

**Karl G. Maeser
Preparatory Academy
Middle School (7-8)
2017-2018 Course Catalog**



Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy

Chartered by the Utah State Board of Education

Choosing Honor, Truth, and Virtue

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Mission Statement

Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy empowers and inspires students to learn continually, think critically, and communicate effectively through Socratic methods in order to better themselves and their community.

Accreditation

Maeser Prep is accredited through AdvanceEd.

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 nonfiction 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.

7th Grade History

Grade 7

7th grade history includes one term of Utah history and three terms of world history. Utah history covers the geography and geology of Utah, Native Americans, Mountain Men, the Mormon Pioneers, and the settlement of Utah and subsequent turmoil on the road to statehood. Students continue to learn about major international conflicts and events from a global perspective. Events covered include the second industrial revolution, the imperialist era, the Bolshevik Revolution, the world wars, and the Vietnam conflict.

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 Josh Bundy @ josh.bundy@maeserprep.org

Math 7

Grade 7

Year Course

Math 7 students will analyze proportional relationships; apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers; solve problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations; draw, construct and describe geometrical figures; solve problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume; use random sampling; draw informal comparative inferences about two populations; and investigate chance processes.

Math 7/8 Lab

Grade 7/8

Year Course

This course is designed to support students struggling in Math 7 or Math 8. Homework will be assigned, it is not merely a study hall. This course will cover remedial material for Math 7 and Math 8, and sometimes will preview topics for Math 7 and Math 8. Placement in this course is primarily by teacher recommendation.

Science

Integrated Science 7

Grade 7

Year Course

The seventh grade SEEd standards look for relationships of cause and effect which enable students to pinpoint mechanisms of nature and allow them to make predictions. There are five areas of study in the seventh grade science core.

First, Forces are Interactions between Matter. Students will explore how forces can cause changes in motion and are responsible for the transfer of energy and the cycling of matter.

Second, Changes to Earth over Time. Earth's processes are dynamic and interactive, and are the result of energy flowing and matter cycling within and among Earth's systems.

Third, The Structure and Function of Life. Living things are all made of a basic unit, cells. Cellular function and structure are the basic units that organize in simple and complicated ways to form tissues, organs, organ systems, and organisms.

Fourth, Reproduction and Inheritance. Organisms survive and reproduce only to the extent that their own mechanisms and adaptations allow. Genetic inheritance can be passed and tracked in sexual and asexual reproduction methods.

Fifth, Change in Species over Time. Genetic variation and the proportion of traits within a population can change over time. These changes can result in evolution through natural selection.

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 IA

Grades 7-8

This is a beginning Latin course with an emphasis on grammar, vocabulary, basic sentence structure, and mythology. Students learn the five noun declensions and all six tenses of the verb in the 1st and 2nd conjugations.

LATIN IB

Grade 8

Prerequisite: Latin 1A and/or teacher recommendation

After a brief review, students continue their study of Latin grammar by learning the remaining verb conjugations, broadening their knowledge about pronouns and adjectives, and being introduced to the passive voice. Students will continue to develop their translation skills and continue their exposure to Roman culture, architecture, and history.

ELECTIVES

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.

SOAR

Grades 7

The SOAR Program is a daily class for 7th grade students. The focus is to assist participants with the expectations and rigor of school while supporting the development of critical thinking and organizational/time management skills, as well as the social/emotional development that is necessary for success in advanced level classes and, ultimately, college.

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.

Middle School 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. Units covered include physicality, voice and diction, character development, character-based staging, and theatre history. The class consists of students in both seventh and eighth grades.

Middle School Orchestra

Grades 7/8

Year Course

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

Symphony (beginning level, no audition required), Philharmonic (no audition, but at least one year's experience 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 one concert per term.

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 - 2D: (FINE)

Grades 7-8

Semester (.5 credits)

Prerequisite: None

This is a Middle School Visual Arts Core course. It is designed to provide an overview of 2 dimensional Visual Arts such as drawing and painting. Students will be introduced to the elements and principles of art by using a broad variety of art tools and mediums (graphite and color pencils, pastels, charcoal, and water media). This course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art-related technology skill, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics, with an emphasis on studio production of projects.

Art Foundation I - 3D: Intro to Sculpture and Ceramics (FINE)

Grades 7-8

Semester (.5 credits)

Prerequisite: None

This is a Middle School Visual Arts Core course. It is designed to provide an overview of 3 dimensional Visual Arts such as ceramics and sculpture. Students will be introduced to the elements and principles of art by using a broad variety of art tools and mediums (clays, wire, paper mache, plaster, paper). This course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art-related technology skill, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics, with an emphasis on studio production of projects.

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. By looking at a variety of primary source documents, students are able to piece together major historical events in the United States, from Pre-Columbian times to Reconstruction America (1877). The course also includes an introduction to basic Constitutional principles and the structure of American government.

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 Jennifer Hooper at Jennifer.hooper@maeserprep.org

Core 7/7H

Grade 7

Year (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Core 6, also needed for honors placement a Teacher recommendation

This class analyzes proportional relationships (represented with fractions, decimals, and percents) and uses them to solve real-world and mathematical problems. In addition, students will learn to simplify numerical and algebraic expressions and solve algebraic equations. Students will draw, construct and describe geometrical figures. Students will also solve problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume. Lastly, students will study basic probability and statistics. HONORS students will also cover additional topics including ancient number systems and various patterns found in nature, art, and mathematics.

Core 8/8H

Grade 8

Year (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Core 7/7H

Topics will include: irrational numbers, proportional relationships, linear equations, solving pairs of linear equations, functions, using functions to model relationships between quantities, Pythagorean Theorem, investigating patterns of association in bivariate data, and volumes of cylinders, cones, and spheres. HONORS students also cover additional topics: fair division vs. apportionment, voting theory, sets, and 3D graphing and graph theory.

Math 7/8 Lab

Grade 7/8

Year Course

This course is designed to support students struggling in Math 7 or Math 8. This course will cover remedial material for Math 7 and Math 8, and sometimes will preview topics for Math 7 and Math 8. Placement in this course is primarily by teacher recommendation.

Secondary Math 1H

Grade 8 (accelerated)

Year (1 credit)

Prerequisite: Core 8/8H, Teacher recommendation

Secondary Math I will study the relationships between quantities by creating equations and reasoning quantitatively; build, interpret, and compare linear and exponential relationships; reason with equations and inequalities; interpret categorical and quantitative data; explore congruence, proof, and constructions in geometry; and connect algebra and geometry through using the coordinate plane. Honors classes will also study vector and matrix operations and applications. **Honors note:** Students who take the Honors versions of Secondary Math 1, 2, and 3 will be prepared for AP Calculus AB. Students who take the regular versions of those courses will need to take Pre-Calculus before taking AP Calculus AB. **HS Credit note:** Middle School students taking a High School course will be receiving high school credit for their course.

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).

Eighth Grade Chemistry

Grade 8

½ year course

This course focuses on science as a process for gaining knowledge of the natural world. The science curriculum places emphasis on helping students master scientific laboratory, processing and thinking skills. Through active, hands-on experiences, students will be taught to observe, inquire, question, formulate and test hypotheses, analyze data, and evaluate findings. Main content topics include the scientific method, changes in matter, energy, chemical reactions, biochemistry, and ecology.

8th Grade Physics

Grade: 8

Credits: 0.5 science credit (students are required to also enroll in 8th Grade Chemistry)

Prerequisites: None

This course focuses on science to explain the processes that happen in the world around us. This course focuses on energy and energy transformations, found in both Physics and Geology. Physics topics include speed and velocity, kinetic and potential energy, work and power, waves, and optics. Geology topics include minerals and rocks, volcanoes and earthquakes, renewable and nonrenewable energy sources, and fossil formation. Students in this course should expect to complete in-class laboratories and out-of-class research in order to effectively formulate and test hypotheses and analyze data.

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 cardiovascular 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

Latin IB

Year Course

8th grade students are required to take Latin IB. 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.

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.

Speech

Grades 8

Semester Course

This elective will provide opportunities for students to feel more comfortable and gain confidence in public speaking and presentation skills. Class activities include: 5 secrets of great communicators, I am speech, impromptu, student congress, oratory, interview skills and conflict resolution.

8th Grade Leadership (LEG)

Grade 8

Semester (.5 credits)

Prerequisite: Thinking

We could also title this class: It's time for me to take control of my thoughts, my words, and my actions. Students will learn principles of great human behavior and leadership. The first and most important is they recognize and acknowledge they choose who they are, regardless of past or present difficulties and trials.

In this class we use materials from Crocodiles International which include 37 Charter Guides based on animals to enliven the discussion and act as a hook for lifetime memory. Student will get to teach, speak, workshop, memorize and present, write, annotate, and reflect. This course will get the student out of their comfort zones and challenge their thinking and development of new skills.

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.

Middle School 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. Units covered include physicality, voice and diction, character development, character-based staging, and theatre history. The 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.

Middle School classes that count for High School Credit

If students pass Middle School Computer Technology they can choose to put those grades on their high school transcript by talking to their school counselor.

If students pass Middle School Latin with they can choose to put those grades on their high school transcript by talking to their school counselor.

If students are on an accelerated math sequence and take high school level math classes while in middle school, they can choose to put those grades on their high school transcript by talking to their school counselor.