

2023-2024

Vision Charter School

Middle School Course Catalog

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English, Language, and Literature

51001 English - Gr. 6-8

Each course builds upon the student's prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing. This includes the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Various genres of literature are introduced and defined with writing exercises often linked to reading selections.

Science

53000 Earth and Space Science - Gr. 6

Includes representative topics from Earth sciences. Learning experiences involve pupils observing, exploring, discovering, and experimenting for the purposes of achieving an understanding of how scientists work and what they know about the universe. This course follows the Idaho State Science Standards for Earth Science at the middle school level. Students will develop an understanding of a wide range of topics in Earth and Space Science that build upon science concepts from elementary school. It will be a balanced approach consisting of three dimensions: supporting content, scientific practices, and crosscutting concepts. In particular, students will focus on the Earth as a whole system and the factors that influence it.

53000 Life Science - Gr. 7

This course follows the new Idaho State Science Standards for Life Science in middle school. Students will be introduced to the characteristics of living things. Students study the diversity of life forms from viruses to mammals; learn about human body systems, genetics, and ecological relationships. Critical thinking, problem-solving, and hands-on inquiry skills are developed through observation, classification, data collection, cooperative learning experiences, and communication through the introduction of technical writing.

03159 Physical Science - Gr. 8

(2 HS Credits)

Provides students with an introduction to the basic concepts of physics, specifically the relationships between matter, forces, and energy. As well as, the basic concepts of chemistry, specifically the relationships between the types of matter. Equivalent to Physical Science A

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(basic concepts of Chemistry) and Physical Science B (concepts of Physics). This content is typically taught in 9th grade.

**Students who did NOT receive a C or higher in both semesters will not receive high school credit for the above course. Instead, the course will be transcribed as the middle school credit 53000.*

Social Sciences and History

54305 Social Studies - Gr. 6

Social Studies courses enable students to study a group of related subjects addressing the elements and structures of human society that may include economics, geography, history, citizenship, and other social studies-related disciplines. Students will be exposed to history through historical fiction, non-fiction, and historical documents. Students improve their critical thinking skills as they determine the underlying assumptions and values within the reading selection, and as they understand how the work reflects society's problems and culture. Discussion involving speaking and listening is an integral part of the course and written compositions are required.

04302 Integrated Humanities - Gr. 7-8

The interdisciplinary humanities course connects history, social studies, art, literature, and world religions. This course will enable students to study a group of related subjects addressing the elements and structure of human society which may include economics, geography, history, citizenship, and other social studies-related disciplines. Students will be exposed to history through historical fiction, non-fiction, and historical documents. This course will encourage students to become life-long explorers who discover their connectedness to the records of lived experiences outside of their own individual social and cultural context.

Mathematics

02006 Math 1 - Gr. 6

Math 1 is the first of a sequence of three mathematics courses that are designed to help students develop a deep understanding of the middle school math curriculum. Math 1 is a set of

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organized standards that covers specific focus areas such as expression and equations, number systems, ratios and proportional relationships, geometry, and statistics.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 5th-grade mathematics.

02007 Math 2 - Gr. 7

Math 2 is a set of organized standards that covers specific focus areas such as proportional relationships, rational numbers, expression and equations, geometry, statistics and probability. Students with scores lower than a C will also need to be co-enrolled in a Math Lab course.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math 1 with a C or higher.

02008 Math 3 - Gr. 8

This course is taught using lots of graphing and algebra tiles. This course is aligned with the Idaho Standards for teaching the foundations of Algebra to middle school students. Students with scores lower than a C will also need to be co-enrolled in a Math Lab course.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math 2 with a C or higher.

02052 Algebra I - Gr. 8

This course includes the study of properties and operations of the real number system; evaluating rational algebraic expressions; solving and graphing first-degree equations and inequalities; translating word problems into equations; operations with and factoring of polynomials; and solving simple quadratic equations. Review topics: ratio and proportion, operations with sets, simplifying radical expressions, operations with exponents, and solutions of simple linear equations. Enhancement topics: field properties and theorems, set theory, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, and solving and graphing more complex quadratic equations.

Prerequisites: Success on an algebra readiness assessment is required, in addition to grades and assessments showing mastery of the required content. By teacher recommendation ONLY.

Fine and Performing Arts

05149 Beginning Orchestra - Gr. 6

This course teaches basic skills on string instruments. The first building blocks for becoming a string musician are put in place. Students will begin to learn how to read music.

05149 Beginning Band - Gr. 6

This course teaches the basic skills of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. The first building blocks for becoming a band musician are put in place. Students will begin to learn how to read music.

05149 Intermediate Orchestra - Gr. 7-8

This course helps students continue to develop the skills they began learning in Beginning Orchestra. The instructor will work with the class to develop proper playing techniques and improve on intonation, tone quality, and musicality. Students will also learn new skills on their instruments in preparation for joining the orchestra in high school.

Prerequisites: Beginning Orchestra or one (1) year of orchestra instruction

05149 Intermediate Band - Gr. 7-8

This course helps students continue to develop the skills they began learning in Beginning Band. The instructor will work with the students to develop proper playing techniques and improve on intonation, tone quality, and musicality. Students will also learn new skills on their instruments in preparation for joining the Concert Band in high school.

Prerequisites: Beginning Band or one (1) year of band instruction

05149 Middle School Choir - Gr. 6-8

This course provides students with the opportunity to sing a variety of styles for all voices and is designed to develop vocal techniques and the ability to sing parts. The instructor will teach correct vocal techniques, music reading skills, and ensemble performance techniques. There will be a small group element in the class.

05199 Creative/Comprehensive Art- Gr 6-8

- One (1) Semester Course

This course provides students with the knowledge and opportunity to explore an art form and to create individual works of art. Career opportunities in the art world may also be discussed and explored. This course covers the language, material, and processes of a particular art form and the design elements and principles supporting a work of art. As students advance and become more adept, the instruction regarding the creative process becomes more refined and students are encouraged to develop their own artistic styles. Although the focus of creative art is creation, the study of major artists and art movements is also included.

Physical and Health Education*

08001 Physical Education - Gr. 6-8

- One (1) Semester Course

Physical Education courses provide students with the knowledge, experience, and an opportunity to develop skills in more than one of the following sports or activities: team sports, individual/dual sports, recreational sports, and fitness/conditioning activities.

08051 Health Education - Gr. 6-8

- One (1) Semester Course

Topics covered within Health Education courses include personal health and consumer health issues. The course also includes brief studies of environmental health and personal development. Concepts covered by personal health are as follows: nutrition, mental health management, stress management, drug/alcohol abuse prevention, disease prevention, and first aid.

08001 Physical Education Independent Study - Gr. 7-8

PE may be taken independently if a student provides a minimum of 60 hours of physical education documented and signed by an adult. A student may only take one high school PE credit independently. Involvement in a club or school sports may be included in the required hours for this credit. Students must have parent and administrator pre-approval signatures to take

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PE independently. A timesheet is due by May 15th of each year. Timesheets must include the date, activity, duration of the activity, and an adult signature for each activity.

**Students are required to take (1) credit of physical education and (1) credit of health education while in middle school (6-8th grade). Students who have conflicts in their schedule may request permission from the administration to take an independent physical education course and/or a middle school IDLA health course.*

Foreign Language

24053 Spanish - Gr. 6-8

- One (1) Semester Course

This course is designed to introduce students to the Spanish language and culture. Spanish I courses emphasize basic grammar and syntax, simple vocabulary, and the spoken accent so that students can read, write, speak, and understand the language at a basic level within the predictable area of need, using customary courtesies and conventions. Spanish culture is introduced through art, literature, customs, and the history of Spanish-speaking people.

24053 Spanish and Art Fusion - Gr. 6-8

- One (1) Semester Course

This beginning Spanish Art fusion class is for students who have no or little experience with the Spanish language. The Spanish class is designed to develop communication skills in Spanish and to make comparisons and connections to Spanish-speaking cultures and art with the goal of encouraging understanding and acceptance of differences. Life in various Spanish-speaking countries will be examined. Students learn to express and understand and be receptive to ideas on topics such as common conversational phrases, vocabulary using numbers, calendar and weather, descriptions, and likes and dislikes. The art integration will involve creating pinatas, alfombras, Spanish artist studies, and seasonal cultural art. Students who are advanced may take this class but are requested to pay particular attention to verb and subject agreement to further their Spanish acquisition. This class may be taken multiple times and continues to challenge middle school students at their level.

Additional Courses/Electives

20005 Exploratory Home Skills - Gr. 7-8

- One (1) Semester Course

This course will include the development of home, art, marketing, and finance skills. It will also include an exploration of learning how to cook.

20005 Exploratory Passion Project - Gr. 6-8

- One (1) Semester Course

This course is for students searching for their passion. Students will research their choice of activities and learn about them. They will create PSAs, perform Reader's Theater, write and illustrate children's books, and invent games on subjects they are interested in to share with their classmates.

10001 Coding I - Gr. 6-8

- One (1) Semester Course

This course teaches students the fundamentals of programming and the basic skills for using Python. This class is a stepping stone to further computer science or engineering courses.

10001 Coding II Gr. 7-8

- One (1) Semester Course

A continuation of Coding I. Students will further their knowledge of the fundamentals of programming and using Python. This class is a stepping stone to further computer science or engineering courses.

Prerequisite: Must have completed Coding I with a C or higher.

20005 College and Career Readiness - Gr. 8

- One (1) Semester Course

This course prepares students for success in high school and secondary education. Students will evaluate personal goals, priorities, aptitudes, and interests with the goal of helping them make informed decisions about colleges and careers. Students will work alongside the

College and Career Advisor to create a four-year plan. Idaho Next Steps is integrated into the curriculum.

02002 Math Lab - Gr. 6-8

This course provides students with the assistance they require to successfully complete mathematics-oriented coursework and develop skills that are not meeting grade-level standards in the area of mathematics.

May be mandatory for students showing signs of struggling with coursework, grades, and/or assessments. Students with a D or below are required to be in an assistance course.

51001 English Lab - Gr. 6-8

This course provides students with the assistance they require to successfully complete language arts-oriented coursework and develop skills that are not meeting grade-level standards in the area of English and Language Arts. This includes but is not limited to the following: reading, writing, dictation, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and English language rules.

May be mandatory for students showing signs of struggling with coursework, grades, and/or assessments. Students with a D or below are required to be in an assistance course.

73007 Math Tutorial - Gr. 6-8 SPED Department

This course is specifically designed to assist students in meeting the goals outlined in their individualized educational programs (IEPs). Admission to this class is by teacher recommendation only.

73007 Reading Tutorial - Gr. 6-8 SPED Department

This course is specifically designed to assist students in meeting the goals outlined in their individualized educational programs (IEPs). Admission to this class is by teacher recommendation only.

73007 Teen Living - Gr. 6-8 SPED Department

This course is designed around skill-oriented themes and designed to teach necessary social, personal, life, and self-concept skills. Students will learn and use skills

22051 Tutoring Practicum - Gr. 6-8

REQUIRED: Teacher approval and signature on applicable documents.

Tutoring Practicum courses provide students with the opportunity to offer tutorial assistance to their peers or to younger students. After an initial training period during which students learn how to work with other students and how to make use of the available resources (e.g., staff, written material, audiovisual aids, and so on), students engage in tutoring and assisting others who need or request help. Students also assist with daily classroom/area tasks and management.

20005 Study Hall - Gr. 6-8

- (No Credit)

This course allows students to work independently on completing homework under the supervision of a staff member.

May be mandatory for students showing signs of struggling with coursework, grades, and/or assessments. Students with a D or below are required to be in an assistance course.

20005 English Learning Lab (ELL) - Gr. 6-8

This course is for all students who have English as their second language and would benefit from additional support with English Acquisition and support with their core courses.