



McKinley Middle
Academic Magnet
School of Visual
& Performing Arts

Course Catalog



Core Course Sequence

Minimum Requirements for Middle School Students

Course	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
ENGLISH	English 6	English 7	English 8
MATHEMATICS	Math 6	Math 7	Math 8
SCIENCE	Science 6	Science 7	Science 8
SOCIAL STUDIES	Social Studies 6	Social Studies 7	Social Studies 8
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	PE 6	PE 7	PE 8

ALGEBRA I	Grade Level: 7th & 8th (High School Credit)
Semester(s): Two (2)	Prerequisite: Score of 775 or above on the prior-year LEAP AND 70% accuracy on the district approved math placement test

This is an entry level course for middle school students that bridges the gap between the concrete ideas of mathematics and the abstract thinking of algebra. Students will explore data, the patterns formed by data, and the mathematical relations and functions that data represent. Topics studied include variables; operations and properties of real numbers; equivalent expressions and equations; solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities; factoring and solving quadratic equations; radicals; exponential growth; and probability. Special emphasis is placed on developing an understanding of functions through real-world application.

GEOMETRY	Grade Level: 8th (High School Credit)
Semester(s): Two (2)	Prerequisite: Algebra I

This course provides unifying concepts that are used throughout high school mathematics. Students will discover patterns, make conjectures, and confirm or deny those conjectures through proof. Topics include measurement formulas, properties of congruence, similarity, parallelism, perpendicularity, methods of proof, properties of figures, and transformations. Supporting content includes area and volume which will be developed in future course studies, including but not limited to calculus. If this course is offered as part of a magnet pathway, it will include thematic integration and may contain additional requirements based on the program.

Physical Science	Prerequisite: Enrollment in Algebra I or Geometry
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Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 8th grade (High School Credit)
<p>This course can be taken in 8th grade for high school credit. Specific guidance on eligibility for 8th grade Physical Science is listed in the Master Schedule Guidance document. There will also be a specific curriculum to follow, which will infuse 8th grade Louisiana Science Standards into the 8th grade Physical Science for high school credit course to prepare the students to take the required 8th grade LEAP 2025 test.</p> <p>This course provides an introduction to chemistry and physics topics such as the study of matter and the periodic table of elements as well as the study of forces, simple machines, electricity, light and sound. Lab activities and teacher demonstrations support individual learning. This course gives students the foundations of scientific inquiry that will enhance their learning experiences and critical thinking skills in their upper level Science course.</p> <p>The Five Pillars of Science Literacy are what we use to align our science education with the literacy needs of our students. These pillars are infused within our curricular resources and are the foundations of our literacy initiative in science: Phenomena, Citing Evidence, Prior Knowledge, Critical Thinking, and Analyzing Sources.</p>	

DANCE (Taken in place of Physical Education)

BALLET	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): Two (2)	
<p>Ballet is designed to introduce ballet foundations and concepts in preparation for future training in ballet, jazz and contemporary dance forms. Ballet offers emphasis on terminology, and the introduction of variations and phrasing. Students focus on the elementary and necessary exercises of classical ballet training, including memory, focus and class etiquette. Ballet focuses on refining ballet technique, barre exercises for strength and conditioning, and challenging combinations for center and across the floor exercises. Ballet is designed for beginning students, new to the art form, as well as intermediate and advanced students looking to refine technique. While Ballet technique is the primary focus, ballet students are exposed to jazz, contemporary, modern, cultural dance and dance history throughout the course.</p>	
MOVEMENT AND DANCE I (Beginning Dance)	Prerequisite: Audition or Instructor Recommendation
Semester(s): Two (2)	
<p>Students learn movement fundamentals through the elements of dance. Builds upon creative movement concepts developed during dance K-5. Students learn to explore similar or contrasting ideas to develop choreography using a variety of different stimuli and explore movement vocabularies (ballet, jazz, contemporary, cultural and hip hop) to transfer ideas into choreography.</p>	

MOVEMENT AND DANCE II	Prerequisite: Audition or Instructor Recommendation
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(Intermediate Dance)	
Semester(s): Two (2)	
Continuation of Movement & Dance I. Technical proficiency in ballet, jazz, contemporary, cultural and hip-hop vocabularies increases. Class focus: Comparing a variety of stimuli, making selections to expand movement vocabulary and artistic expression. Students continue to explore various movement vocabularies to express an artistic intent in choreography. They further learn to explain and discuss the choices made using genre-specific dance terminology, and expand movement vocabulary of floor and air patterned designs.	
RHYTHMICAL MOVEMENT (Advanced Dance)	Prerequisite: Audition or Instructor Recommendation
Semester(s): Two (2)	
Students explore dance forms at a more advanced level (e.g., modern, jazz, ballet, contemporary, tap) applying the dance elements, principles of design, and dance benchmarks. They develop collaboration, critical thinking and social skills and establish communication through performance. Students in this course will be selected for most school and district performances.	

INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL MUSIC ELECTIVES

BEGINNING BAND	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): Two (2)	Student must provide instrument
This course is for all students who wish to initially study band from the traditional instrument families of Brass, Woodwind, and Percussion, including proper body posture and oral placement for quality sound production, the reading of music, and proper breath control. Some practice and/or performance time may be required beyond the traditional school day.	

INTERMEDIATE BAND	Prerequisite: Beginning Band or Audition
Semester(s): Two (2)	Student must provide instrument
This course is for all students who wish to continue to study band from the traditional instrument families of Brass, Woodwind, and Percussion, including proper body posture and oral placement for quality sound production, the reading of music, and proper breath control. Some practice and/or performance time may be required beyond the traditional school day.	

ADVANCED BAND	Prerequisite: Beginning Band or Audition
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Semester(s): Two (2)	Student must provide instrument
<p>This course is for all 7th and 8th grade students who wish to continue to study band from the traditional instrument families of Brass, Woodwind, and Percussion, including proper body posture and oral placement for quality sound production, the reading of more advanced music, proper breath control and tonguing/sticking technique. Some practice and/or performance time may be required beyond the traditional school day.</p>	

JAZZ ENSEMBLE	Prerequisite: Audition or Instructor Recommendation
Semester(s): Two (2)	Student must provide instrument
<p>This course is for all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who wish to study/continue to study the music genre of jazz, including proper body posture and oral placement for quality sound production, the reading of jazz music and notation, including chords, and proper improvisation techniques. Some practice and/or performance time may be required beyond the traditional school day.</p>	

BEGINNING PIANO	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): Two (2)	
<p>This course is for all students who wish to initially study piano, including proper body posture and hand placement for quality sound production, the reading of basic music, and proper pedal techniques.</p>	

INTERMEDIATE PIANO	Prerequisite: Beginning Piano or Audition
Semester(s): Two (2)	
<p>This course is for all students who wish to continue to study piano, including proper body posture and hand placement for quality sound production, the reading of music including chords, independent hand coordination, and proper pedal techniques.</p>	

ADVANCED PIANO	Prerequisite: Beginning/Intermediate Piano or Audition
Semester(s): Two (2)	
<p>This course is for all 7th and 8th grade students only who wish to continue to study piano, including the reading of more advanced music including chords and self-accompaniment, and proper independent hand techniques.</p>	

BEGINNING STRINGS	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): Two (2)	Student must provide instrument

This course is for all students who wish to initially study string orchestra instruments from the traditional string instrument family of instruments, including proper body posture and hand placement for quality sound production, the reading of music, and proper bowing techniques. Some practice and/or performance time may be required beyond the traditional school day.

INTERMEDIATE STRINGS	Prerequisite: Beginning Strings or Audition
Semester(s): Two (2)	Student must provide instrument
<p>This course is for all students who wish to continue to study string orchestra instruments from the traditional string instrument family of instruments, including proper body posture and hand placement for quality sound production, the reading of music, and proper bowing techniques, including arco and pizzicato. Some practice and/or performance time may be required beyond the traditional school day.</p>	

ADVANCED STRINGS	Prerequisite: Beginning/Intermediate Strings or Audition
Semester(s): Two (2)	Student must provide instrument
<p>This course is for all 7th and 8th grade students only who wish to continue to study string orchestra instruments from the traditional string instrument family of instruments, including proper body posture and hand placement for quality sound production, the reading of more advanced music, proper bowing techniques, including stop bowing. Some practice and/or performance time may be required beyond the traditional school day.</p>	

GUITAR	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): Two (2)	
<p>This course is for all students who wish to begin or continue to study guitar, including proper body posture and hand placement for quality sound production, the reading of music including chords, and proper guitar pick techniques.</p>	

BEGINNING CHOIR 6th	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): One (1)	Grade Level: 6th
<p>This course is designed to introduce incoming sixth graders to our choir program. It is a one semester course that allows students to explore their interest. Students will be introduced to various techniques and musical genres. Students will participate in performances.</p>	
INTERMEDIATE CHOIR	Prerequisite: Beginning Choir or Audition
Semester(s): Two (2)	

This course is for all students who wish to continue to study choir, including proper body posture and oral placement for quality sound production, the reading of music, and proper breath control and diction. Some practice and/or performance time may be required beyond the traditional school day.

ADVANCED CHOIR	Prerequisite: Beginning/Intermediate Choir or Audition
Semester(s): Two (2)	
<p>This course is for all 7th and 8th grade students only who wish to continue to study choir, including proper body posture and oral placement for quality sound production, the reading of more advanced music, proper breath control and diction. This may include songs written in languages other than English. Some practice and/or performance time may be required beyond the traditional school day.</p>	

MUSIC APPRECIATION	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): Two (2)	
<p>The Music Appreciation Middle School course is designed for the student who wishes to study music not by playing/performing with an instrument or voice, nor the writing of music, but rather through the understanding of the use of music throughout time, throughout various cultures and societies of the world, and its various genres. The student wishes to study instruments but not necessarily how they are played, musical compositions and composers/artists but not necessarily how they are written, and the usage of styles in the context of the human condition throughout time.</p>	

DRAMA

INTRO TO DRAMA	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): One (1)	Grade Level: 6th
<p>This course is designed to introduce incoming sixth graders to our drama program. It is a one semester course that allows students to explore their interest. Students will be introduced to various techniques and genres. Students learn communication skills through pantomime, dialogue writing, creating a character, role playing, script reading, and memorization of written material.</p>	

DRAMA I	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): Two (2)	

This course offers a thorough introduction to acting in a fun and supportive atmosphere. Ideal for those with little or no acting experience, providing the chance to explore acting techniques.

DRAMA II	Prerequisite: Drama I
Semester(s): Two (2)	
<p>This course travels further into the realm of theatre and focuses more on the behind-the-scenes components that bring a production together. This year-long course will allow students to learn about promoting, producing, costuming and scenic design.</p>	

MUSICAL THEATER	Prerequisite: Audition or Teacher Recommendation
Semester(s): Two (2)	School Level: 7th and 8th grades
<p>This course introduces the style and characteristic elements of modern musical theatre. This is an introductory course in musical theatre history and performance. The course deals with the exploration and study of musical theatre through acting, singing, and dancing. It also aids in preparation for auditions. It explores a variety of genres and styles to help students gain a well-rounded perspective. This course is performance based and some previous singing or acting experience is suggested. This class is a performance class and each student is expected to attend after school rehearsals and performances.</p>	

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

DESKTOP PUBLISHING 6	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): 1	Grade Level: 6th
<p>This course is designed to introduce incoming sixth graders to our drama program. It is a one semester course that allows students to explore their interest. This course will introduce skills in desktop publishing including, the Microsoft suite and various other web tools.</p>	

COMPUTER CODING 7	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): 1	Grade Level: 7th
<p>This course focuses on developing the skills for personal and vocational use on the computer. Students will develop correct techniques and focus on digital literacy standards. Students will apply formatting skills to create documents and work on developing accuracy and proofreading skills. In addition, students will use keyboarding skills to develop digital presentations. If this course is offered as part of a magnet pathway, it will include thematic integration and may contain additional requirements based on the program.</p>	

KEYBOARDING 6	Prerequisite: None
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Semester(s): One (1)	Grade Level: 6th
<p>This course is designed to introduce incoming sixth graders to our drama program. It is a one semester course that allows students to explore their interest. Students will develop proper computer keyboarding skills by practicing keying on a computer keyboard and numeric keypad. Emphasis is on the development of proper keyboarding skills, building speed and accuracy. Students will explore the use of a variety of software including word processing.</p>	

KEYBOARDING 7	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): One (1)	Grade Level: 7th
<p>The basic keyboarding skills which one uses in personal life and work are emphasized in this course. Students will further develop proper computer keyboarding skills by practicing keying on a computer keyboard and numeric keypad. Emphasis is on the development of proper keyboarding skills, building speed, and accuracy.</p>	

KEYBOARDING 0.5	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): One (First)	Grade Level: 8th/ High School Credit(s): 0.5
<p>This course teaches students basic keyboarding skills. Students will be able to type the entire keyboard using basic typing techniques and apply proper keyboarding techniques to input data, produce personal and business documents.</p>	

KEYBOARD APPLICATIONS 0.5	Prerequisite: Keyboarding 0.5
Semester(s): One (Second)	Grade Level: 8th/ High School Credit(s): 0.5
<p>Emphasis is placed on basic computer concepts both hardware and software, word processing, and spreadsheet applications. Computer skills will be taught that could lead to the student's ability to obtain certification in basic information technology.</p>	

COMPUTER SCIENCE SURVEY	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 8th/ High School Credit(s): 1
<p>This course introduces the basics of computing using fun and engaging activities instead of formally describing the concepts. It follows the framework of Seven Big Ideas adopted in the AP Computer Science Principles course, but it has more emphasis on exploration and experimentation, and less emphasis on problem-solving and formal analysis than a regular CSP course. To prepare students for the rigors of other courses in the Pathway, this course models ways to adopt a productive disposition that fosters creativity and perseverance. In addition, career exploration lessons are threaded throughout the course, with a focus on developing students' interest in computing and identification with the computing professions.</p>	

INTRODUCTION TO STEM PATHWAYS	Prerequisite: none
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Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 7th/ High School Credit(s): 1
<p>To expand awareness of various careers and occupational pathways related to STEM. To stimulate the understanding of higher order thinking processes such as the engineering design process, the scientific method, and computational thinking. To develop foundational knowledge and skills in the JumpStart pathways and careers as related to STEM, and utilize the knowledge and skills in their current educational setting. To increase interest in the four core areas of STEM related to this class through project-based activities that are also standards based.</p>	

QUEST FOR SUCCESS	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 8th/ High School Credit(s): 1
<p>This career exploration course will prepare students for career and life success. Beginning with self-awareness, leadership, and obtaining skills in communication, collaboration, and technology, students will then identify personal and career goals. The curriculum contains project-based learning activities, industry-aligned performance tasks, and information regarding new and exciting high-growth career pathways.</p>	

VISUAL ARTS

Fine Arts Survey	Prerequisite: None; Middle School Students must have permission by the Director of Fine Arts
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 8th (High School Credit)
<p>Fine Arts Survey is an overview of the four main art disciplines of Music, Drama, Dance, and Visual Art. The course will spend time on each discipline, focusing on major trends, history, styles/genres, and basic composition of each. If this course is offered as part of a magnet pathway, it will include thematic integration and may contain additional requirements based on the program.</p>	

Art 6 1S	Prerequisite: NONE
Semester(s): One (1)	Grade Level: 6th
<p>This course is designed to introduce incoming sixth graders to our art program. It is a one semester course that allows students to explore their interest in art. Students will be introduced to the elements of art and produce various projects through drawing and painting.</p>	

INTRODUCTION TO ART 6	Prerequisite: NONE
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 6th

This course is designed to teach students to become critical thinkers and visual problem solvers. Students will explore the creative process, which includes brainstorming, problem solving, analyzing and evaluating art. Design problems are solved through studio project-based learning in a variety of media and techniques, emphasizing the student's own personal ideas and artistic style.

INTRODUCTION TO ART 7	Prerequisite: NONE
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 7th
<p>This course is designed to teach students to become critical thinkers and visual problem solvers. Students will explore the creative process, which includes brainstorming, problem solving, analyzing and evaluating art. Design problems are solved through studio project-based learning in a variety of media and techniques, emphasizing the student's own personal ideas and artistic style.</p>	

ART ANIMATION	Prerequisite: Intro to Art
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 7th & 8th
<p>Students learn sculpting and filmmaking in this challenging course concentrating on stop motion clay animation. Students will write stories, illustrate storyboards, build sets, sculpt characters, and film one large project each semester. Students will study techniques used in claymation films.</p>	

INTERMEDIATE ART Drawing & Painting I	Prerequisite: INTRO TO ART or teacher approval based on portfolio review.
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 7th & 8th
<p>In addition to critically thinking and visual problem solving through a variety of media and techniques, students are expected to chronicle and display their portfolio projects on classroom web pages. This involves becoming competent in the use of available technology such as digital cameras, scanners and a variety of Web tools. The value and importance of quality craftsmanship is a high priority. Students will acquire a working knowledge of design elements and principles.</p>	

ADVANCED ART (Drawing & Painting II)	School Level: 7th and 8th
Semester(s): Two (2)	Prerequisite: INTRO TO ART and INTERMEDIATE ART or teacher approval based on portfolio review.
<p>Through a series of hands-on experiences using a wide variety of materials and techniques, students use the elements and principles of design to translate thoughts and feelings into two and three-dimensional works of art. Students will draw from direct observation, memory and their imagination. They will be introduced to the art of various artists and cultures to expand their appreciation of the role of the arts in different societies.</p>	

CERAMICS I	Prerequisite: None
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Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 7th and 8th
<p>This is an introductory course in ceramics covering the three basic methods of hand building. Students will produce ceramic art work using pinch, slab, and coil techniques. Students will learn the basic vocabulary of ceramics as well as methods of surface treatment, firing, and other related aspects. If this course is offered as part of a magnet pathway, it will include thematic integration and may contain additional requirements based on the program.</p>	

CERAMICS II	Prerequisite: Ceramics I
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 8th
<p>Students will approach more complex challenges both in techniques and in communicating ideas. Hand building methods are continued and wheel throwing is introduced.</p>	

Sculpture I	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 7th and 8th
<p>This is an introductory course in sculpture covering the principles of multidimensional art. Emphasis will be placed on development of ideas, conceptual reasoning, and the safe usage of materials and processes related to sculpture. Students will learn the basic vocabulary and aspects of sculpture.</p>	

Sculpture II	Prerequisite: Sculpture I
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 8th
<p>This is an intermediate course in sculpture covering the principles of multidimensional art. This will be a continuation of Sculpture I, and students will delve deeper into content and produce more difficult artwork.</p>	

STAGE DESIGN	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 7th and 8th
<p>This is a continuation of technical theater with an emphasis on the theory and practice of set design, color, and lighting with opportunities to design for plays. Students are required to crew shows after school.</p>	

WORLD LANGUAGES

FRENCH MS	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 6th – 8th

This is an introductory course in the French language and culture. Students will learn to read, write, and speak useful expressions and everyday conversations. The geography, history, and culture of French people will be studied to achieve a greater understanding of the language. This course emphasizes understanding and practical application.

FRENCH I	Prerequisite: French MS or Immersion Program
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 7th and 8th (High School Credit)
<p>A beginning course designed to give students the experience of learning a second language and gaining an appreciation of the cultures and places in which French is spoken. Listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing are included in the course curriculum while making connections to other academic disciplines, formally and informally. Students will perform at the novice-mid/novice-high level according to the Louisiana State Proficiency Targets.</p>	

FRENCH II	Prerequisite: French I
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 7th and 8th (High School Credit)
<p>This course is a continuation of French I with emphasis on conversational skills, reading, listening, and writing. Upon completion of this course, the student will have a basic command of elementary sentence patterns and grammatical structures. Students will perform at the novice-high level according to the Louisiana State Proficiency Targets.</p>	

SPANISH MS	Prerequisite: None
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 6th – 8th
<p>This is an introductory course in the Spanish language and culture. Students will learn to read, write, and speak useful expressions and everyday conversations. The geography, history, and culture of Hispanic people will be studied to achieve a greater understanding of the language. This course emphasizes understanding and practical application.</p>	

SPANISH I	Prerequisite: French MS or Immersion Program
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 7th and 8th (High School Credit)
<p>This course is a beginning level course designed to give students the experience of learning a second language and gaining an appreciation of the cultures and places in which Spanish is spoken. Listening, comprehension, speaking, reading and writing are included in the course curriculum while making connections to other academic disciplines, formally and informally. Students will perform at the novice-mid/novice-high level</p>	

according to the Louisiana State Proficiency Targets. This course is intended to prepare the student for Spanish II.

SPANISH II	Prerequisite: Spanish I
Semester(s): Two (2)	Grade Level: 7th and 8th (High School Credit)
This course continues to study Spanish vocabulary and grammar, including the past tenses. Students begin to attempt sustained conversation and the reading of narratives. Students must have mastered the use of regular and irregular present tense verb forms and agreements in nouns/articles/adjectives between their genders and numbers. Students will perform at the novice-high level according to the Louisiana State Proficiency Targets.	