

HOPKINS ACADEMY

MIDDLE SCHOOL



PROGRAM OF STUDIES

2009-2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1

<u>ENGLISH</u>	3
<u>SOCIAL STUDIES</u>	4
<u>SCIENCE</u>	5
<u>MATHEMATICS</u>	6
<u>WORLD LANGUAGES</u>	7
<u>FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE</u>	7
<u>ART</u>	8
<u>COMPUTER SCIENCE</u>	8
<u>HEALTH</u>	8
<u>MUSIC</u>	9
<u>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</u>	9

ENGLISH

Course # 081 - 8th Grade English

Heterogeneous classes focus on developing close, critical reading skills, improving upon each student's approach to writing as a process, acquiring additional vocabulary study skills, and further developing skills in proofreading, oral presentations, research, and self-assessment. The course includes both guided and independent study of a variety of readings, including novels, plays, short stories, poetry, essays, and non-fiction works. Each student is asked to reflect upon the author's style, theme, content, structure, and use of literary elements and devices. Thematic assigned readings include historical fiction related to Colonial America, and the Holocaust; an introduction to Shakespeare with Taming of a Shrew; world folklore; and works of science fiction to explore utopia –vs- dystopia. Project work based on readings emphasizes analytical and creative writing, as well as oral presentations. Attention to audience, purpose, clarity, organization, support, and proofreading are emphasized in a process approach to writing. A writing "formula" for responding to essay questions is also introduced and practiced. Vocabulary and grammar/usage is presented as part of the writing process.

Course # 071 - 7th Grade English

Heterogeneously grouped classes emphasize development of good independent work habits and positive peer interaction in conferencing, group presentations, and collaborative responses to writing and reading. The course includes both guided and independent study of a variety of readings, including novels, plays, short stories, poetry, essays, and non-fiction works. Students are asked to focus on observations of character development, theme, structure, and style. They will be asked to analyze a piece of work, make predictions, and give personal assessments of the reading. Students will also study a variety of short stories, plays, poetry, and young adult novels that explore personal ethics and decision-making. Two of the main thematic units of study include mythology and poetry. Vocabulary and grammar studies focus on developing writing and speaking skills. Writing instruction features a process approach to writing clear essays, and may include reflecting on personal experiences, as well as creative assignments (poetry, short stories, scripts for plays, dramatic monologues, etc.)

Course # 072 - 7th Say It Write

This course is offered to 7th graders. Say it Write combines writing enrichment and public speaking. A hands-on and fun approach to reinforcing skills taught in English 7, students will examine and practice different styles and genres of writing which may include, but are not limited to, mystery, science fictions, fable, satire, biography, autobiography, persuasive essay and editorials. English mechanics will be reviewed by using grammar games and projects. Students will learn the etymology of the American language through studying Greek and Latin root words, prefixes, and suffixes. With a focus on bolstering confidence, students will write and deliver speeches which may include, but not limited to, a sales speech, newscast, how-to or dramatic reading.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Course # 180 - 8th Grade World History I 500 B.C.E. – 1815

In this first of two year long courses in the World History sequence at Hopkins, students will briefly review the Classical Civilizations of Greece and Rome as a prelude to the study of world civilizations after the fall of the Roman Empire. Students study the history of the major empires and political entities of this period including the Byzantine Empire, and the major pre-Columbian civilizations of the Western Hemisphere. Students examine geography, language, literature and the arts as well as the important political, economic and religious developments of this period, including the development of Christianity and Islam, the conflicts between them in different parts of the world and the beginnings of European influence on the western hemisphere. Finally, students study the development of democratic, secular and scientific thought in the major events and developments of European history. As time permits, students may also examine African, Indian and East Asian civilizations from 500 B.C.E. to 1815. The course is designed to teach information as well as skills. Skills which will be addressed include reading for critical thinking, note-taking, test taking, researching, writing, map and graph skills, utilizing primary sources and developing discussion/presentation abilities.

Course # 170 - 7th Grade Social Studies

This course has been designed to give 7th grade students the opportunity to systematically study the geography of the world outside of the western hemisphere. They will study the continents in the order that reflects the early development of the river civilizations of Africa, and Asia. Then they will move to the later development of the maritime civilizations of the Mediterranean and Northern and Western Europe. Skills that will be addressed include map and graph skills, note-taking, critical thinking, researching and analyzing current events

Course # - 7th Grade Ancient Civilization

In this quarter course, students will explore the ancient cultures, including Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome. The course is designated to teach information as well as study skills. Skills which will be addressed included reading for critical thinking, note-taking, test taking, researching, writing, map and graph skills, utilizing primary sources and developing discussion/presentation abilities.

SCIENCE

Course # 280 - 8th Grade Physical Science

This course is an introduction to Astronomy, Physical Science, the scientific method, and tools used by scientists. Topics in Astronomy include the study of the Earth-Moon-Sun system, planets, and life cycles of stars and galaxies. In Physical Science, motion, forces, simple machines and the various forms of energy will be explored. Course work will consist of lectures, lab activities, class discussions, homework, video presentations, and projects. Students will be required to work effectively in cooperative groups as well as individually to successfully complete this course.

Course # 270 - 7th Grade Biological Science

The seventh grade biological science course has been designed as an overview of the study of life -- from the microscopic to the macroscopic level of organization. Students learn to recognize those characteristics which are useful in distinguishing among the various plant and animal groups. Attention is given to the relationships which exist between structure and function in the human body. The themes of similarity and diversity are stressed, along with an emphasis on the nature of man's ecological interaction with his environment. In addition to content, all middle school science classes emphasize effective communication skills, accurate written work, and the development of critical thinking and proper study skills.

Course # - 7th Grade Building For Tomorrow

The Sci Tech course is a combination of math, science, technology, and engineering. Students will explore how technology supported activities can make mathematics both engaging and understandable. Through project based learning, students will use the engineering design process to discover manufacturing, transportation, and bioengineering technologies, and the importance of sustainability.

MATHEMATICS

Course # 381 - 8th Grade Mathematics - Accelerated Section - Algebra I

This course is a standard Algebra I course and is designed for the student who has successfully completed a course in pre-algebra. Among the content included will be the following: the basic language of algebra, the real number system, systems of equations, working with one & two variables, polynomials, functions, quadratics, an introduction to probability, and simple factoring. Strong problem solving skills and accuracy in computation are also pre-requisites. Use of the graphing calculators will be further expanded at this level.

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Course # 382 – 8th Grade Mathematics – Regular

This course features continued maintenance, review, and extension of all computational skills, using whole numbers, fractions, and decimals, informal geometry, number theory, problem solving, ratios, proportions, probability, and percents. Special attention is given to reading, understanding and solving word problems.

An introduction to basic money management will be explored, as time allows.

Course # 371 – 7th Grade Pre-Algebra

This course is designed to prepare a group of seventh grade students for a rigorous course in Algebra I in the eighth grade. Basic skills are reviewed and strengthened. Properties of whole numbers, integers, and real numbers are studied in some depth. Graphing of linear equations and basic geometric concepts are presented as well as an introduction to the use of graphing calculators.

Course # 372 - 7th Grade Mathematics

The basic seventh grade course features maintenance, review, and extension of computational skills with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percents, as well as ratio and proportion. Attention is given to the presentation of informal geometric concepts such as area, perimeter, and measurement, and to the study of open number sentences, functions, and graphing. Introduction to reading, understanding and solving open ended word problems.

WORLD LANGUAGES

At the 7th grade level, students will have the opportunity to sample both French and Spanish. At this level, students will be required to take one quarter of exploratory French and one quarter of exploratory Spanish. In the 8th grade, they will be afforded the opportunity to take Spanish I or French I, which is the same curriculum that is taught at the high school level. Students are required to successfully complete two years of World Language at the high school level, regardless if they take Spanish I or French I at the 8th grade level.

Course # 481 - 8TH Grade Spanish

Course # 482 - 8th Grade French

This is a TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling) course, meeting every day for one semester. Students will continue to learn high frequency vocabulary and phrases in the target language. They will practice their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through illustrated short stories, skits, group work, and games.

Course # 471- 7th Grade Spanish

Course # 472 - 7th Grade French

This is a TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling) course, meeting every day for one quarter. Students will learn high frequency vocabulary and phrases in the target language: common courtesies, colors, general descriptions, numbers, days of the week and months of the year, plus basic classroom vocabulary. They will acquire listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in the target language through simple and illustrated short stories, skits, group work, projects, and games.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

Course # 671 – MS Family & Consumer Science

Semester Course

This course meets every other day for the entire year.

The Family and Consumer Education Department acknowledges that today's students will comprise the families, workplaces and communities of tomorrow. This course will introduce students to a variety of topics. Each quarter will cover a different topic related to independent living, clothing and textiles, personal development and family life and food preparation. The Independent Living unit will introduce basic consumer skills by comparing products for best value and reliability, budgeting and consumer rights and responsibilities. The Clothing and Textiles unit will teach students how to sew on a button and teach basic hand stitches by making a simple project. Students will learn simple food preparation techniques, and the importance of food safety and sanitation in the kitchen during the Foods & Nutrition unit. Students will be introduced to the importance of good communication skills, the decision-making process, citizenship and family relationships in the personal development and family life unit. Safety, a good attitude and working with others will be stressed.

ART

Visual Arts Methods & Materials

Course # 770 – 7th and 8th Grade Art Semester Class

This middle school quarter class meets every day for the quarter. This course provides a general overview of art methods and art history. The course will emphasize the development of the students skills and understanding of creating and responding to art. Students will develop a working art vocabulary while exploring a variety of techniques and media, including drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, and computer graphics and design. Students must maintain a portfolio of sketches and finished work.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Course # 582 – 8th Grade Computer Science Full Year Course

This course meets every day for a full year, for those students not taking Spanish I or French I This course reviews keyboarding, ms works, and how to construct letters, memos, reports, outlines, tables and resumes. In addition, students will learn more features of the “Works Version 4” word processor. Students will learn to construct simple databases and spreadsheets. Students will also learn and understand the differences and applications of each.

HEALTH

Course # 980 - 8th Grade Developmental Wellness

The eighth grade health course is a required yearlong course, which meets every other day. It consists of a comprehensive study of drugs and alcohol. The short and long term effects of various drugs will be examined. Social and cultural influences, methods of prevention, and strategies for treatment will be explored. The discussion of health topics, which are timely and relevant, will also be prominent features of this course. Health information will be disseminated through discussions, case studies, group work and independent projects.

MUSIC

Course # 707 - 7th and 8th Grade Middle School Band

This course is a study of basic concepts of ensemble playing, including rhythm, harmony, intonation, and marching. Materials from both standard band and contemporary music literature will be used. There will be a minimum of two performances per year. This is a full year course meeting every other day.

Course # 708 - 7th and 8th Grade Middle School Chorus

This course covers the basic concepts of choral singing, including rhythm, sight-reading, harmony, and intonation. Both standard and contemporary music literature will be used. A minimum of two performances per year will be scheduled. This is a full year course meeting every other day.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course # 960 7th & 970 8th Grade Physical Education

Physical Education is a required yearlong course meeting every other day. Emphasis is placed on improving the student's muscular strength, flexibility, and cardio-vascular efficiency. Knowledge of rules, strategies, safety practices, proper social skills, sportsmanship, and a sequential development of motor skills are promoted through well-planned team sports and individual activities.

Activities offered are: Flag Football, Ultimate Frisbee, Recreational Games, Cooperative Games, Field Hockey, Fitnessgram, Snowshoeing, Wiffle Ball, Presidential Fitness Challenge, Soccer, Basketball, Aerobics, Team Handball, Volleyball, Golf, Kickball, Lacrosse, Pickle Ball, Badminton, Floor Hockey.