

Middle School Course Descriptions: 2026-2027

Year-Long Core Academic Courses

- **Foundations of Literature** This course introduces students to the critical analysis of classic and contemporary literary works. Students develop deeper reading comprehension skills by exploring themes, character arcs, and narrative structures through guided discussion. The curriculum is designed to foster a lifelong appreciation for storytelling while preparing students for high school-level English. This class meets two days a week in person and should be combined with Foundations of Grammar or a comparative Grammar program for a complete English credit. **Cost:** \$950 | **Instructor:** Julie Hart
- **Foundations of Grammar** Designed as a rigorous preparation for high school writing, this course focuses on mastering advanced sentence structure, punctuation, and parts of speech. Students engage in consistent writing practice to transition from basic mechanics to sophisticated academic composition. This class ensures that students enter their freshman year with a solid command of the English language. This class meets two days a week in person or a Thursday virtual option and should be combined with Foundations of Literature or a comparative literature program for a complete English credit. **Cost:** \$950 | **Instructor:** Janice Wright
- **Fundamentals of Literature** In this introductory literature course, students explore a variety of genres to build foundational reading and analytical skills. Through engaging group projects and classroom discussions, students learn to identify key literary elements like plot and setting. The course emphasizes vocabulary growth and the enjoyment of shared reading experiences. This class meets two days a week in person and should be combined with Foundations of Grammar or a comparative Grammar program for a complete English credit. **Cost:** \$950 | **Instructor:** Julie Hart
- **Fundamentals of Grammar** This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the building blocks of writing, focusing on clarity, organization, and correct usage. Students practice drafting short essays and creative pieces while receiving consistent feedback on their technical skills. It is an essential class for developing the confidence needed for more complex middle school writing assignments. This class meets two days a week in person or a Thursday virtual option and should be combined with Foundations of Literature or a comparative literature program for a complete English credit. **Cost:** \$950 | **Instructor:** Julie Hart
- **Foundations of Math** This course is designed to strengthen core arithmetic skills and establish a high-level of comfort with mathematical operations involving fractions, decimals, and percentages. Students engage in consistent practice to build the mental agility and accuracy required for higher-level problem solving. By focusing on the "why" behind mathematical rules, the class ensures students have a robust internal framework before advancing to algebraic concepts. This course meets four days a week in person with a Thursday virtual option. **Cost:** \$2,000 | **Instructor:** Not listed
- **Pre-Algebra** Serving as the essential bridge to high school mathematics, this course introduces students to algebraic expressions, linear equations, and the properties of

real numbers. Students learn to manipulate variables and solve multi-step problems, shifting their focus from basic calculation to abstract mathematical reasoning. The curriculum emphasizes foundational logic and equation-balancing techniques to ensure a seamless transition into Algebra 1. This course meets four days a week in person with a Thursday virtual option. **Cost:** \$2,000 | **Instructor:** Not listed

- **U.S. History** Students explore the pivotal events, figures, and documents that shaped the United States from its founding through the modern era. The course encourages critical thinking about historical cause and effect and the evolution of American civic identity. Through primary source analysis and interactive projects, students gain a comprehensive understanding of the nation's past. **Cost:** \$950 | **Instructor:** Ryan Jasper
- **Texas History** This course dives into the rich and diverse history of the Lone Star State, covering everything from indigenous cultures to the Texas Revolution and modern industry. Students examine the unique cultural and political landscape that defines Texas today. The curriculum highlights the individuals and events that contributed to the state's distinct place in American history. **Cost:** \$950 | **Instructor:** Ryan Jasper
- **Ancient Roman History: Food & Culture** This unique year-long culinary history course invites students to explore the flavors and cooking techniques of Ancient Rome. Participants learn about the diet and social customs of the Roman Empire while preparing authentic recipes in a lab setting. It is a delicious way to connect historical study with practical, hands-on kitchen skills. **Cost:** \$950 | **Instructor:** Ryan Jasper

Science, Technology & Electives (Year Long)

- **Art Lab II: Creative Studio** Building on the principles learned in the introductory lab, this course allows students to dive deeper into personal expression and advanced techniques. Students work in a studio environment to refine their skills in drawing, painting, and mixed media while developing their unique artistic voice. The curriculum emphasizes the creative process, from initial brainstorming to the completion of polished, original works. **Cost:** \$900 (\$30 supply fee) | **Instructor:** Stacey Cox
- **Backyard Biology: STEM Homesteading Lab** An immersive, hands-on course where students explore life science by managing their own living ecosystem. Participants will engage in practical activities such as growing food, hatching chicks, and designing a functional chicken coop. The curriculum integrates core concepts of biology, chemistry, and engineering through real-world observation and critical thinking. **Cost:** \$950 | **Instructor:** Jenny Vivas
- **Intro to Chemistry** This foundational science course introduces middle schoolers to the world of atoms, molecules, and chemical reactions through safe and engaging lab work. Students learn to use the scientific method to observe how different substances interact and change. It serves as a perfect stepping stone for students planning to take high school Chemistry. **Cost:** \$950 | **Instructor:** Jenny Vivas
- **Earth Systems Studio: Space, Storms & Hazards** Students investigate the powerful forces of nature, from the depths of space to the mechanics of severe weather on Earth. The course covers planetary science, meteorology, and the impact of natural hazards on

human populations. Through interactive modeling and data analysis, students gain a new perspective on the dynamic systems of our planet. **Cost:** \$950 | **Instructor:** Jenny Vivas

- **Physics & Engineering Studio** This hands-on studio course challenges students to apply the laws of physics to real-world engineering problems and building projects. Participants explore concepts like force, motion, and energy by designing and testing their own mechanical structures. It is an ideal environment for students who enjoy problem-solving and creative construction. **Cost:** \$950 | **Instructor:** Jenny Vivas
- **Intro to Spanish** This year-long introductory course invites students to explore the Spanish language through basic vocabulary, common phrases, and essential grammatical structures. In addition to linguistic skills, students dive into the vibrant traditions and histories of various Spanish-speaking cultures. The class emphasizes interactive communication to build student confidence in speaking, listening, and reading. **Cost:** \$950 | **Instructor:** Holly Jasso

Fall/Spring (Semester) Courses

- **Archery Team** The Archery Team focuses on developing discipline, focus, and technical skill in the sport of target archery. Students learn proper form, safety protocols, and equipment maintenance while participating in team-building exercises. This elective offers a unique physical education experience that emphasizes mental concentration and personal consistency. **Cost:** \$400 | **Instructor:** Ryan Jasper
- **Art Lab I: The Elements of Art** This foundational course introduces students to the seven core elements of art: line, shape, color, value, form, texture, and space. Through a variety of hands-on projects, students experiment with different mediums to understand how these building blocks create visual impact. The class is designed to spark creativity while providing the technical vocabulary necessary for further artistic study. **Cost:** \$450 (\$15 supply fee) | **Instructor:** Stacey Cox
- **Cooking Basics** This introductory elective teaches students the essential skills required to be confident and safe in the kitchen. From knife skills to understanding heat transfer and nutrition, participants learn to prepare a variety of simple and healthy meals. The course emphasizes collaboration and the joy of sharing food with others. **Cost:** \$375 | **Instructor:** Ryan Jasper
- **Cook Team** This class meets weekly and focuses on developing barbecue cooking skills, food safety, and competition-style preparation. Students will practice working as a team while learning techniques for smoking meats, managing fires, and preparing turn-in boxes. Opportunities for competitions may be available, with travel and premium ingredient costs not included in the course fee. **Cost:** \$450 | **Instructor:** Ryan Jasper
- **Drama** This course introduces students to the fundamentals of acting, including character development, improvisation, and stagecraft. Participants engage in various exercises to improve their public speaking, emotional expression, and physical awareness on stage. Through the study of scripts and performance, students build the

confidence and collaboration skills needed for theatrical success. **Cost:** \$375 |

Instructor: Holly Jasso

- **Life Skills Lab** This practical course focuses on equipping students with essential tools for independence, ranging from basic home maintenance to personal organization and time management. Students participate in hands-on activities that simulate real-world scenarios, helping them build confidence in their ability to navigate daily challenges. The lab environment encourages collaboration and problem-solving as students master foundational skills for adulthood. **Cost:** \$375 | **Instructor:** Rachel Guim
- **Musical Theatre** This high-energy elective combines acting, singing, and dancing to give students a comprehensive introduction to the world of performance. Students work together to rehearse and stage musical numbers, focusing on vocal technique, stage presence, and choreography. The course fosters creative expression and teamwork, culminating in a showcase of the students' hard work and talent. **Cost:** \$375 | **Instructor:** Holly Jasso & Melody
- **P.E. (Physical Education)** This course promotes physical fitness and healthy lifestyles through a variety of team sports, individual challenges, and cooperative games. Students focus on developing motor skills, sportsmanship, and a positive attitude toward lifelong physical activity. The class provides a structured environment for students to burn energy while learning the importance of physical health. **Cost:** \$300 | **Instructor:** Ryan Jasper