

ALDERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIRED CLASSES – 8th 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

The eighth grade American Studies course presents a study of our history from Revolution through Reform (American Revolution, Constitution, The New Nation, Expansion, Civil War/Reconstruction, Industrialization/Urbanization, Immigration, and Reforms). Students will also examine our multicultural heritage through an antiracist lens, our economic development, as well as citizenship rights and responsibilities. All students will be required to complete a Classroom Based Assessment in civics. Reading, writing, discussion, and research skills will be continuously reinforced.

HONORS HUMANITIES

This program consists of an Honors English class and an Honors Social Studies class. The emphasis of the program will be on fostering creativity while promoting the use of critical and higher level thinking skills to deepen students' understanding of both English and social studies concepts. The courses will be heavily based on research and writing, and will provide strategies for oral presentations and debate, and will be run with high expectations to prepare students for accelerated high school programs (i.e. Honors, IB, and AP). Students should have strong reading and writing skills, an enthusiasm for learning, a willingness to tackle more difficult subject matter, and the ability to perform as a productive group member. Admission to the class is by application only. Applications are available in the main office and are typically due in mid-March.

MATHEMATICS

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.

OR

Geometry

Geometry is only available for students who have successfully completed Algebra 1. Geometry 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 experiences that deepen the understanding of 2- and 3- dimensional objects and their properties through logic and modeling; deductive and inductive reasoning; working with probability; learning investigative strategies to enhance the development of problem-solving skills, and includes work with probability. Students will be required to communicate their mathematical knowledge through problem-solving, reasoning, writing and class discussions.

SCIENCE

The 8th-grade science class is a continuation of the skills and concepts developed in the 7th grade in the areas of physical, earth, and life science. As with the 7th-grade program, students will spend the majority of their time engaged in science investigations that promote increasing skill development in identifying problems, designing experiments, collecting evidence, interpreting data, and communicating findings.

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 shorts 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 possible 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, explore making a 2D image or 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

DRAMA (Full Year)

Drama is a year-long class and will be focused on daily active participation. Students will have fun learning and gain confidence through improvisation, theater games, comedy skits, commercials, monologues, pantomime, conflict scenes, and one-act plays. They will focus on developing characters, stage movement, rehearsing and performing a play before a live audience. 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 the 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 two orchestras. Placement will be determined by the director.**Symphonic Orchestra (Full Year)**

Open to students with three years of experience or the equivalent. Admission is by director approval. 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 the 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. Please sign up for Choir on the registration form.**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 can make you a great singer! Fee \$20 for the 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 or Full Year)

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.

Office Assistant (1 Semester or Full Year)

As an Office Assistant, students will learn various office procedures including but not limited to filing, sorting, alphabetizing, and disbursement of materials to classrooms. Students will also assist with running passes to students in classrooms. This leadership role requires the student to reliably use strict confidentiality and to display a professional attitude while working in the office. There will be times when students will have a chance to work on homework or silently read. Students will be graded on attendance, quality of work, and professionalism. Preference is given to students in the Eighth Grade.

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.

STEM 8 (1 Semester) - [See STEM 8 Video](#)

This is a one semester class for 8th graders wishing to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) through project-based learning. STEM 8 will follow the STEM Foundations first Semester course. Projects from the past have included engineering balsa towers or bridges, designing and racing CO2 Dragsters, making catapults or trebuchets, or laser and 3D design projects. The possibilities are endless, as time allows.

STEM Foundations (Full Year) - [See STEM Foundations Video](#)

STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

This year-long class is designed for 8th-grade students who have successfully completed a technology or computer science class as a 7th grader and are interested in more advanced opportunities. Students in this class are invited to participate in STEM competitions through the *Washington Technology Student Association (W TSA)*. Students apply STEM concepts at a higher level as they design and build projects such as engineering the strongest structure, racing the fastest built CO2 dragster, and as a class, reverse engineering and building a complex mechanism as a capstone project. This course has an emphasis on Math 8 and Algebra 1 applications and career planning. 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, 7th grade given priority) - [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.

French 1 & 2 (Full Year, Eighth grade only) - [See French Video](#)

French is a first-year course with the opportunity to earn high school credit and enter the high school program at the second level. The course will contain vocabulary, grammar, culture, geography while focusing on speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Spanish 1 & 2 (Full year, Eighth grade only) - [See Spanish Video](#)

Spanish is a first-year course with the opportunity to earn high school credit and enter the high school program at the second level. The course will contain vocabulary, grammar, culture, and geography while focusing on speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

ZERO PERIOD HEALTH/PE

Students who are interested in taking two elective classes in the same semester can ask to enroll in “Zero Period Health/PE.” Students would have Health/PE before school starts, from 7:00 am to 8:00 am. Transportation is currently provided. Students would have their 2nd elective during the day, in place of where their Health/PE class would normally be offered. Space is limited in Zero Period, but please do request this course when registering if you are interested in this option and we will do our best to accommodate. Final decisions on this course will not take place until August.

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.