

**KARL G. MAESER
PREPARATORY ACADEMY
MIDDLE SCHOOL (7 – 8)
2010 - 2011 COURSE CATALOG**



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Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy
Chartered by The Utah State Board of Education
Choosing Honor, Truth, and Virtue

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Educational Philosophy

Education has at its core the development of the whole person—the heart, the body, and the mind. The purpose of education is to develop within individuals the values, knowledge, habits, and character necessary to lead a successful, productive, and service-oriented life as citizens of a free society.

Character Education

Through classical education and the study of history and great literature, students can learn the consequences of ideas and decisions. Knowing what is the right thing to do is much easier than doing the right thing. Exacting studies help students to develop discipline and virtue and to be accountable for the development of their potential. Virtue is the personal strength of character that leads to doing what is right and avoiding what is wrong.

Academic Education

The ability to examine, to analyze, to understand, and to evaluate information and its underlying assumptions in any situation in life and the ability to communicate effectively and persuasively are critical to success in any field and to the duties of citizenship. An in-depth knowledge of history, math, science, and the arts is an essential foundation for understanding our world and for future studies.

Civic Education

Students should develop a comprehensive understanding and appreciation of the history and principles of liberty upon which the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are based. Our free institutions cannot be maintained without a citizenry who understands, appreciates, and is willing to uphold them through service and sacrifice.

Leadership Education

The development and practice of leadership skills, including self-discipline, inter-personal communication and social skills, and organizational and time-management skills are an essential element of an education and indispensable to preparing students to make contributions in life in both personal careers and community service.

Physical Education

“Mens sano in corpore sano – a healthy mind in a healthy body.” Physical fitness is a prerequisite for mental health and well-being. Vigorous physical activity and proper habits of exercise and nutrition are vital to maintaining health and happiness.

Accreditation

Maeser Prep is in the third year of its provisional accreditation through the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS). The school is also accredited by the Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA) and The College Board.

Demographics

Student body (grades 7-12): 625 (2011-2012)
Student/faculty ratio: 15:1 (2010-2011)
Average class size: 22.7 (2010-2011)
Average ACT Score: 25.8 (2010-2011)
Seven different countries represented in student body

Extra-Curricular Offerings

Student Government, Drama, Choir, Orchestra, Ballroom Dance, Debate, Model United Nations, Community Service Club

Athletics

The middle school participates in a local charter league with teams from Utah, Salt Lake, and Davis Counties. Sports that are offered include cross-country, volleyball, basketball, and soccer.

Maeser Prep High School Notable Awards & Achievements 2008-2011 School Years

#1 High School in Utah, Newsweek, America's Best High Schools (2010)
#225 High School in the Nation, America's Best High Schools (2010)
Thirteen National Merit Semi-Finalists
Art- individual student selections for display in Springville Art Museum (2010, 2011)
Art- 3 Golden Key Arts Awards, 2 Silver Medals (2011)
Athletics- five Academic All-State Awards (2009-2011)
Basketball (Boys) 1st place at 2010 LYNX Basketball Tournament
Basketball (Boys) 1st team All-Region (2011)
Basketball (Boys) 2 All-State, 3rd Team (2011)
Biochemistry and Biology – 1st in State (2010)
Cheer- USA Regional Cheerleading Competition, 3rd place (2010)
Chinese- Individual 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishes at BYU Chinese Language Fair (2011)
Choir- Regional and State Music Festivals- straight superiors (2010, 2011)
Debate- International Tournament of Champions- 3rd Place (2010)
Debate- International Debate Competition- 1st in Utah, 1st in District (2008)
Debate- 1st in Region (2010, 2011)
Global Debate—7th Nationally (2010) focus in international debate and service
State Debate Tournament
 Third in State (2009)
 First in State (2010, 2011)
Dixie Debate Sweepstakes -- 1st Place (2008, 2009 & 2010)
Drama- 1st Place at Region (2011) Superior ratings at State (2010, 2011)
German- 1st place in Conversation III, BYU Lang Fair, superior individual performances (2011)
Freedom Festival Storytelling Contest- 2nd, 3rd place (2011)
American Mathematics Competition- 1st place student at State competition (2009, 2010)
5th Place at 2010 JETS-- Junior Engineering Math & Science Comp., Applied math & Science

Snow College Math Invitational -- 3rd Place (2010), 2nd place large school division (2011)
 Orchestra- Regional and State Music Festivals (2009, 2010) Superior ratings
 Disney trip- Recorded soundtracks to Disney movie excerpts (2011)
 Poetry- Utah State Poetry Society- 28 student winners (2010, 2011) Five 1st place, three 2nd
 Poetry-1 C Cameron Johns Awards- for Best Poem in State (2009)
 Poetry-Two Student Placements at National Federation of State Poetry Societies (2009)
 Utah Shakespearean Festival High School Competition

- First Place Sweepstakes (2009, 2009) 3rd place (2008)
- First Place Monos (2009)
- Second Place Monos (2009)
- Second Place Duo/Trio (2009, 2010)
- 3rd Place Duo/Trio (2009, 2010)
- 3rd Place Monos (2008, 2009, 2010)
- 3rd Place Ensemble (2009,2010)

Central Utah Science and Engineering Competition – 1st Place (2009)
 Science- 6 State Science Fair Finalists (2010, 2011)
 International Science & Engineering Fair Qualifier (2011) -Microbiology category
 Spanish- 3rd place overall at BYU Language Fair (2010, 2011)
 Western Division of the American Fisheries Society Art Contest—1st place (2010)
 Writing- BYU Writing Contest, 3 poetry winners, one short story, 2 personal essay (2010)
 Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards (2009, 2010)

- 4 National Gold Medals
- 7 National Silver Medals
- 25 Regional Gold Key Awards
- 2 Scholastic Art Awards (2011)
- 4 Scholastic Art and Writing Teacher Awards (2010)

Region & State Theatre Festival- 1st Place (2010)
 Invitation to perform at Edinburgh Festival, Scotland (2010)
 Model United Nations (BYU)

- Distinguished Country Representation (2009, 2010, 2011)
- Outstanding Position Paper (2010)

Model UN- Utah High School Distinguished Country Representation (2009-2011)

& Powerschool Grade Access

Schedule Changes

Maeser Prep administration will generate student schedules based upon student requests collected during SEOPs in the spring. **Requesting courses does not guarantee enrollment in a particular courses if prerequisites have not been met.** Student requests will be honored based upon eligibility and availability of seats in courses. Students may view and modify their schedule starting August 8th using our online course scheduler, Class Choice. Changes will be made according to class availability. The counselors will determine if any scheduling changes will be made after school begins. A \$10.00 late registration fee will be charged for changes made after the posted availability dates.

To access the online system, you can find the link on the Maeser website or go to <http://66.116.97.198:8089/>. Your username is your Maeser Student ID and your password is your birthdate in the following format: mm/dd/yyyy. Scheduling availability will be posted on the website. Please email info@maeserprep.org for technical help.

Powerschool Access

Powerschool is the portal through which you will access student grades, academic progress, and other data. Passwords will be mailed to all parents and students at the beginning of the school year. Please email info@maeserprep.org if you have not received your passwords.

To access Powerschool, go to: <http://school.maeserprep.org/>. Use the username and password mailed to you to access your student's data.

Academic Credit Policies

Transfer Students

Students transferring to Maeser Prep after the beginning of the school year will not receive credit if the transfer occurs after ten school days into any given term unless schoolwork in a corresponding course at a previous school can be documented and it verifies that the student is passing the course. Credit will be transferred to Maeser Prep once the school is provided with an official signed transcript.

Grade Replacement

Maeser Prep will not replace an "F" grade or any other grade from an official transcript. An "F" grade will remain on a student's transcript and be calculated in the overall GPA. Students who retake a course will earn a grade and credit and the most recent grade will replace the prior grade for GPA calculations, however, the original grade will remain on the official transcript.

Dropping a Course

Dropping a course after ten school days into any given term will result in the student receiving an "F" in that course for that term.

Insufficient Attendance

A student accruing 7 *excused and/or unexcused absences* in a term will receive an NG (No Grade) for that term. Absences may be made up at the teacher's discretion.

Academic Progress

Maeser Prep students are expected to remain in good academic standing, defined as maintaining above a 2.0 GPA to graduate. Students will be placed on Warning if quarterly GPA falls below a 2.0 and on academic Probation if cum GPA is under 2.0. Warning and Probation students will be required to meet with a counselor to develop an academic improvement plan and will have registration restrictions based on courses approved by the counselor(s).

Student Education Occupation Plan (SEOP)

Academic, extracurricular, career, and personal goals will be addressed in each student's annual SEOP conference. If a student has failed required course work for graduation, the student must complete a remediation plan with the counselor during the SEOP conference.

Utah State and National Testing

State CORE Testing (CRTs)

Utah State Tests administered to all grades in May for English, Science, and Math.

EXPLORE ACT Test

The EXPLORE Test is given to all **7th & 8th Grade** students. EXPLORE helps students identify areas of academic strength and weakness in English, Math, Reading, and Science. This test also includes a career planning component design to help students consider possible career options. EXPLORE can provide a student with an early indicator of readiness for college, provide important information for building a high school course plan, and help him/her identify careers in which he/she might be interested. The cost is \$15.00 and is included in school fees.

Middle School Track (Sample Schedule)

	7 th GRADE		8 th GRADE	
	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2
Period 1	Math		Math	
Period 2	Science 7 + Integrated Health		Science 8	
Period 3	English 7		English 8	
Period 4	Utah History	Ancient & Class. Civ	American History 8	
Period 5	Latin I		Foreign Language	
Period 6	CTE 7	Physical Education 7	CTE 8	Physical Education 8
Period 7	Fine Art	Elective	Fine Art	Elective
Period 8	Optional After-School Program		Optional After-School Program	

7th Grade Course Descriptions

CORE COURSES

English & Social Studies

English 7

Grade 7

Year Course

This course develops reading, writing and interpretive skills. Study includes the areas of vocabulary, composition, reading and interpreting, and grammar. A variety of selected novels, plays, poems, short stories, and non-fiction essays and articles will be explored. This course will also include the study of historical literature in coordination with the 7th Grade History Core. Composition skills are refined in paragraph structure, methods of development, types of writing errors and mechanics. Grammar instruction builds the knowledge of terminology and concepts and an understanding of the necessary grammatical framework that enables students to correct and proofread their work. The study of vocabulary is also emphasized with word lists to expand the students' everyday vocabulary. A mythology unit will provide opportunities to be acquainted with Greek and Roman myths, and some Celtic/Norse mythology.

** Summer reading is part of the English curriculum with a list provided later in the school year.

Utah History

Grade 7

Semester Course

Students will be introduced to the significant events, people, cultures, and issues that have influenced the development of Utah from its earliest beginnings through the present day. The first focus is devoted to history and events leading up to 1847 including Native Americans, Spanish, mountain men, explorers, Mormon influences, and the westward movement. The second focus includes conflicts that led to statehood and the integration of Utah into the nation including the early development of mining, railroad, industry and agriculture; the move from territory to statehood and the new century; structure of state and local government; and the progressive period. The third focus will be on events leading to the present day.

Ancient & Classical Civilizations: Ideas that Shaped History

Grade 7

Semester Course

This is a one semester 7th grade course that focuses on the study of ancient civilizations that developed world-wide. The course begins in Mesopotamia, and continues through ancient Egypt, before turning to ancient Rome and Greece. Students study the religions, governments, trade, philosophies, and art of these civilizations as well as the powerful ideas that arose in the ancient world that profoundly shaped the course of world history.

Math

Students are placed according to their incoming placement assessment if new this year or by teacher recommendation if continuing. For questions about math placement please contact Ted Gilbert at ted.gilbert@maeserprep.org

Saxon 7/8

Grade 7

Year Course

This course is for a few 7th graders who need a very fundamental class reviewing basic math facts and skills. Most students who complete this class will proceed to pre-algebra in 8th grade.

Pre-Algebra (Saxon)

Grades 7/8

Year Course

Pre-algebra is a bridge between arithmetic and algebra. This course will be taken by the majority of 7th grade students. Most students who complete this class will proceed to Algebra I in 8th grade. Students will develop problem-solving for modeling real-world problem situations. This class does not give CORE math credit for high school.

Algebra I (Saxon)

Grades 7/8

Year Course

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

This course is for those 7th graders who undertook special preparation in the 6th grade and whose maturity, abilities and end-of level test indicates that they are ready to proceed to Algebra I. The course includes problem-solving activities and applications to encourage student modeling of variables and functions. Those who make exceptional progress may be recommended to study Geometry in the 8th grade.

Science

Integrated Science 7/Health

Grade 7

Year Course

7th grade *Integrated Science* focuses on the organization of the biological world. The general objectives are to develop an appreciation of life (including health/wellness), to demonstrate the interdependence of all living things, and to recognize the ecological relationship of organisms. Modern taxonomy is used, but students also become acquainted with traditional classification. Considerable effort is made to give meaning, value, and pleasure to the study of science at this level, and individual and group lab experiences play an important role. Topics from the biological life sciences are integrated with health to illustrate science principles common to all sciences. Health subjects include achieving personal development, mental health, drug abuse, diseases, body systems and maturation. This course is coordinated with the Upper School biology course to provide greater variety and depth of study.

Physical Education

Physical Education 7 (boys and girls)

Grade 7

Semester Course

This course is designed to encourage students to increase their lifetime participation skills in a wide variety of activities, to improve their teamwork and cooperation skills, and to maintain personal fitness. Activities will include, but are not limited to: softball/baseball, soccer/speedball, aerobics, volleyball, basketball, football, recreational games, running, jump rope, and Presidential Physical Fitness activities. This is a “learn by doing” course.

*Physical Education uniforms are required.

Career & Technical Education

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Intro

Grade 7

Semester Course

CTE Intro (formerly TLC) is Utah's introductory level Career and Technical Education Curriculum requirement for junior high school. The CTE Intro class is a semester course that will be aligned to the state core curriculum.

Foreign Language

Latin I

Grade 7

Year Course

7th grade students are required to take Latin I to begin their study of additional foreign languages in subsequent years (8th grade and beyond). Latin I in 7th grade includes basic vocabulary, an introduction to Latin grammar with the study of the inductive mood of four conjunctions of verbs and five declensions of nouns, the translation of beginning stories, and a study of the culture, including topics such as history and everyday life in ancient Rome.

ELECTIVES

Journalism

Grades 7/8

Semester Course

Middle School journalism introduces students to the world of mass media, basic photojournalism concepts and skills and exploration of journalistic writing. Class activities, individual and group projects will immerse students in the world of journalism. Students will learn the functions of the media as well as the importance of the First Amendment as a guarantor of democratic society. Among a wide range of skills, they will also learn how use of digital cameras and desktop publishing computer software are all part of generating complete print and online newspapers. Motivated students may continue participation in the upper school journalism program. Journalism consists of students in both seventh and eighth grades. Students will learn the importance of advertising and the generation of funds in the business side of journalism.

Debate

Grades 7/8

Semester Course

Middle School debate introduces 7th and 8th grade students to the various debate activities (e.g. ,individual, team, and mock-Congress) that are available to members of the award winning Upper School Debate Team. Students gain essential organizational, analytical, and presentational skills that will help them in the remainder of their upper school careers and the beyond. Beginning Debate consists of students in both seventh and eighth grades.

Public Speaking

Grades 7/8

Semester Course

This elective will provide opportunities for students to feel more comfortable and gain confidence in public speaking and presentational skills. Class activities include prepared and impromptu speeches, public reading of prose and poetry and the importance of persuasive arguments and supporting evidence. Public Speaking consists of students in both seventh and eighth grades.

Middle School Yearbook

Grades 7/8

Semester Course

Prerequisite: recommendation from English teacher

Students enrolled in Middle School Yearbook will create, design and produce our Middle School yearbook. They will learn skills associated with layout and design, digital imaging, photo composition, journalism, and most importantly, collaboration and cooperation between staff members. Yearbook participants will be expected to spend time outside of school hours completing required assignments. Student looking for a challenging honors level opportunity should consider this Yearbook class. Yearbook consists of students in both seventh and eighth grades.

Fine Arts Electives

One semester of Fine Arts is required in the 7th grade. Students choosing orchestra are required to complete the full year course.

Drama

Grades 7/8

Semester Course

This course will introduce students to the foundational concepts of drama and musical theater through participation and application of those concepts to in-class exercises, scene study, and short dramatic presentations. The drama class consists of students in both seventh and eighth grades.

Middle School Orchestra (subject to demand)

Grades 7/8

Year Course

Prerequisite: none (summer orchestra or private lessons highly recommended but not required)

Symphony (beginning level, no audition required), Philharmonic (audition required) and Chamber (audition required).

This course provides meaningful experiences in music by teaching students to play orchestral string instruments: violin, viola, cello and bass. Emphasis will be placed on playing position, basic tone production, rhythmic precision, interpretation of music symbols, bowing techniques, and care of the instrument. Students in orchestra perform in at least two concerts a year.

Mixed Chorus

Grades 7/8

Semester Course

Mixed chorus is a general course offered on a semester basis. This is a course designed to give students of all levels of musical ability the opportunity to sing and perform. No audition is required. Students will work with all styles and musical genres, learn a variety of music, and perform in an evening concert at the end of each term. Sight-singing, ear training, and vocal techniques will be explored. The Mixed Chorus consists of students in both seventh and eighth grades.

Art Foundations I (FINE)

Grades 7-8

Semester (.5 credits)

Prerequisite: None

This is the Middle School Visual Arts Core course. It is designed to provide an overview of Visual Arts while studying a broad variety of art tools and materials. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art-related technology skills, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics.

Advanced Middle School Art (FINE)

Grades 7-8

Semester (.5 credits)

Prerequisite: *Art Foundations I or portfolio approval by instructor.*

This course is for the Middle School Visual Arts Core Curriculum. It is intended to offer a more challenging 2-D design course for middle school students that may have already taken Foundations 1 in 7th grade, or have demonstrated a more advanced level of visual art skills. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art-related technology skills, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics.

8th Period Options

The middle school will offer a few 8th period optional courses during the year for students who need to wait for carpools, etc.

A fee will be associated with these courses and academic grades will be assigned. If a student signs up for a course, he or she will be expected to be present daily.

Courses will be dependent upon enrollment. If there are a limited number of students who sign up, the course may be cancelled.

Students who are not signed up for an 8th period course will be expected to be picked up by 2:30 each day. A specific area will be designated for students to wait until they are picked up.

The following courses will be offered:

Course	1st Term	2nd Term	3rd Term	4th Term
Ballroom Dance	X	X	X	X
Study Skills	X	X	X	X
Cross-Country	X			
Girls Volleyball	X			
Boys Basketball		X	X	
Girls Basketball		X	X	
Soccer (Boys and Girls)				X

Ballroom dance will be held off-campus at the Lindon Community Center. Parents will be expected to transport their child to and from this activity.

Sports will be offered to those who participate on the school team.

The fees associated with the courses go towards instructor pay, travel, rental facilities, uniforms, payment to referees, transportation, etc.

8th Grade Course Descriptions

CORE COURSES

English & Social Studies

Honors English 8

Grade 8

Year Course

This full year course builds on seventh grade English by providing sequential and more complex exercises in reading, writing, vocabulary, interpretive, and grammar skills in preparation for the Upper School Socratic Seminar experience. Selected novels, plays, and poems are studied. This course will also include the study of historical literature in coordination with the 8th Grade History Core. Creative and critical writing will be addressed along with vocabulary drawn from reading, SAT lists, and Greek/Latin roots. Composition skills are refined through writing five-paragraph informative or persuasive essays based on collected information.

** Summer reading is part of the English 8 curriculum with a list provided later in the school year.

American History 8

Grade 8

Year Course

American History 8 focuses on the development of skills necessary for success in future Socratic courses in the Upper School. Emphasis is on note-taking, outlining, organization, research, writing and analysis of sources. In addition to examining what are regarded as critical events in U.S. history, the course also includes an introduction to the basic principles and structure of American government. In addition, effort is made to integrate the arts into the study of U.S. history, whenever possible.

Math

*Students are placed according to their incoming placement assessment if new this year or by teacher recommendation if continuing. For questions about math placement please contact Ted Gilbert at ted.gilbert@maeserprep.org.

Pre-algebra (Saxon)

Grade 8

Year Course

Prerequisite: none

Pre-algebra is a bridge between arithmetic and algebra. Most students who complete this class will proceed to Algebra I in 9th grade. Students will develop problem-solving for modeling real-world problem situations. This class does not give CORE math credit for high school.

Algebra I (Saxon)

Grade 8

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

This course will be taken by the majority of 8th graders. It includes problem-solving activities and applications to encourage student modeling of variables and functions.

Geometry I

Grade 8

Year Course

Prerequisite: Algebra I

This course is for exceptional students who excelled in Algebra I and whose end-of level test indicates readiness to begin Geometry. Teacher recommendation is required.

Science

Science 8

Grade 8

Year Course

8th grade *Integrated Science* focuses on the organization of the physical world including introductory chemistry and physics within the broader earth system. Students will increase their understanding of chemical and physical properties that control the earth and the universe, and the forces that produce the unending changes of the earth's surface. Students will also study observable properties of matter and energy. This course is coordinated with the Upper School chemistry and physics courses in order to provide greater variety and depth of study. The class is divided into two semester courses: physics (which covers the state core requirements for physics and geology plus a foundation for high school physics) and chemistry (which covers the state core requirements for chemistry, biology, and ecology plus a foundation for high school chemistry).

Physical Education

Physical Education 8 (boys and girls)

Grade 8

Semester

This course is designed to encourage students to increase their lifetime participation skills in a wide variety of activities, to improve their teamwork and cooperation skills, and to maintain personal fitness. Students develop cardio-vascular and respiratory endurance, muscular strength and flexibility. Weight training, circuit training, jogging, stretching and aerobics are included. In addition, students become more familiar with the skills and rules of major competitive and lifetime sports.

*Physical Education uniforms are required.

Career & Technical Education

Career and Technical Education (CTE) with Computer Technology

Grade 8

Semester Course

CTE Intro (formerly TLC) is Utah's introductory level Career and Technical Education Curriculum requirement for junior high school. The CTE Intro class is a semester course that will be aligned to the state core curriculum.

Foreign Language

(Students with native fluency in a foreign language are encouraged to take Latin II or begin a new foreign language at the first year level).

Spanish I

Year Course

Spanish I in 8th grade covers grammar, vocabulary, and phonetics to begin developing the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. In the classroom, students engage in participatory oral-aural activities and learn to communicate in the present and past tenses. Spanish I also include an introduction to the Spanish culture, covering such topics as history, holidays, geography, government, and contemporary affairs. The courses are conducted in Spanish as much as possible, providing students with regular speaking and listening opportunities.

** Students with prior Spanish immersion experience are encouraged to maintain language opportunities in Spanish, but to begin learning a 2nd foreign language in the 8th

grade and subsequent years. We recommend these students take the AP Spanish class and test in the 11th grade to enhance college admissions prospects.

Latin I, II

Year Course

7th grade students are required to take Latin I to begin their study of additional foreign languages in subsequent years. Students entering Maeser Prep for the first time in 8th grade may want to complete this course. Those wanting to continue their Latin study may move on to Latin II. All Latin levels include basic vocabulary & grammar with the study of the indicative mood of four conjunctions of verbs and declensions of nouns, the translation of beginning stories, and a study of the culture, including topics such as history and everyday life in ancient Rome.

Chinese I

Year Course

Chinese I in 8th grade covers grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation to begin developing the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. In the classroom, students engage in participatory oral-aural activities and learn to communicate at the beginning level. Chinese I also include an introduction to the Chinese culture, covering such topics as history, holidays, geography, government, and contemporary affairs. The courses are conducted in Chinese as much as possible, providing students with regular speaking and listening opportunities.

French I

Year Course

French I in 8th grade covers grammar, vocabulary, and phonetics to begin developing the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. In the classroom, students engage in participatory oral-aural activities and learn to communicate in the present and past tenses. French I also include an introduction to the French culture, covering such topics as history, holidays, geography, government, and contemporary affairs. The courses are conducted in French as much as possible, providing students with regular speaking and listening opportunities.

German I

Year Course

German I in 8th grade covers grammar, vocabulary, and phonetics to begin developing the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. In the classroom, students engage in participatory oral-aural activities and learn to communicate in the present and past tenses. German I also include an introduction to the German culture, covering such topics as history, holidays, geography, government, and contemporary affairs. The courses are conducted in German as much as possible, providing students with regular speaking and listening opportunities.

ELECTIVES

Debate

Grades 7/8
Semester Course

Middle School debate introduces students to the various debate activities (e.g. individual, team, and mock-Congress) that are available to members of the award winning Upper School Debate Team. Students gain essential organizational, analytical, and presentational skills that will help them in the remainder of their upper school careers and the beyond.

Public Speaking

Grades 7/8
Semester Course

This elective will provide opportunities for students to feel more comfortable and gain confidence in public speaking and presentational skills. Class activities include prepared and impromptu speeches, public reading of prose and poetry and the importance of persuasive arguments and supporting evidence.

Middle School Yearbook

Grades 7/8
Semester Course
Prerequisite: recommendation from English teacher

Students enrolled in Middle School Yearbook will create, design and produce our Middle School yearbook. They will learn skills associated with layout and design, digital imaging, photo composition, journalism, and most importantly, collaboration and cooperation between staff members. Yearbook participants will be expected to spend time outside of school hours completing required assignments. Student looking for a challenging honors level opportunity should consider the Yearbook class.

Journalism

Grades 7/8
Semester Course

This course introduces students to the world of mass media, basic photojournalism concepts and skills and exploration of journalistic writing. Class activities, individual and group projects will immerse students in the world of journalism. Students will learn the functions of the media as well as the importance of the First Amendment as a guarantor of democratic society. They will also learn how use of digital cameras and desktop publishing computer software as part of generating complete print and online newspapers.

Fine Arts Electives

One semester of Fine Arts is required in the 8th grade. Students choosing orchestra or band are required to complete the full year course.

Middle School Orchestra (subject to demand)

Grades 7/8

Year Course

Prerequisite: none (summer orchestra or private lessons highly recommended but not required)

This course provides meaningful experiences in music by teaching students to play orchestral string instruments: violin, viola, cello and bass. Emphasis will be placed on playing position, basic tone production, rhythmic precision, interpretation of music symbols, bowing techniques, and care of the instrument. Students in orchestra perform in at least two concerts a year.

Mixed Chorus

Grades 7/8

Semester Course

Mixed chorus is a general course offered on a semester basis. This is a course designed to give students of all levels of musical ability the opportunity to sing and perform. No audition is required. Students work with all styles and musical genres. We will learn a variety of music and perform in an evening concert at the end of each term. Sight-singing, ear training, and vocal techniques will be explored. The Mixed Chorus consists of students in both seventh and eighth grades.

Drama

Grades 7/8

Semester Course

This course will introduce students to the foundational concepts of drama and musical theater through participation and application of those concepts to in-class exercises, scene study, and short dramatic presentations. The drama class consists of students in both seventh and eighth grades.

Beginning Art

Grades 7/8

Semester Course

This basic exploration course is an extension of the elementary school art core, with an emphasis on drawing, color, and design objectives. It is a prerequisite to all other art electives. Basic vocabulary, aesthetics, art history, high-level thinking skills, production and art criticism are a part of this course. Beginning Art consists of students in both seventh and eighth grades.

8th Period Options

The middle school will offer a few 8th period optional courses during the year for students who need to wait for carpools, etc.

A fee will be associated with these courses and academic grades will be assigned. If a student signs up for a course, he or she will be expected to be present daily.

Courses will be dependent upon enrollment. If there are a limited number of students who sign up, the course may be cancelled.

Students who are not signed up for an 8th period course will be expected to be picked up by 2:30 each day. A specific area will be designated for students to wait until they are picked up.

The following courses will be offered:

Course	1st Term	2nd Term	3rd Term	4th Term
Ballroom Dance	X	X	X	X
Drama	X	X	X	X
Study Skills	X	X	X	X
Cross-Country	X			
Girls Volleyball	X			
Boys Basketball		X	X	
Girls Basketball		X	X	
Soccer (Boys and Girls)				X

Ballroom dance will be held off-campus at the Lindon Community Center. Parents will be expected to transport their child to and from this activity.

Sports will be offered to those who participate on the school team.

The fees associated with the courses go towards instructor pay, travel, rental facilities, uniforms, payment to referees, transportation, etc.