

Middle School Curriculum Description

Academics

The Middle School program follows New York State and Common Core Curriculum. Each student completes a full year course of Math, Science, Social Studies, and English Language Arts. Students who show advanced academic capabilities during their 7th grade year have the opportunity to take advanced Math and Science courses during 8th grade.

- 6th Grade Math:** Students will learn the basics of Rational Numbers; Number Operations including fractions; Proportionality; Equivalent Expressions/Equations; Geometry; Measurement and Data; Statistics.
- 7th Grade Math:** Students will learn the Number System with Rational Numbers; Ratios and Proportional Relationships; Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities; Statistics and Probability; Geometry.
- 8th Grade Math:** Students will learn the foundations of Algebra; integers and exponents; rational and real numbers; plane geometry; ratios; percents; probability; graphing; sequences; and polynomials.
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- 6th Grade Science:** Students will be introduced to the Scientific Method, Measurement, and Science safety, as well possible careers in Earth Science. Students will learn about topics in Earth Science including Maps; Minerals and Rocks; Weather and Oceans; Conservation; Plate Tectonics; Atmosphere and Climate; and the Solar System.
- 7th Grade Science:** Students will learn about Matter; The Atom and Atomic Theory; Elements and the Periodic Table; Chemicals and Energy; Newton's Laws; Heat; Electricity; Waves-Sound and Light; Technology and Physical Science; and Energy Resources.
- 8th Grade Science:** Students will review the Scientific Method as well as Tools and Safety in Science. Students will begin to explore topics in Life Science including the Processes of Life; Genetics; Classifying in Science; Microbes; the Life Cycles of Plants and Animals; Human Biology and Systems; Ecology and Conservation.
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- 6th Grade Social Studies:** Students will learn about maps and to begin to study the history of the world starting at the Stone Age and the various ancient civilizations through the Middle Ages.
- 7th Grade Social Studies:** Students will learn United States History within the context of the roots of the American people by looking at the histories and cultures from the ancient civilizations before the Middle Ages and

the age of exploration after the Middle Ages. Students will then explore the beginning of this country from the colonies to the Westward Expansion.

8th Grade Social Studies: Students will continue to learn United States History from the Civil War through the Civil Rights Era. Students will begin to explore the challenges of our country in this new century.

6th Grade ELA: Students will study myths; poetry and speeches; drama and essays; a novel; and non-fiction in order to ask questions about our pasts; live in our presents; and affect our futures. Students will also begin to learn how to read and research in order to form and write an argument.

7th Grade ELA: Students will study poems and short stories; essays; plays and ads; and narrative stories in order to look within themselves and the world around them to identify who they are, what they need, and what gives them power and purpose.

8th Grade ELA: Students will study poems, non-fiction, and essays; speeches and novels; screenplays and commentaries; autobiography and articles to determine how their experiences, rules, and need for control affect individuals and societies.

Athletics & Physical Education

Athletics and Physical Education are staples of the Middle School curriculum. Students have the opportunity to participate in league athletics and intramural competitions.

6th/7th/8th Grade PE: Students encounter a variety of practical learning experiences, including working on their own, with a partner, and in small/large groups and using small/large group equipment. Students learn the rules and procedures in physical activities such as archery; badminton; basketball; team games; fitness activities; floor hockey; soccer; track and field; and volleyball.

6th-8th Grade Health: Students will begin to explore physical health; mental/emotional health; relationships and communication; personal care and nutrition; and safety. We also cover general topics on the impact and dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs; and human sexuality.

Arts & Special Seminars

Middle School students can explore their artistic capabilities and interests through a variety of options. Students can learn to play an instrument and hone their skills through Band, exercise

their vocal talents through Music Class, develop their visual arts talents in Art Class, or join the High School thespians by participating in the Annual school musical.

In the Seminar classes, students explore Health, Art, Music, and Technology. Each seminar lasts for one marking period (Quarter) and is similar to a high school elective.

Spiritual Life

Students attend chapel every week and religion class daily. In addition, they are given the opportunity to participate in Christian fellowship activities and are encouraged to serve in Chapel.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Other learning opportunities include Tuesday Club Hour and field trips offered throughout the year. Some past field trips include the DNA Lab, Mystic Seaport, Philadelphia, the Peabody Museum, and the Norwalk Aquarium.

Graduation Requirements

In order to receive an MLS academic diploma, a student must successfully complete* the following Course Graduation Requirements for a total of 6.5 credits each year or 19.5 credits combined for grades 6-8.

English.....	3 units
Math.....	3 units
Social Studies.....	3 units
Science.....	3 units
Physical Education.....	1.5 units
Theology.....	1.5 units
World Language.....	1.5 units
Art.....	0.75 units
Health.....	0.75 units
Music.....	0.75 units
Technology.....	0.75 units

In addition, candidates for graduation must successfully complete 15 hours of Christian Service. It is required to complete a minimum of 5 hours per year.

Successful completion is defined as a minimum of a 70% final yearly average for each course.

Students may earn concurrent Middle School and High School credit by taking advanced courses during their 8th-grade year.