

Middle School Course Descriptions 2026-2027

Year-Long Core Academic Courses

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

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 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

MATH

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

HISTORY

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:** Julie Hart

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 Bokros

SCIENCE

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

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

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

Year-Long Elective Courses

Art Lab II: Creative Studio | Building on the principles learned in Art Lab I, 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

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

Semester Elective 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:** Kristin Collins

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

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: \$650 | **Instructor:** Jenny Vivas

Wildlife Management A hands-on semester elective that introduces students to the principles of wildlife conservation, ecology, and natural resource management in Texas. Students will explore Texas ecoregions, native and invasive species, conservation practices, and careers such as game warden, park ranger, and wildlife biologist. Through real-world applications, students will develop an understanding of environmental stewardship, wildlife laws, and the role humans play in protecting natural habitats. An optional opportunity to earn Texas Hunter Education and Boater Education certifications is available for an additional fee.

Cost: \$400 + \$30 Supply Fee | **Instructor:** Kristin Collins