

ALDERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIRED CLASSES - 7TH GRADE

ENGLISH

English Language Arts focuses learning on all areas of communication: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will be inspired to think critically about text to develop analytical thinking, utilize the writing process to write in a variety of forms, practice reading strategies to enhance comprehension, and interact with literature to expand knowledge and improve skills.

SOCIAL STUDIES

7th Grade Social Studies is divided into two-semester courses; one semester is Washington State History and the other semester is Medieval History. For WA State history, students will learn about and demonstrate mastery of WA State civics, geography, economics, and history. Successfully passing the WA State History portion is a High School graduation requirement. For the Medieval portion, students will study at least two of the following groups: Europe during feudalism, Meso-America, Japan, China, West Africa, or Islamic Empires. Both classes will place a heavy emphasis on reading, writing, and listening skills that students will need to master throughout the year. Near the end of the year, all students will be expected to complete the CBA or Classroom-Based Assessment.

HONORS HUMANITIES

The purpose and goal of these courses are to provide students with an extra level of challenge as they enter middle school and prepare them for advanced high school classes. In one semester of Social Studies, students explore the challenges found in Medieval World history and then find connections to challenges the modern world faces. The other semester is focused on the study of Washington State history. Students will learn about the geography of the region and the historical forces that have shaped the world today. Areas of focus include understanding the interaction between people and the environment, the growth of the state, the struggle for civil rights, and the state's government. The reading, writing, thinking and performance expectations are set high. In the English class, emphasis will be placed on mastering the writing process to complete analytical, persuasive, narrative, and comparative pieces. Students will be expected to share and respond to each other's work, revise in multiple drafts, participate in peer review and editing, and present their completed work. Students will also read novels at or above grade level. The focus will also be placed on expanding vocabulary, learning literary elements, maintaining journals and completing on-demand pieces in class. Students are encouraged to be independent thinkers, writers, and readers who complete work in a timely fashion and are willing to participate in supportive classroom discussion.

MATHEMATICS

Math 7

Math 7 is available to all 7th grade students. Students will extend prior learning on a variety of topics in preparation for pre-algebra. These topics include: proportional relationships, rational numbers (positive and negative numbers), numerical and algebraic expressions, equations, 2- and 3-dimensional shapes (area, surface area, and volume), statistics, and probability. Students will be required to communicate their mathematical knowledge through problem-solving, reasoning, writing and class discussions.

OR

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra is available for 8th grade students as well as highly-motivated 7th grade students. The course covers understanding the real number system, solving two-step and multi-step equations, including exponents, patterns of linear equations, and geometric congruence. Seventh grade students taking this course need to be self-motivated and able to adjust to the pace of the course. Students will be required to communicate their mathematical knowledge through problem-solving, reasoning, writing and class discussions. This course will prepare 7th grade students to take Algebra in the 8th grade.

OR

Algebra

Algebra is available for students who have a qualifying score on their spring i-Ready diagnostic as well as an invitation based on their past assessments. Algebra is a high school level course, and if requested, the grade and credit will be posted on a student's high school transcript. Topics include: generalizing the algorithms of arithmetic to learn how to develop equations that will model different situations and other functions, inequalities and systems of equations. Students will be required to communicate their mathematical knowledge through problem-solving, reasoning, writing and class discussions.

SCIENCE

Edmonds School District's science curriculum is Amplify Science. It blends hands-on investigations, literacy-rich activities, and interactive digital tools to empower students to think, read, write, and argue like real scientists and engineers. 7th graders learn Earth Science: plate motion, rock cycle; Chemistry: atoms, molecules, phase change; Astronomy: Planets with a focus on Mars, Sun/Earth/Moon system, moon phases; Ecology: ecosystems, matter and energy, populations and resources.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills to enable them to lead a healthy and active lifestyle. The students will participate in a wide variety of activities, which include, but are not limited to cardiovascular exercise (running, rope jumping, and aerobics), individual and team sports, weight training, cooperative games, team-building activities, and the study and application of various health topics. Due to the active nature of this class, **ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION**. Appropriate dress is AMS uniform shirt or plain white or gray shirt with name clearly printed on the front, athletic short or sweats and athletic shoes

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Students who have goals on their IEPs that require minutes in Interpersonal Relationships or Learning Strategies may have that as their elective. Please inquire with your student's case manager.

**** Counselors are available to assist students with concerns around course fees ****

ART

2 Dimensional (2D) Visual Arts (1 Semester)

This class is designed for students in 7th or 8th grade who want to develop their drawing and painting skills. Learn how to create more realistic images as well as learning to simplify and create abstract images. Watercolor, acrylic, ink, charcoal, pastel, and pencil will be used to create works of art. Projects are the same each semester, so this class should not be repeated.

Materials fee: \$20.00

3 Dimensional (3D) Visual Arts (1 Semester)

This class is designed for students in 7th or 8th grade to develop their sculptural skills. We will work with wood carving tools as well as translating a 2D idea into a 3D sculpture. Make plates and wind chimes out of melted (fused) glass. Projects do not vary each semester so that class should not be repeated.

Materials fee: \$20.00

Studio Art (Full Year) - 7th Grade Only

This class is for 7th grade students who love to create artwork in a variety of materials and want to create art every day at school. We will work with pencil, watercolor, acrylic paint, charcoal, colored chalk, inks, clay, mixed media, glass fusing (melting glass), and recycled materials. We will learn about famous artists, have guest artists come work with us and study the artwork of other cultures. You will be amazed by how much your artistic skills develop! Projects vary each year so that classes can be repeated.

Materials fee: \$20.00

DRAMA (Full Year)

Drama is a yearlong class which focuses on daily active participation. Students will have fun learning and gaining confidence through improvisation, theater games, comedy skits, commercials, monologues, pantomime, conflict scenes, and one-act plays. The class will focus on developing characters, stage movement, rehearsing and performing a play before a live audience. The class produces 3 shows each year. Come with your creative ideas, energy, and talent! Required class materials: Ben Nye Personal Creme Kit, Ben Nye Bruise Wheel, and Ben Nye Monster Wheel. Fee: \$20 for entire year

MUSIC

Bands - Alderwood has 3 bands. Placement will be determined by the director.

[See Band Video](#)

Wind Ensemble/Jazz Band (Full Year)

Open to highly qualified seventh and eighth graders. Admission is by audition only and openings are limited. Students in Jazz Band must also be members of the symphonic/concert band, choir or orchestra. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students continue to work on the fundamentals of musicianship including practice and rehearsal skills, performance-related music theory, instrumental techniques and accurate music reading. Also, they study symphonic band literature, jazz band literature with an emphasis on rhythmic analysis, interpretation, phrasing and improvisation. Members are required to participate in all concerts at which the band performs. Performances are quite frequent so all members must remain in good standing with their teachers and with the school's administration.

Fee \$20 for entire year.

Symphonic Band (Full Year)

Open to students with one to three years of experience or the equivalent. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students continue to work on the fundamentals of musicianship including practice and rehearsal skills, performance-related music theory, instrumental techniques and accurate music reading. Also, they study symphonic band literature with an emphasis on rhythmic analysis, interpretation, and phrasing. There is an increased emphasis on public performance. Members are required to participate in all concerts at which the band performs. Members are expected to remain in good standing with their teachers and with the school's administration. Fee \$20 for the entire year.

Concert Band (Full Year)

Open to students with zero to two years of experience or the equivalent. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students continue to work on the fundamentals of musicianship including practice and rehearsal skills, performance-related music theory, instrumental techniques and accurate music reading. Also, they study symphonic band literature with an emphasis on rhythmic analysis, interpretation, and phrasing. Members are required to participate in all concerts at which the band performs. Members are expected to remain in good standing with their teachers and with the school's administration. Fee \$20 for the entire year.

Orchestra - Alderwood has 2 orchestras. Placement will be determined by the director.

Symphonic Orchestra (Full Year)

Open to students with 3 years experience or the equivalent. Admission is by director approval. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students continue to work on the fundamentals of musicianship including practice and rehearsal skills, performance-related music theory, instrumental techniques and accurate music reading. Also, they study symphonic orchestra literature with an emphasis on rhythmic analysis, interpretation, and phrasing. There is an increased emphasis on public performance. Members are required to participate in all concerts at which the orchestra performs. Members are expected to remain in good standing with their teachers and with the school's administration.

Fee \$20 for entire year

Concert Orchestra (Full Year)

Open to students with zero to two years of experience or the equivalent. Students must agree to remain in the class for the entire school year. Students continue to work on the fundamentals of musicianship. Instruction will focus on proper instrument positioning and posture, basic sound production, and reading notes. A broad range of musical styles will be explored throughout the year. Members are required to participate in all concerts at which the orchestra performs. Members are expected to remain in good standing with their teachers and with the school's administration. Fee \$20 for the entire year.

Choir - Alderwood has 1 Choir.

CONCERT CHOIR (Full Year)

Concert Choir is open to both boys and girls who like to sing and would like to learn more about singing. Students will sing a variety of songs in many different styles. This class will participate in seven concerts throughout the year and take a spring tour to perform for elementary students to recruit them to join the choir at AMS. You don't have to be a great singer to join, but joining will make you a great singer!

Fee: \$20 for entire year

Student Assistants

Library Assistant (1 Semester or Full Year)

Library Assistants are responsible for helping with daily duties in the library, as well as larger projects. AMS students who take on this leadership role are reliable, dependable, and highly motivated. Some daily duties include checking library materials in and out, assisting other students in locating library materials, updating/refreshing displays, and straightening shelves and books. Students also partake in larger projects throughout the semester, including adding/removing books from the computer system, covering books, taking inventory, and creating displays.

Teacher Assistant (1 Semester)

As a Teacher Assistant, students will work directly with one teacher helping with organization and classroom preparation. AMS Teacher Assistants who take on this leadership role are reliable, dependable, and highly-motivated. Students need to coordinate with the teacher before the start of the semester to be registered as a Teacher Assistant.

TECH. ED. / STEM:

Introduction to Computer Science (1 Semester) - [See Computer Science Video](#)

This introductory course focuses on coding using the Python language, covering basic Coding and Game Design concepts. Students engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, problem solving, and fun. The course inspires students as they control their own character and master each level as well as designing gaming levels. The Ozaria and curriculum will be used for this course.

Technology Exploration (1 Semester) - [See Tech Exploration Video](#)

In this an introductory class for any 7th grade student who wants to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) through project-based learning. Projects in the past have included building and launching rockets, creating objects for self or gifts for others using CNC laser cutters or 3D printers, and building structures to meet different challenges. How to use various computer programs, laser cutters, 3D printers, wood shop equipment and other tools safety is an essential part of this class.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Conversational Spanish (1 Semester) - [See Spanish Video](#)

This class is designed for students who want to experience Spanish language and culture. Various communicative activities will be used to learn useful phrases and vocabulary. We will play games, sing songs, cook food, draw pictures, perform skits, and use technology to learn to speak Spanish.

Course Fees

Some classes require the student to pay a fee for consumable materials. If a student does not pay the course fee, a fine in the dollar amount of the course fee will be assessed to them, or a payment arrangement can be made. If it is not possible to work out satisfactory arrangements for payment of these fees, the following waiver procedure shall apply:

1. The student and the student's parents are responsible for initiating a request for the waiver.
2. The present income guidelines established by State and Federal agencies for qualifications for free lunches will serve as a qualification for waivers. These income guidelines are subject to change by the Federal Government.
3. Students or guardians must provide the district-generated "Eligibility Notification Letter, School Foods Services Office" to the Main Office or counselor to obtain the waiver. The Food Services phone number is 425-431-7077.
4. Counselors are available to assist students with concerns around course fees.