

2020-21 Vision Charter School Middle School Courses

ENGLISH, LANGUAGE, and LITERATURE

51001 English (6th – 8th)

Description: Each course builds upon the students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and mechanics of writing, and 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.

51001 Reading Gr. 6

Course typically introduces two or more genres of literature (novel, short story, poetry, and so on). Exploration of each genre's literary elements; determination of theme and intent; and vocabulary and semantics are often included as part of the course content. Writing assignments are required as an additional method to improve understanding and comprehension.

SCIENCE

53000 General Science (Gr. 6th & 7th Life, Physical, Earth, and Space)

These courses are organized around subject matter, which usually includes representative topics from the biological, physical and earth sciences. Learning experiences involve pupils observing, exploring, discovering, and experimenting for purposes of achieving understanding of how scientists work and what they know about the universe.

03519 Physical Science A 1st Semester HS CREDIT

03051 Biology A 2nd Semester HS CREDIT

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT Equivalent to 1 semester of HS Physical Science and 1 Credit of HS Biology. The specific content of Integrated Science courses varies, but they draw upon the principles of several scientific specialties—earth science, physical science, biology, chemistry, and physics—and organize the material around thematic units. Common themes covered include systems, models, energy, patterns, change, and constancy. **Students not receiving a C or above in a semester will not receive HS credit for that semester and will instead have that semester transcribed as a MS credit.*

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HISTORY

54305 Social Studies (Gr. 6-8)

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 Students will be exposed to history through historical fiction, non-fiction, and historical documents.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 will be required.

MATHEMATICS

02002 Math 1 Pre-Requisite: Successful completion of 5th grade mathematics. Math 1 is the first of a sequence of three math course that are designed to help students develop a deep understanding of the middle school math curriculum. Math 1 is a set of organized standards that covers specific focus areas such as expressions and equations, number system, ratios and proportional relationships, geometry and statistics.

02002 Math 2 Pre-Requisite: Successful completion of Math 1 with a C or higher. Students with scores lower than a C will also need to be enrolled in a math tutorial class. Math 2 is a set of organized standards that covers specific focus areas such as proportional relationships, rational numbers, expressions and equations, geometry, statistics and probability.

02002 Math 3 Pre-Requisite: Successful completion of Math 2 with a C or higher. Students with scores lower than a C will also need to be enrolled in a math tutorial class. Math 3 is taught using lots of graphing and algebra tiles. This course is aligned to the Common Core Standards for teaching the foundation from Algebra to middle school students.

02052 Algebra 1 High School Credit (Teacher Recommendation only.) Pre-Requisite: Success on an algebra readiness assessment required in addition to grades and assessments showing mastery of required content. Description: 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 solution 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. . *Students not receiving a C or above in a semester will not receive HS credit for that semester and will instead have that semester transcribed as a MS credit.

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

05149 Beginning Orchestra (6th grade)

05149 Beginning Band (6th grade)

05149 Intermediate Orchestra (Gr. 7-8) Prerequisite: Beginning orchestra.

Intermediate orchestra helps students continue to develop the skills they began learning in beginning band. Mrs. Ellis 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 orchestra in high school. Prerequisite- one year of orchestra instruction.

05149 MS Choir (Gr. 6-8)

Course provides the opportunity to sing a variety of styles for men's and/or women's voices, and is designed to develop vocal techniques and the ability to sing parts. Mr. Ellis will teach correct vocal technique, music reading skills, and ensemble performance techniques. There will be a small group element to the class.

05149 Intermediate Band (Gr. 7-8) Prerequisite: Beginning band.

Intermediate band helps students continue to develop the skills they began learning in beginning band. Mr. Ellis 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 band in high school.

00005 Creative Art - Comprehensive (Gr. 6-8) (1 semester class)

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, materials, 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 courses is creation, the study of major artists, art movements, are also included.

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION

08001 Physical Education (Gr. 6 -8) (1 semester class)

Physical Education courses provide students with 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) (1 semester class)

Topics covered within Health Education courses include personal health (nutrition, mental health and stress management, drug/alcohol abuse prevention, disease prevention, and first aid) and consumer health issues. The courses also include brief studies of environmental health and personal development.

08001 PE independent study: Fitness Activities credit

7th-8th grade 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 middle school PE credit and one high school PE credit independently. Students must have parent and administrator preapproval signatures to take PE independently. A time sheet is due by May 15th each year. Time sheets must include date, activity, duration of activity, and an adult signature for each activity.

**Students must take Health and PE at least once in middle school (6th-8th grade). Students who have conflicts in their schedule may request the Counselor's permission to take an independent PE course and a Middle School IDLA Health course.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

00005 Spanish (Gr. 7-8) 1 semester course

Designed to introduce students to 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 predictable areas of need, using customary courtesies and conventions. Spanish culture is introduced through the art, literature, customs, and history of Spanish-speaking people.

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES/ COURSES

20005 Leadership (Gr. 7-8) 1 semester The leadership/Student Government course is designed to explore, develop and cultivate a better understanding and application of personal leadership skills. Students will assist in planning student events, fundraisers, and campus-wide community service opportunities for our school, promoting school pride and respect.

20005 Exploratory – (6th-8th) Mrs. Evans 1 semester

This course will include six week exploratory sessions in the areas of cooking, finance, and sewing.

20005 Exploratory- (6th-8th) Mrs. Perkins 1 Semester

This course will include a choose your own adventure in depth study and projects in areas of interest.

20005 College and Career Prep (Gr. 8th) –1 semester required course for all 8th grade students. Course prepares students for success in high school and college. 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 with the Guidance Counselor to develop a four-year plan.

20005 Math Lab (6th-8th) with Mrs. Paulus

Math Lab previously known as Math Tutorial is a course that provides students with the assistance they need to successfully complete their Math coursework and develop any skills that may not be at grade level in the area of Math.

20005 Writing Lab (6th -8th) with Mrs. Harrold

English Lab will be a class where students struggling in the area of English Language Arts, Reading, and Writing can get extra help in all of these areas with their regular coursework and have the opportunity to improve their skills in Reading, Writing, and Vocabulary in the areas that need skill building.

20005 Math/Reading Tutorial with Mrs. Burton (6th-8th)

This course is specifically designed to assist students in meeting the goals outlined in their individual educational plans. Admission to this class is by teacher recommendation only.

20005 Study Skills with Mrs. Perkins

Students will be working on organizational skills, test taking skills, note taking skills, keyboarding, intro to tech & Microsoft skills, stress management, agenda and binder organization support, skill building support, and homework support time.

22051 Office, lunch, library or Classroom Aide (Gr. 7-8th) (TA)

Teachers Assistants provide support to the teacher in the classroom. Office Aide courses provide students with the opportunity to work in campus offices, developing skills related to clerical office work. Duties may include typing, filing, record-keeping, receiving visitors, answering the telephone, and duplicating, among others. These courses emphasize appropriate work attitudes, human relations, and proper office procedures.

20005 Study Hall – Mrs. Perkins

This course allows students to work independently on completing homework under the supervision of a staff member. No grade/No credit.

10001 (Intro to Computing) Coding 1 1st sem/ Coding 2 2nd Sem - Mr. Casey Boothby

These courses are perfect for students interested in learning the fundamentals of programming and they will start with Python. This is a perfect class for students interested in a future career in Computer Science or Engineering.

20005 ELL LAB- With Mrs. Warr

This class 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 Classes.

20005 Drama - taught by Mrs. Harrold

This class will offer students an opportunity to learn the skill of public speaking and will offer the opportunity for students to practice public speaking in multiple ways such as speeches, Ted Talks, and the opportunity to put on at least one play.

20005 MS STEM – Mr. Casey Boothby

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) is everywhere, and it shapes our daily lives. Careers in the field of STEM are expected to grow dramatically in the future. Students who want to remain competitive in the global job market should pursue a degree in the STEM field. In this course, students will explore the basics of STEM. Students will have opportunities for hands on exploration of the pre-engineering field through multiple in depth projects.

IDLA COURSE OFFERINGS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FOR CREDIT RECOVERY AND ACCELERATION. Courses are also offered in the event of a schedule conflict. Please view course descriptions at <http://idahodigitallearning.org/Students/Courses/CourseCatalog.aspx>. **These courses have a

fee of \$75 per class. In the event that the student passes the class with a C or better, the deposit is returned to the parent.

Advancement Requirements (6-8):

Vision Charter School report cards, in addition to EOCs and state assessments, are used to determine mastery of grade level material. Both are based on Idaho Core Standards. Students who have not shown mastery of grade level expectations in all core subject areas will not be eligible for promotion to the next grade. Core subject area classes include Math, Reading, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.

Students will not receive credit for a semester grade below a D-. Scores below a C do not meet the recommended level of mastery set by VCS. Students scoring below a C in any core class will be required to take remedial courses in lieu of other electives, summer school remediation, or tutoring participation as determined by the administrator. Failure to pass mandatory grade level core classes shall necessitate the failed semester(s) being retaken in the current grade even though the student may have been promoted to the next grade level.

Students who have earned credit but have not shown mastery of grade level material will be eligible for promotion in the event they attend 96% of summer school during scheduled summer school days with no make-up day options available and show mastery of the content. The \$75.00 fee assessed from IDLA for each course in question will be the responsibility of the parent.

Parents and students may appeal the decision of the staff for retention or mandatory summer school. The appeal will be made in writing within fifteen days of the notice for retention or mandatory summer school to be eligible for promotion. The written appeal must outline any evidence, argument, or extenuating circumstances impacting the student's academic progress throughout the year. The appeals committee will be made up of the administrator, two staff members, and two board members. The decision of the appeals board will be considered final. The parent and student may be requested to appear before the appeals board if determined necessary by the appeals board. *For all grades, promotion of all special education students is at the discretion of the IEP team.*