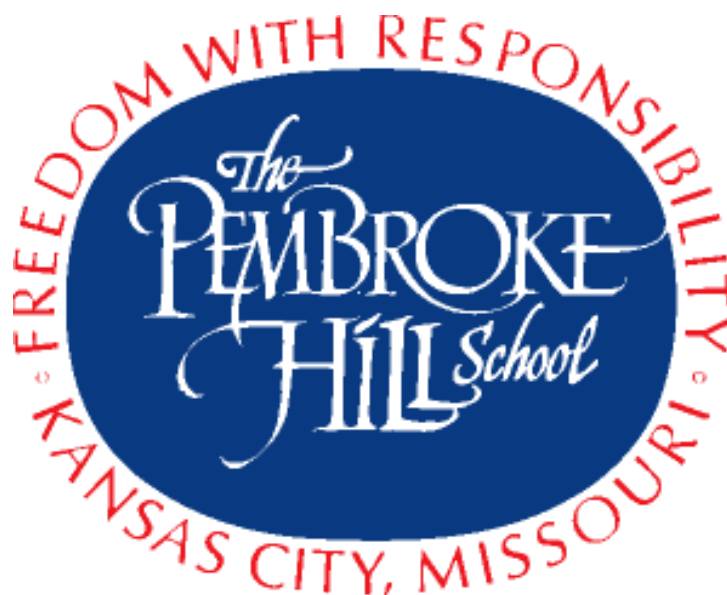


THE PEMBROKE HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADE 8

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

2019 - 2020



EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ALGEBRA I - YEAR 2

This course is a continuation of the seventh grade Algebra I – Year 1 course. Review of the seventh grade course will take place at the beginning of the year. The Algebra I curriculum during the eighth grade year focuses on the study of functions, graphing quadratic equations, solving rational and radical expressions, systems of equations, solving and graphing inequalities, factoring, polynomials, quadratic and exponential functions. An emphasis will be placed on using a step-by-step approach to problem solving and making connections between these skills to real world applications. After completing this course, students should have a solid understanding of the concepts of Algebra and be ready for the study of geometry.

ART

The eighth grader will be expected to apply their knowledge of the elements and principles of design in a variety of media such as drawing, painting, ceramics, fiber, sculpture and printmaking. Students will develop more advanced studio projects by using conceptual and abstract ways of thinking. Projects solutions will be discussed and evaluated throughout the assignment to achieve unique and creative solutions.

CHORAL MUSIC

Choral Music is open to any seventh or eighth grader. The girls' choir and the boys' choir will meet separate days and rotate every other day with the Physical Education class. First semester focus is on foundational skills for performance of classical and seasonal music culminating in the annual Winter Concert. Second semester features *Showcase*, a full-scale musical production, which includes large and small ensembles, solos, staging and choreography. **Reminder:** You must enroll in the Showcase elective (3rd quarter) in conjunction with this course.

ENGLISH

This course continues to emphasize the importance of effective communication in written and oral language. The literature component is comprised of several genres including Shakespearean play, poetry, short stories and novel. Students write poetry and personal narratives and produce creative and analytical writings in conjunction with their literature study. Vocabulary is expanded through an age-appropriate workbook program as well as terms that emerge from assigned reading. Several literature choices complement material taught in the World Cultures class. Sixth and seventh grade grammar skills are solidified, and more complex concepts are introduced. Writing projects encourage use of these structures for a more mature voice. In an effort to recognize different learning styles, classroom activities are based on class lecture and discussion as well as small-group and individual projects.

GEOMETRY (ACCELERATED)

This course covers all the basic topics of plane geometry--lines, planes, angles and triangles, circles and spheres, areas of circles and sectors, polygonal regions and their areas, and coordinate geometry. An appreciation of the difference between congruence and similarity is stressed. In addition, students study the volumes of solids and are introduced to right triangle trigonometry. Topics are introduced through postulates and theorems. It is a major aim of the course that every student should be able to recognize and write logical proofs and, in the process, develop the skill of logical argument.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The objectives of the eighth grade physical education program are to provide an environment conducive for the student to attain an acceptable physical fitness level, to develop an appreciation of team sports and the variables of team practice and competition, and to develop the skills and desires to continue with a healthy lifestyle as they progress with their upper school years.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – INDEPENDENT STUDY

The Independent Study program provides seventh and eighth grade students with an opportunity to earn Physical Education credit for exceptional dedication to fitness outside of The Pembroke Hill School. Students applying for Independent study must meet all five Independent Study requirements in order to qualify (see the Independent Study application in the middle school office for details). Interested applicants must turn in their applications at least a week prior to the start of the quarter. Qualified students can earn a maximum of four credits (four quarters) of Physical Education during their 7th and 8th grade years. The remainder of their credits must be obtained through regular attendance in class.

SCIENCE

The objective of 8th grade science is to build a basic understanding of physics and chemistry. During the study of chemistry students will experiment with and observe atomic theory, element periodicity, compound formation, chemical reactivity, gas laws, and acid/base reactivity. Fundamental laws of motion, energy, light and sound will be explored as part of the physics unit. Scientific problem solving will be used throughout the year to connect concepts to real life learning. Technology will be implemented to collect, interpret, evaluate, and effectively communicate data.

SPEECH

Speech Class will prepare students for public speaking through a variety of methods. By the end of the semester, students will feel comfortable speaking in front of their peers, be confident in their abilities to prepare a speech, speak with poise, and keep their audience fully engaged.

WORLD CULTURES

Eighth grade World Cultures is a geographical and cultural examination of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Students will use the five themes of geography to study current economic, political, social, developmental, and regional issues. Through the text, projects, discussion, Internet activities and postings, and writing assignments, students will develop research and communication skills. Throughout the year students will improve their ability to evaluate and summarize information and express their opinions with factual evidence.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

EIGHTH GRADE FRENCH

This course is the second half of a two-year program designed to complete one full level of French I. Further refinement of oral skills and vocabulary development as well as an emphasis on both the spoken and written word will be enhanced by cultural studies of France and the French-speaking world. Upon completion of this course, the student should be prepared for French II at the upper school.

EIGHTH GRADE LATIN

This course is the second half of a two-year program designed to complete one full level of Latin I. Students will further develop their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar and will continue to sharpen their reading and translating skills. English word study is a prominent feature of the course. Students will continue to study life in the Roman Empire. Upon completion of this course, students should be prepared for Latin II at the upper school.

EIGHTH GRADE MANDARIN CHINESE

The course will focus on further refinement of oral skills and vocabulary development. An emphasis on both the spoken and written word will be enhanced by cultural studies of China and the Chinese-speaking world. Upon completion of this course, the student should be prepared for Chinese II at the upper school.

EIGHTH GRADE SPANISH (RED)

This course is a continuation of the 7th grade Red course and will elaborate on skills developed in speaking, listening, reading, writing, and grammar. The course will use formal textbook and supplementary materials as well as novels, movies, and other culturally immersive materials. This class will primarily be conducted in the target language, by the end of the year students should feel confident and able to converse in Spanish in many varied real life situations. Students will end the year prepared for Level III of Upper School Spanish.

EIGHTH GRADE SPANISH (BLUE)

This course is the second half of a two-year program designed to complete one full level of Spanish I. Further refinement of oral skills and vocabulary development as well as an emphasis on both the spoken and written word will be enhanced by cultural studies of the Spanish-speaking world. Upon completion of this course, the student should be prepared for Spanish II at the upper school.

CHINESE I (This is an upper school course.)

This is a beginning course for students with little or no previous study of Chinese. The strategy to construct Chinese characters and the approach to write Chinese characters are taught, as well as the pronunciation. By the end of this level, students are expected to be able to have short conversations, read and write short paragraphs. Students will learn about Chinese people, festivals and places. Study of current events in China related to America is an integral part of the class.

FRENCH I (This is an upper school course.)

This is a beginning course for students with little or no previous study of French. Basic grammar and vocabulary will be taught to enable the students to communicate in the target language. Oral practice and communicative activities will be emphasized. Exposure to the Francophone culture and customs is an integral part of the course.

LATIN I (This is an upper school course.)

Using the Cambridge Latin textbook, students will study basic grammar and learn Latin vocabulary that they will use to translate Latin prose. Integrated into the reading passages are these areas of focus: grammar, vocabulary, Roman history, and Roman culture. Another objective of this course is the enrichment of English vocabulary through the study of Latin derivatives.

SPANISH I (This is an upper school course.)

Language: It is the object of this beginning course to introduce the students to the basic principles of Spanish. All four basic skills--listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing--will be developed in this class. At the end of the year the student taking this course should be able to participate in a short conversation in Spanish and to read simple narrative passages in this foreign language.

Culture: As part of this course, the students will be introduced to and familiarized with Hispanic culture. At the end of the year the student should have acquired sensitivity to the value system and behavior patterns of the people of the different Spanish-speaking countries. They will also study the influence of the Hispanic culture on the culture of the United States.

ELECTIVES

****8th gr. Leadership - All 8th gr. Students will be assigned one quarter**

Building on the essential skills and topics from the 7th grade Wellness curriculum, 8th graders will explore what it is to be a positive leader. The PHS core values will be considered in the context of leadership as students examine what it means to be in a leadership role.

Art Studio - 1st and 4th quarter

This course will involve **all things Art!!** Students will have the opportunity to take their knowledge learned in art class and continue to explore those techniques further. The options are endless... painting, printmaking, hand-building with clay, mixed-media collage and fibers. Students can create their own curriculum or have guidance by the instructor!

Basketball Skills - 2nd quarter

Tune up your skills for basketball season by getting individual instruction on shooting and skills of the game. Learn drills to do on your own to improve your ball handling, shooting, and passing. The class also involves fun, competitive games and drills.

Be Awesome - 4th quarter

A creative mix of activities over the course of each week.

Monday - Acts of Kindness (idea phase)

Tuesday - Gaming Day

Wednesday - Acts of Kindness (activity phase)

Thursday - Study Hall

Friday - Outdoor activity/sport

Broadcast - 1st and 3rd quarter

Broadcast as an elective is back! For students interested in being part of our news crew, you will get the chance to film, edit, create storyboards, work with teleprompters, play with green screens, and compile the videos into our blue week broadcasts. Our news crew is dedicated to bringing students the news that is relevant to them: stories from around the building, what's happening at Pembroke, events in our community, and world news that matters. If you are hoping to get a jump start in the journalism field, this is a great place to start!

Concert Band - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th quarters

The middle school concert band is open to all instrumental music students in grades 6, 7, & 8. This year-long elective provides a creative and educational environment for students to develop successful ensemble and music performance skills. The ensemble rehearses during the school day and studies/performs a variety of music that is stylistically and culturally diverse. Focus is routed in developing music performance skills/concepts, self-expression, creativity, rehearsal etiquette and ensemble/social skills. In addition to assemblies & school-related events, students are required to perform for two major concerts (winter and spring). Band members may also elect to support PHS by participating in the Raider Pep Band and Chamber Music Club.

Creative Writing/Journalism - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarters

Calling all wordsmiths! Hone your creative writing skills, contribute to the school newspaper, *The Voice*, and learn to craft a query letter to get that favorite story published. We will also venture into the worlds of poetry and podcasting. Bring your creative spirit to class and get ready to have some fun!

Dance/Cheer - 1st quarter

The cheer portion of the electives will work on cheer jumps, chants, stunts, and basic cheer movement. The dance section will learn about different types of dancing and learn some routines in each. We will have an opportunity or two to show them off in action at some of our middle school athletic events: including the Homecoming parade and partner up with the Varsity cheerleaders at a Varsity football game. This elective is open to anyone--no experience needed.

Exploring Tech - 2nd and 4th quarter

Explore and sample different technologies in this course. We'll try coding, program Sphero robots, 3D design and printing, and more. Each unit will last 2-3 weeks.

Fantasy Football - 1st quarter

Look at the statistical side of sports. How do math and sports relate? Can we find patterns and trends that help to predict future outcomes? Look for free agent pickups on the open market and analyze trades and values in your fantasy league. Each week will culminate with our own game of flag football in the quad!

Foreign Language French Film Festival - 1st quarter

Unleash your cinematic creativity! Write, produce, and film an original short French film for the Foreign Language Film Festival at Central Missouri State University. Attend the festival in the spring to compete against other schools from Missouri and Kansas.

Foreign Language Spanish Film Festival - 2nd quarter

Unleash your cinematic creativity! Write, produce, and film an original short Spanish film for the Foreign Language Film Festival at Central Missouri State University. Attend the festival in the spring to compete against other schools from Missouri and Kansas.

Intro to Geometry - 2nd quarter

This elective will be an introduction to the basics and fundamentals of understanding geometry. We will explore geometric vocabulary and relationships between different types of polygons and their angles. We will investigate logical reasoning and problem solving with puzzles and geometric models. Come build, learn, and explore what geometry is all about!

Math Contest Club - 2nd quarter

Get ready to challenge mathletes all over the city and the country! In a fun and relaxing setting, you will practice challenging math problems, learn higher level math skills (Geometry and Algebra II), and fine-tune your test-taking strategies. Also, become a part of Math Madness, an online math competition set up like the Basketball March Madness NCAA tournament. This course will focus on preparing you for upcoming math contests like MATHCOUNTS and MCTM Math League contests.

Raider Fit - 2nd and 3rd quarter

Get faster, stronger, more athletic, and more flexible! In this elective we learn how to use exercise to improve athletic performance and health. This course will give you the tools to be the best athlete you can be. We focus on developing strength, speed, and agility through weight lifting fundamentals.

Robotics - First Lego - 1st quarter

Robotics will use information and skills taken from Robotics 1 and apply them to new problems. The projects will be designed to expand programming ability, but increase teamwork and problem-solving skills. The challenges will be based on the *First LEGO League* and include in-house competitions between teams. Students will also have the opportunity to explore various careers related to coding, programming, and robotics.

Scratch Programming - 4th quarter

This programming class will be a self-paced curriculum where students will create animations, games and apps utilizing Scratch, a visual programming language developed by the MIT Media Lab and Combat Code. Other computer languages will be explored based on the levels of the students.

Showcase - 3rd quarter

Showcase is open to any seventh or eighth grader who is enrolled in Choral Music. The girls' choir and the boys' choir will meet on separate days, but will occasionally combine for mixed-voicing rehearsals. When students are not singing, they are scheduled into a proctored study hall. Second semester features *Showcase*, a full-scale musical production, which includes large and small ensembles, solos, staging and choreography.

Study Hall - 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarter

What in the World? - 4th quarter

Yikes! There is a lot to discuss in the world today! This is a student run and student structured elective. You will decide what topics to discuss, where to get the information and what we should debate on fun Fridays. You are in control!

Yoga - 1st and 4th quarter

Experience the benefits of daily yoga practice! We will explore the foundations of yoga, learning basic postures with a focus on controlled breathing and safe alignment. As the quarter progresses, you will develop strength, flexibility, and balance, and we will experiment with more challenging poses. This elective will give you a chance to practice mindfulness and breathing techniques to cultivate focus, balance, and positivity both on and off the mat! No yoga experience necessary! Bringing your own yoga mat is recommended, but not required.