifestyle. Health Education standards are broken into five strands, Mental/Emotional Health, Alcohol/Tobacco/Other Drugs, Nutrition/Physical Activity, Interpersonal Relationships/Communication,

and Personal/Consumer Health. Physical education standards are broken into four strands, Motor Skills, Movement Concepts, Health Related Fitness, and Personal/Social Responsibility.

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

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

Visual Arts class is designated for students to share their visual art talent through many mediums, not including your typical arts and crafts. Drawing, painting, computer art, and 3D modeling will all be a part of this class. A level of technical skills is expected and outofthebox thinking is a must. Students should have a strong visual talent and a desire to express themselves in creative ways through all visual art mediums. Skills to consider for this class are patience, attention to detail, problem solving, confidence to express yourself, and ability to take risks. Over the course of the year, each student should challenge himself or herself to become stronger in every possible way as a visual artist. Prospective students do not have to be gifted in the area of art but rather display exemplary efforts.

### Orchestra

Orchestra is a class designated to the study of orchestral string instruments. Instrumental choices include the violin, viola, cello, and bass. In this class students will learn how to read music and play their instrument while fostering a love for music literature, theory, and history. Students with a high interest in instrumental music will enjoy this class. No previous musical experience is necessary however, it is important to understand students will be placed in an ability-leveled class.

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

7th Grade Chorus is a non-auditioned mixed voice ensemble. Students do not need to have taken 6th Grade Chorus to be in this class. Students will learn singing techniques and how to perform in an ensemble. Students will work on building their music theory and aural skills, with a strong emphasis on sight-reading and musical literacy. Students will sing a wide array of music from different time periods and different cultures. We will also sing popular music from today and have auditioned solo opportunities for those interested (not required). This is a performance-based class, so there will be up to, but no more than, four required performances throughout the school year. There will also be non-required performance opportunities for students who would like more performance experience.

### Instrumental Band

Band is a class designated to the study of select woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Instrumental choices include: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, and trombone. After a year of band study, a wind player may audition for placement in percussion, at the recommendation of their director. Students in each level of Instrumental Band will learn to play in a concert band atmosphere. No previous musical experience is necessary however, it is important to understand students will be placed in an ability-leveled class.

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

Theatre Arts class is designated for students to share their theatrical talents in both written and verbal venues. The theatre arts program in 7th grade will provide an opportunity for students to explore and master skills in creative dramatics. Classroom activities include pantomime, improvisation, characterization, role-playing, original dialogue, puppetry, reader's theatre, costume and set design, and play production. Emphasis will be placed on a variety of in-class performances and

presentations. The class includes original written work in play writing. Students will perform monologues and plays in front of their classmates as well as the Pine Lake community. The students will have opportunities to relate theatre to history, society, and culture. Skills to consider for this class are imagination, creativity, cooperation, collaboration, creative writing and performing.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade STEM Cohort / Service and Success 101B

### **Service and Success 101B (Semester Class)**

A continuation of Success 101A, students will work collaboratively to initiate the research, development, and implementation of a community service project to better the community in which they live. Through the process, students will be strengthening necessary academic skills which include keyboarding, research methods, procedural and time management, computer applications, and public speaking. The goal of the course will be to grow our academic capacity through the successful implementation of a beneficial societal change in the school or community. Please note, completion of Success 101A (6<sup>th</sup> grade) is not necessary to enroll in Success 101B.

### **Automation and Robotics (7th Grade Semester Class)**

In 7th Grade STEM students learn how mechanical systems work. They then use that knowledge with the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program robots to solve real-world problems.

*The STEM course in 7<sup>th</sup> grade will take the place of a Service and Success 101B.*

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

### **English/Language Arts 8**

Language Arts 8 is based on the Common Core State Standards for English/Language Arts. Students will read fiction and nonfiction texts while learning to evaluate an author's assumptions and claims. Students will conduct research that will require the analysis of resources and accurate interpretation of literacy and informational text. Writing tasks in grade eight will include stories, essays, reports, and persuasive essays. A writing focus on the concepts, supporting details, organization, transitions, precise language and grammar will be included in Language Arts 8.

### **Social Studies 8**

North Carolina and the United States: Creation and Development of the State and Nation

Students in eighth grade will continue to build on the fourth and fifth grade introduction to North Carolina and the United States by embarking on a more rigorous study of the historical foundations and democratic principles that continue to shape our state and nation. Students will begin with a review of the major ideas and events preceding the foundation of North Carolina and the United States. The main focus of the course will be the critical events, personalities, issues, and developments in the state and nation from the Revolutionary Era to contemporary times. Inherent in this study is an analysis of the relationships of geography, events and people to the political, economic, technological, and cultural developments that shaped our existence in North Carolina and the United States over time. In addition to content acquisition, students will master skills related to examining, interpreting and understanding information.



## Science 8

Science in eighth grade is a combination of life science and earth science. The integration of science content, inquiry, experimentation, and technological design are merged with each of the following topics: Ecosystems, Earth Systems, Earth History, Chemistry, Evolution and Genetics, Energy: Conservation & Transfer and Microbiology.

## Math 8 or Math 1

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math: In Grade 8, instructional time focuses on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and 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.

Math 1: The fundamental purpose of Mathematics I is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. The critical areas, organized into units, deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomena, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Mathematics 1 uses properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge from prior grades. The final unit in the course ties together the algebraic and geometric ideas studied. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

*Students enrolled in Math 1 will take the End of Course (EOC) exam in May and a passing score will provide high school credit for Math 1. A grade earned in Math 1 will appear on the high school transcript however; it will not be factored into the high school G.P.A.*

## Spanish 2

In this course students will build on their knowledge gained in Spanish I, while actively participating in the four areas of language learning: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with an emphasis on oral/aural communication. Functions will expand to include the progressive tenses, telling time, giving orders, discussing feelings, making comparisons and referring to habitual actions in the past. Specific topics that the student will master in class through a greater emphasis on cooperative and student-centered learning include travel settings such as a hotel and marketplace, talking about health, and describing daily routines and weekend plans. Cultural awareness is expanded with more specific study of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will be required to engage in more challenging discussions in Spanish and English as they use their critical-thinking skills to restate and assess both written texts and recorded passages.

*A grade earned in Spanish 2 will appear on the high school transcript however; it will not be factored into the high school G.P.A.*

## 8th Grade Physical Education (Semester Class)

Physical education is required for all eighth grade students and is based on the North Carolina Essential Standards for Healthful Living. Broken into health education and physical education, middle school students will develop the skills necessary to maintain a healthy and physically active lifelong lifestyle. Health Education standards are broken into five strands, Mental/Emotional Health,

Alcohol/Tobacco/Other Drugs, Nutrition/Physical Activity, Interpersonal Relationships/Communication, and Personal/Consumer Health. Physical education standards are broken into four strands, Motor Skills, Movement Concepts, Health Related Fitness, and Personal/Social Responsibility.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Courses**

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Visual Arts**

Visual Arts class is designated for students to share their visual art talent through many mediums, not including your typical arts and crafts. Drawing, painting, computer art, and 3D modeling will all be a part of this class. A level of technical skills is expected and outofthebox thinking is a must. Students should have a strong visual talent and a desire to express themselves in creative ways through all visual art mediums. Skills to consider for this class are patience, attention to detail, problem solving, confidence to express yourself, and ability to take risks. Over the course of the year, each student should challenge himself or herself to become stronger in every possible way as a visual artist. Prospective students do not have to be gifted in the area of art but rather display exemplary efforts.

### **Orchestra**

Orchestra is a class designated to the study of orchestral string instruments. Instrumental choices include the violin, viola, cello, and bass. In this class students will learn how to read music and play their instrument while fostering a love for music literature, theory, and history. Students with a high interest in instrumental music will enjoy this class. No previous musical experience is necessary however, it is important to understand students will be placed in an ability-leveled class.

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

8th Grade Chorus is a non-auditioned mixed voice ensemble. It is recommended that singers would have taken Chorus in 6th or 7th grade for this class, but it is not required. Students will be learning singing techniques and how to perform in an ensemble. Students will continue to work on building their music theory and aural skills, with a strong emphasis on sight-reading and musical literacy. Students will sing a wide array of music from different time periods and different cultures. We will also sing popular music from today and have auditioned solo opportunities for those interested (not required). This is a performance-based class, so there will be up to, but no more than, four required performances throughout the school year. There will also be non-required performance opportunities for students who would like more performance experience.

### **Instrumental Band**

Band is a class designated to the study of select woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Instrumental choices include: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, and trombone. After a year of band study, a wind player may audition for placement in percussion, at the recommendation of their director. Students in each level of Instrumental Band will learn to play in a concert band atmosphere. No previous musical experience is necessary however, it is important to understand students will be placed in an ability-leveled class.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Theatre Arts**

Theatre Arts class is designated for students to share their theatrical talents in both written and verbal venues. The theatre arts program in 8th grade will provide an opportunity for students to explore and master skills in creative dramatics. Classroom activities include pantomime,



improvisation, characterization, role-playing, original dialogue, puppetry, reader's theatre, costume and set design, and play production. Emphasis will be placed on a variety of in-class performances and presentations. The class includes original written work in play writing. Students will perform monologues and plays in front of their classmates as well as the Pine Lake community. The students will have opportunities to relate theatre to history, society, and culture. Skills to consider for this class are imagination, creativity, cooperation, collaboration, creative writing and performing.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Semester Elective Courses

### Computer Science Discoveries

As an introduction to the Computer Science pathway, this class will guide students through the skills of computational thought in an exploration of games, puzzles, cryptography, and logic problems to develop their ability to confidently handle complex and open-ended problems. Students will prepare themselves for the fundamentals of AP Computer Science Principles.

### Intro to Pottery

This class will introduce students to building with clay. Focus will be on the handbuilding techniques; pinch, coil and slab with emphasis on functional and sculptural applications. Traditional and historical ceramic arts will be incorporated into each lesson. Research, journal writing, gallery/exhibition setup, are a few of the course expectations outside of working with clay. Students will take -and post progress pictures for grading purposes and portfolio requirements. Various glaze and decoration techniques for finishing work will be covered at length.

\*There is a material fee of \$20.00 to purchase and replenish glazes. (My Payments Plus)

### The Pride Press – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Student News

Calling all reporters, broadcasters, bloggers, and technology experts: introducing the "Pride Press." This fast-paced technology-driven one semester class will give you the time and tools to create and share Middle School student news! This course aligns with NC Information & Technology Essential Standards (ITES) for 8th grade, and will include the following (and more): planning, filming, editing, producing, and sharing daily morning announcements, the opportunity to become a tech expert and help teachers and their students use new resources, Digital Citizenship and responsible use of social media, advertising and promoting Middle School and campus events, and creating a website or blog to give students news they can use. Overall, our goal is to be the central information hub for the middle school students on our campus.

### STOMP

Want to STOMP? Students will get the opportunity to learn basic percussion techniques in this Stomp!-inspired class! We will re-imagine the uses of everyday objects to make some amazing new sounds. Get ready to beat, tap, and bang your way to fun!

*STEM courses in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will take the place of a student's additional semester long Fine Art elective.*

### Flight and Space (Combined Semester Class – with Medical Detectives)

The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil. Custom-built simulation software allows students to experience space travel.

### **Medical Detectives**

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, dissect a sheep brain, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction.

