



2027 IVA Middle School Course Catalog

At Ignitia Virtual Academy (IVA), we're excited to offer a diverse selection of faith-based and traditional courses designed to support every student's unique educational journey. Courses designated as *Secular* use a traditional curriculum, while all other courses are taught from a biblical worldview. Our team is happy to answer any questions about our course offerings.

Initial Credit is available for all courses. **Credit Recovery** is only available for Bible, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

This course list may change at any time due to teacher availability or class capacity. Unless otherwise noted with an **asterisk (*)**, all courses are designed as **full-year** courses divided into two semesters—**Semester A** and **Semester B**. Refer to the **key** below for details about one-semester courses, limited seating, and other important information.

KEY: * One-Semester Course | ° Limited Seating / Waitlist or Extended Enrollment Processing | ^{CR} Credit Recovery Available | ◇ Secular Course

MIDDLE SCHOOL — COURSE OFFERINGS

LANGUAGE ARTS

- MS Language Arts 6 ^{CR}
- MS Language Arts 7 ^{CR}
- MS Language Arts 8 ^{CR}

MATHEMATICS

- MS Mathematics 6 ^{CR} ◇
- MS Mathematics 7 ^{CR} ◇
- MS Mathematics 8 ^{CR} ◇
- MS Pre-Algebra ^{CR} ◇

SOCIAL STUDIES

- MS History and Geography 6 ^{CR}
- MS History and Geography 7 ^{CR}
- MS History and Geography 8 ^{CR}

SCIENCE

- MS Science 6 ^{CR}
- MS Science 7 ^{CR}
- MS Science 8 ^{CR}

GENERAL ELECTIVES

- MS Family & Consumer Science* ◇
- MS Family Living* ◇
- MS Journalism 1 A: Introduction* ◇
- MS Journalism 1 B: Tell Your Story* ◇
- MS Life Skills* ◇
- MS Literacy and Comprehension I ◇

BIBLE

- MS Bible 6 ^{CR}
- MS Bible 7 ^{CR}
- MS Bible 8 ^{CR}

WORLD LANGUAGES

- MS Chinese 1° ◇
- MS Chinese 2° ◇
- MS French 1° ◇
- MS French 2° ◇
- MS German 1° ◇
- MS German 2° ◇
- MS Latin 1° ◇
- MS Latin 2° ◇
- MS Spanish 1° ◇
- MS Spanish 2° ◇

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- MS Fitness Basics 1* ◇
- MS Fitness Basics 2* ◇
- MS Health* ◇
- MS Health Quest* ◇
- MS Intro to Group Sports 1* ◇
- MS Intro to Group Sports 2* ◇
- MS Intro to Individual Sports 1* ◇
- MS Intro to Individual Sports 2* ◇

FINE ARTS

- MS 2D Studio Art 1 A: Introduction* ◇
- MS 2D Studio Art 1 B: Living with Art* ◇
- MS Digital Art and Design 1 A: Introduction* ◇
- MS Digital Art and Design 1 B: Light, Sound, Magic* ◇
- MS Exploring Music 1 A: Introduction* ◇
- MS Exploring Music 1 B: Using Your Instruments* ◇
- MS Photography 1 A: Introduction* ◇
- MS Photography 1 B: Drawing with Light* ◇

CAREER & TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

- MS Career Explorations I*
- MS Career Explorations II*
- MS Career Explorations III*
- MS Computer Science° ◇
- MS Digital Literacy*° ◇
- MS Exploring Business* ◇
- MS Exploring Health Science* ◇
- MS Keyboarding and Applications* ◇
- MS Online Learning and Digital Citizenship* ◇
- MS Tech Apps: Grade 6* ◇
- MS Tech Apps: Grade 7* ◇
- MS Tech Apps: Grade 8* ◇

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS

MS LANGUAGE ARTS 6 ^{CR}

Language Arts 6 continues to build on the sequential development and integration of communication skills in four major areas—reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It most specifically focuses on deepening and furthering students' understanding in the following ways: Unit 1: Differentiate and identify common parts of speech. Unit 2: Use efficient grammar including punctuation, diction, capitalization, and syntax. Unit 3: Analyze something read to find vocabulary, relationships, and comparisons with context. Unit 4: Write accurately in different forms including letters and use of outside research. Unit 5: Recognize propaganda, facts, and opinions in news stories. Unit 6: Identify different forms of literature in both fiction and nonfiction. Unit 7: Establish a purpose for reading a passage and adjust reading strategies accordingly. Unit 8: Differentiate and write different forms of poetry using figurative language. Unit 9: Link bible stories and passages to different forms of traditional literature.

MS LANGUAGE ARTS 7 ^{CR}

Language Arts 7 continues to build on the sequential development and integration of communication skills in four major areas—reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It most specifically focuses on deepening and furthering students' understanding in the following ways: Reading—develops students' reading skills, including the identification of main ideas, supporting details, and sequence; teaches students how to reach logical conclusions as well as use appropriate reading rates; shows students how to identify parts of speech in sentences, with emphasis on adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, pronouns, and verb types; helps students develop basic literary comprehension skills through the reading of biographical and autobiographical pieces, poetry, and character analyses. Writing—develops students' understanding of sentence structure, providing hands-on experience with coordination, conjunctions, subject-verb agreement, participles, and phrases; familiarizes students with roots, affixes, and basic word relationships, including homonyms, synonyms, and antonyms; develops students' vocabulary and spelling skills; gives students the opportunity to develop their abilities in writing paragraphs, character analyses, character sketches, short biographies, and summaries; develops students' critical thinking skills through speculative writing on morality. Speaking—teaches skills that enable students to become effective speakers and communicators, weaving the skills together throughout the course. Listening—teaches effective listening comprehension skills, weaving these together throughout the lessons; builds upon students' study skills.

MS LANGUAGE ARTS 8 ^{CR}

Language Arts 8 continues to build on the sequential development and integration of communication skills in four major areas—reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It most specifically focuses on deepening and furthering students' understanding in the following ways: Reading—reinforces reading comprehension skills by teaching students how to analyze propaganda and other forms of writing, including biographies, autobiographies, formal essays, and informal essays; shows students how to make denotative, symbolic, and connotative readings of a text; introduces both Old English and Middle English languages and literature to develop students' understanding of English language formation and development; prepares students for the higher level literary comprehension skills required in the upper grades. Writing—develops students' understanding of sentence structure, providing hands-on experience with conjunctions, transitions, clauses, and common sentence errors; teaches language histories and etymologies to help students build on knowledge of word structures, including topics like prefixes, roots, and suffixes; expands on students' vocabulary and spelling skills; gives students the opportunity to develop their abilities in writing business letters, friendly letters, informal essays, and basic literature analyses. Speaking—offers students experience in delivering oral reports; teaches skills that enable students to become effective speakers and communicators, weaving these skills together throughout the course. Listening—teaches effective listening comprehension skills, weaving these together throughout the lessons; builds upon students' study skills, as well as helping them become reliable and efficient note takers.

MATHEMATICS

MS MATHEMATICS 6 ^{CR} ◇

In this course, students connect ratio and rate to multiplication and division, using ratio reasoning to solve a wide variety of problems. Students further apply their understanding of multiplication and division to explain the standard procedure for dividing fractions. This course builds upon previous notions of the number system to include the entire set of rational numbers. Students begin to understand the use of variables as they write, evaluate, and simplify expressions. They use the idea of equality and properties of operations to solve one-step equations and inequalities. In statistics, students explore different graphical ways

to display data. They use data displays, measures of center, and measures of variability to summarize data sets. The course also engages students in reasoning about relationships among shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume.

MS MATHEMATICS 7 ^{CR} ◇

This course features an in-depth study of proportional reasoning, during which students utilize concrete models such as bar diagrams and tables to develop conceptual understanding of rates, ratios, proportions, and percentages. Students extend their number fluency and understanding of the rational number system as they perform operations with signed rational numbers embedded in real-world contexts. In statistics, students develop meanings for representative samples, measures of central tendency, variation, and the ideal representation for comparisons of given data sets. Students develop an understanding of both theoretical and experimental probability. Throughout the course, students build fluency in writing expressions and equations that model real-world scenarios. They apply their understanding of inverse operations to solve multi-step equations and inequalities. Students build on their proportional reasoning to solve problems about scale drawings by relating the corresponding lengths between objects. Students also conduct geometric analyses of angle relationships, area, and volume of both two- and three-dimensional figures.

MS MATHEMATICS 8 ^{CR} ◇

In this course, students use input-output relationships to build a foundation for learning about functions. Students make connections between verbal, numeric, algebraic, and graphical representations of relations and apply this knowledge to create linear functions that can be used to model and solve mathematical and real-world problems. Technology is used to build deeper connections among representations. Students focus on formulating expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and writing and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations. Students develop a deeper understanding of how translations, rotations, reflections, and dilations of distances and angles affect congruency and similarity. Students develop rules of exponents and use them to simplify exponential expressions. Students extend rules of exponents as they perform operations with numbers in scientific notation. Estimating and comparing square roots of non-perfect squares to perfect squares exposes students to irrational numbers and lays the foundation for applications such as the Pythagorean theorem, distance, and volume.

MS PRE-ALGEBRA ^{CR} ◇

This full-year course is designed for high school students who have completed a middle school mathematics sequence but are not yet algebra-ready. This course reviews key algebra readiness skills from the middle grades and introduces basic Algebra I work with appropriate support. Students revisit concepts in numbers and operations, expressions and equations, ratios and proportions, and basic functions. By the end of the course, students are ready to begin a more formal high school Algebra I study.

SCIENCE

MS SCIENCE 6 ^{CR}

Examining a broad spectrum of the biological sciences, Life Science is a full-year course for middle school students that builds on basic principles of scientific inquiry and translates those skills to more complex, overarching biological themes. The course includes units that help students understand the definitions, forms, and classifications of living organisms and learn to analyze the diversity of each unique group of living organisms. Other units introduce students to the structures and functions of cells, cell theory, and cell reproduction. These larger themes are then applied to other topics, such as genetics, Darwinian theory, and human biology and health. An introduction of ecology draws all of these concepts together to examine the interrelationships that help to maintain life on Earth.

MS SCIENCE 7 ^{CR}

Students enrolled in this dynamic course explore the scope of Earth sciences, covering everything from basic structure and rock formation to the incredible and volatile forces that have shaped and changed our planet. As climate change and energy conservation become increasingly prevalent in the national discourse, it will be important for students to understand the concepts and causes of our changing Earth. Earth Science is a two-semester course that provides a solid foundation for understanding the physical characteristics that make the planet Earth unique and examines how these characteristics differ among the planets of our solar system.

MS SCIENCE 8 ^{CR}

This full-year course focuses on basic concepts in chemistry and physics and encourages exploration of new discoveries in the field of physical science. The course includes an overview of scientific principles and procedures and has students examine the chemical building blocks of our physical world and the

composition of matter. Additionally, students explore the properties that affect motion, forces, and energy on Earth. Building on these concepts, the course covers the properties of electricity and magnetism and the effects of these phenomena. As students refine and expand their understanding of physical science, they will apply their knowledge to complete interactive virtual labs that require them to ask questions and create hypotheses. Hands-on wet lab options are also available.

SOCIAL STUDIES

MS HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY 6 CR

History and Geography 6 continues the process of developing in students an understanding of and appreciation for God's activity as seen in the record of man and his relationships. The course focuses on World History, with an emphasis on Western Europe. Specifically, it covers World History from ancient civilizations through the end of the 20th century, highlighting early Christianity (through the Reformation) and the two World Wars. These areas of focus target three major content strands: History, Geography, and Social Studies Skills. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to do the following: Understand the world in spatial terms (according to hemispheres, latitude and longitude, maps, and time zones). Understand how cultures differ in each of the hemispheres studied. Understand Western civilization from its beginnings to the end of the Renaissance. Understand the significant religious, cultural, and scientific events in Europe during the Renaissance. Identify cultural and geographic differences between the South American countries studied. Identify cultural and geographic differences between the African countries studied. Identify key causes, events, and leaders of the two World Wars. Understand the history, culture, and politics of Eastern European countries. Additionally, students will gain practice in report-writing, covering topics like North American geography, the Crusades, the influence of the Renaissance, the Industrial Revolution, and more.

MS HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY 7 CR

History and Geography 7 continues the process of developing in students an understanding of and appreciation for God's activity as seen in the record of man and his relationships. The course surveys the social sciences, covering history, geography, anthropology, sociology, economics, and political science. These areas of focus target all five major content strands: History, Geography, Government and Citizenship, Economics, and Social Studies Skills. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to do the following: Understand the historical method. Understand the world in spatial terms (according to latitude and longitude, maps, time zones, and Daylight Saving Time). Locate and describe different topographical features of the world, such as plains, mountainous regions, rivers, and valleys. Locate and describe U.S. regions made up of various groups of states, such as the Northeast and the Midwest. Understand the meaning, methods, and goals of anthropology. Understand the meaning, methods, and goals of sociology. Understand the anthropology and sociology of the United States, especially of Native Americans. Know the characteristics of major economic systems—free enterprise and socialism—and the role that government plays in each one. Understand and describe contributions made to the area of political science by various political thinkers. Understand the structure and functions of American government and economics at the state level. Additionally, students will gain practice in report-writing, covering topics like topographies of home states, underdeveloped nations, modern political issues, and more.

MS HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY 8 CR

History and Geography 8 continues the process of developing in students an understanding of and appreciation for God's activity as seen in the record of man and his relationships. The course focuses on American History, covering the subject from early exploration through the present day, with special emphasis given to the Civil War and to inventions and technology of the 19th and early 20th centuries. These areas of focus target three major content strands: History, Geography, and Government and Citizenship. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to do the following: Identify significant explorers, such as Christopher Columbus, Francisco Coronado, Sir Francis Drake, Ferdinand Magellan, Henry Hudson, Jacques Cartier, and Samuel de Champlain, noting their accomplishments. Understand how conflict between the American colonies and Great Britain led to American independence. Understand political, economic, and social changes that occurred in the United States during the 19th century, including changes resulting from the Industrial Revolution, and explain how these changes led to movement into the western frontier and conflict among sections of the United States. Describe the causes and effects of the Civil War and its aftermath. Describe the causes and effects of both World Wars. Understand some of the key challenges facing American society in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Additionally, students will gain practice in report-writing, covering topics like the thirteen colonies, the U.S. Constitution, the Civil War, inventors, and more.

BIBLE

MS BIBLE 6 ^{CR}

Bible 6 provides a developmental and in-depth academic study of the teachings of the Old and New Testaments. It focuses on a brief survey of the Old and New Testaments, with special emphasis upon the key people, places, and events from the book of Genesis to the book of Revelation. These areas target three content strands: theology, biblical literature, and biblical background.

MS BIBLE 7 ^{CR}

Bible 7 provides a developmental and in-depth academic study of the teachings of the Old and New Testaments. It focuses on worship, mankind, the attributes of God, prophecies about Christ, the living of balanced lives, and the book of Psalms. Special emphasis is given to the life of Christ from His pre-existence and birth to His resurrection and ascension. These areas target five content strands: theology, the attributes of God, biblical literature, Christian growth, and the life of Christ (a special topic).

MS BIBLE 8 ^{CR}

Bible 8 provides a developmental and in-depth academic study of the teachings of the Old and New Testaments. It focuses on prayer, salvation, the attributes of God, the book of Proverbs, and interpersonal relationships. Special emphasis is given to a survey of Church history from the early Church through the Reformation. These areas target five content strands: theology, the attributes of God, biblical literature, Christian growth, and Church history (a special topic).

WORLD LANGUAGES

MS CHINESE 1 ◇

In this middle school course, students begin their introduction to Chinese with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major Chinese-speaking countries.

MS CHINESE 2 ◇

Middle school students continue their introduction to Chinese with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major Chinese-speaking countries.

MS FRENCH 1 ◇

Students in middle school begin their introduction to French with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major French-speaking areas.

MS FRENCH 2 ◇

Middle school students continue their introduction to French with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major French-speaking areas.

MS GERMAN 1◇

Middle school students begin their introduction to German with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major German-speaking areas.

MS GERMAN 2◇

Students continue their introduction to middle school German with this second-year course by covering fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major German-speaking areas.

MS LATIN 1◇

Students in middle school begin their introduction to Latin with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, cultural presentations covering significant aspects of Roman culture or their modern-day manifestations.

MS LATIN 2◇

Middle school students continue their introduction to Latin with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, cultural presentations covering significant aspects of Roman culture or their modern-day manifestations.

MS SPANISH 1◇

Middle school students begin their introduction to Spanish with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major Spanish-speaking areas.

MS SPANISH 2◇

Students in middle school continue their introduction to Spanish with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major Spanish-speaking areas.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

MS FITNESS BASICS 1*◇ & 2*◇

This course is designed to provide students with the basic skills and information needed to begin a personalized exercise program and maintain an active and healthy lifestyle. Students participate in pre- and post-fitness assessments in which they measure and analyze their own levels of fitness based on the five components of physical fitness: muscular strength, endurance, cardiovascular fitness, flexibility, and body composition. In this course, students research the benefits of physical activity, as well as the techniques, principles, and guidelines of exercise to keep them safe and healthy. Throughout this course students participate in a weekly fitness program involving elements of cardio, strength, and flexibility.

MS HEALTH*◇

This comprehensive health course is designed for middle school students. It covers basic information about body systems, disease, and hygiene. Students explore the various realms of health, including mental, social, and emotional health. In addition, students learn important life skills such as decision-making and refusal skills.

MS HEALTH QUEST*◇

This middle school Health course introduces students to the concepts of what good health is, why good health is important, and what students should do in order to achieve good health. By the end of this course, students will be able to demonstrate an awareness of health as it applies to their bodies, minds, and environment; identify the components of a healthy lifestyle; set reasonable wellness goals; and apply health concepts across multiple contexts.

MS INTRO TO GROUP SPORTS 1*◇ & 2*◇

This course provides students with an overview of group sports. Students learn about a variety of sports, and an in-depth study of soccer or basketball in Intro to Group Sports 1 and baseball/softball and volleyball in Intro to Group Sports 2. Students learn the history, rules, and guidelines of each sport, as well as game strategy and the benefits of sports. In addition, students study elements of personal fitness, goal setting, sport safety, and sports nutrition. Students conduct a pre- and post-fitness assessment, as well as participate in regular weekly physical activity as they practice skills related to group sports.

MS INTRO TO INDIVIDUAL SPORTS 1*◇ & 2*◇

This course provides students with an overview of individual sports. Students learn about a variety of sports, yet do an in-depth study of running, walking, strength training, yoga, dance, biking, swimming, and cross-training. Students learn not only the history, rules, and guidelines of each sport, but practice flexibility.

GENERAL ELECTIVES

MS FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE*◇

This course prepares students with a variety of skills for independent or family living. Topics covered include childcare, home maintenance, food preparation, money management, medical management, clothing care, and more. The course also focuses on household, personal, and consumer health and safety. In addition, students learn goal-setting and decision-making skills, as well as explore possible career options.

MS FAMILY LIVING*◇

In this course, students examine the family unit and characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships at different phases of life — including information on self-discovery, family, friendships, dating and abstinence, marriage, pregnancy, and parenthood. Students learn about the life cycle and the different stages of development, from infancy to adulthood. The course also focuses on a variety of skills to improve relationships and family living, including coping skills, communication skills, refusal skills, babysitting, parenting, and healthy living and disease prevention habits.

MS JOURNALISM 1A*◇ AND 1B*◇

Who? What? When? Where? Why? Journalism provides us with the answers to these questions for the events that affect our lives. In this course, students will learn how to gather information, organize ideas, format stories for different forms of news media, and edit their stories for publication. The course will also examine the historical development of journalism and the role of journalism in society.

MS LIFE SKILLS*◇

This course allows students to explore their personality type and interests, as well as refine important skills that will benefit them throughout their lives, including personal nutrition and fitness skills, time and stress management, communication and healthy relationships, goal setting, study skills, leadership and service, environmental and consumer health, and personal finances. In addition, students explore possible colleges and careers that match their needs, interests, and talents.

MS LITERACY & COMPREHENSION I◊

This course is one of two intervention courses designed to support the development of strategic reading and writing skills. These courses use a thematic and contemporary approach, including high-interest topics to motivate students and expose them to effective instructional principles using diverse content area and real-world texts. Both courses offer an engaging technology-based interface that inspires and challenges students to gain knowledge and proficiency in the following comprehension strategies: summarizing, questioning, previewing and predicting, recognizing text structure, visualizing, making inferences, and monitoring understanding with metacognition. Aimed at improving fluency and vocabulary, self-evaluation strategies built into these courses inspire students to take control of their learning.

FINE ARTS

MS 2D STUDIO ART 1A*◊ AND 1B*◊

Journey inside the art studio and learn to bring your 2D art visions to life. Whatever medium you prefer, painting or drawing, this course will help you hone your 2D art skills. Learn the elements and principles needed to logistically create art; explore your artistic inspirations; view art from different ages and cultures; gain insight about the art of critiquing.

MS DIGITAL ART AND DESIGN 1A*◊ AND 1B*◊

Digital art and design involves everything from advertising to animation to photography and more. In this course, you'll learn about the evolution of art; the basic principles of art and design; the role of art in politics and society; and how to create digital art and make it come alive.

MS EXPLORING MUSIC 1A*◊ AND 1B*◊

Learn about how we hear music, its history and culture, and how it affects our lives. Explore the elements of music, such as rhythm, pitch, and harmony, while discovering more about musical genres, singing and your voice, instruments, and musical composition. Tune up your understanding and appreciation for all things musical.

MS PHOTOGRAPHY 1A*◊ AND 1B*◊

Students see photographs every day on television, on the Internet, and in magazines and newspapers. What makes a great photograph? How did the artist capture a story? What makes a great picture? What are careers in photography? In this course, students learn and apply fundamental skills to use a camera and take photographs of animals, people, and landscapes. Students gain an understanding of how photography can be a means of documentation or high art. Students examine photographic careers and explore self-reflection to progress their creative growth as they develop a photographic portfolio. This course helps students select subjects, take a photograph, and print and display memories!

CAREER & TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

MS CAREER EXPLORATIONS I*

Career Explorations I is a semester-long course designed to give middle school students an opportunity to explore careers involving human-related services. Each of the five units introduce one particular field and explains its past, present, and future. These units include Career Management, Introduction to Careers in Health Sciences, Hospitality and Tourism Systems, Human Services, and Consumer Services. The goal is to whet students' appetites for these careers. Students can then explore a specific career path in more detail in high school.

MS CAREER EXPLORATIONS II*

Career Explorations II is a semester-long course designed to give middle school students an opportunity to explore various technical fields from computers to agriculture. Each of the five units introduces one particular field and explains its past, present, and future. These units include Information Technology, Introduction to Information Support and Services, Introduction to Network Systems, Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, and Introduction to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The goal is to whet students' appetites for these careers. Students can then explore a specific career path in more detail in high school.

MS CAREER EXPLORATIONS III*

Career Explorations III is a semester-long course designed to give middle school students an opportunity to explore various CTE subjects. Each of the five units introduces one particular field and explains its past, present, and future. These units include Introduction to Business and Finance, Introduction to Manufacturing, Introduction to Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics, Introduction to Architecture and Construction, and Introduction to Marketing. The goal is to whet students' appetites for these careers. Students can then explore a specific career path in more detail in high school.

MS COMPUTER SCIENCE◇

Middle School Computer Science is a full-year course designed to introduce students in grades 6–8 to computer science as a vehicle for problem solving, communication, and personal expression. This course focuses on the visible aspects of computing and computer science centering on the immediately observable and personally applicable elements of computer science while also asking students to look outward and explore the impact of computer science on society. Students will explore the design process with creative, hands-on learning opportunities to create programs and collaborate with peers while learning specific aspects of computer science including problem solving, programming, physical computing, user-centered design, and data.

Required Materials:

- Access to the Microsoft Office suite or similar product line
- Python or the Python Anywhere app (Chromebook), the Pythonista app (iPad), or similar (e.g., PyScript)
- Recommended for devices running Windows 10 or higher or macOS

MS DIGITAL LITERACY*◇

This semester-long elective provides a foundation to understanding key applications, computing fundamentals, and online living. This course focuses on describing technology basics including finger placement on the keyboard and the differences between hardware and software. Students describe the functions of operating systems and their utilities, identify computer networks, how they work, and computer and internet safety. Students identify different communications industries and how to use email, Microsoft Word®, PowerPoint®, and Outlook®, describe how to create spreadsheets, enter data, create graphs, and use formulas and shortcuts in spreadsheets. Additionally, students will identify the functions of PowerPoint®, digital media, intellectual property law, workplace crimes, privacy concerns, digital citizenship, and how to stay safe on social media.

Required Materials:

- Students must have access to MS Office or Office 365, including Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Word

MS EXPLORING BUSINESS*◇

Are you interested in business, leading people, or making decisions to help a business be successful? While there are many different career choices in the field of business, in this course, you'll discover options such as management, human resources, business operations, information management, and accounting. Explore the skills you'll need, common tasks, the technology used, and characteristics of various business careers.

MS EXPLORING HEALTH SCIENCE*◇

Where do healthcare workers spend their days? What do they really do? From cruise ships to sports arenas, you can find healthcare workers in many places that you might not expect. Explore this field, including what it would be like to work in a medical lab. Learn what it takes to keep you and your patients safe, and begin to learn about the human body and basic first-aid.

MS KEYBOARDING AND APPLICATIONS*◇

This one-semester course teaches keyboarding skills, technical skills, effective communication skills, and productive work habits. Students learn proper keyboarding techniques. Once students have been introduced to keyboarding skills, lessons include daily practice of those skills. Students gain an understanding of computer hardware, operating systems, file management, and the Internet. In addition, students apply their keyboarding skills and create a variety of business documents, including word processing documents and electronic presentations.

Required Materials:

- Word-processing software (e.g., MS Word)
- Presentation software (e.g., MS PowerPoint)

MS ONLINE LEARNING AND DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP*◇

This one-semester course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to online learning, including how to work independently, stay safe, and develop effective study habits in virtual learning environments. Featuring direct-instruction videos, interactive tasks, authentic projects, and rigorous assessments, the course prepares students for high school by providing in-depth instruction and practice in important study skills such as time management, effective note-taking, test preparation, and collaborating effectively online. By the end of the course, students will understand what it takes to be successful online learners and responsible digital citizens.

MS TECH APPS: GRADE 6*◇

When it comes to technology, there is a lot to learn, and sometimes it's hard to get a digital foothold. In this course, you will be introduced to some of the most important technological topics to place you on the path to well-rounded understanding. You will learn about your digital footprint, netiquette, and how to stay safe online. You will improve your typing, file management and organization skills as well as your knowledge of software programs. You will also learn about trends, coding, blogs and websites, photo and video software, and more! It's time to go digital!

MS TECH APPS: GRADE 7*◇

You learned some tech app basics, and now it's time to explore new software that will help you with content creation. In this course, you will practice being a member of a team — listening to others' ideas and advocating for your own — and learn how to break a problem into steps represented with a flowchart. With the steps defined, you'll put your ideas into action coding a robot in Scratch and a Rock, Paper, Scissors game. Finally, you'll look at various content creation methods like Google apps, blogs, podcasts, and videos, and think about who your audiences might be. Let's move beyond the basics and into the ever-expanding world of tech apps.

MS TECH APPS: GRADE 8*◇

Few things move faster than ever-changing technology, and it's important to try and stay up-to-date on this modern digital transformation. In this course, you will get a guided tour through this towering technological landscape from hacking and hardware, understanding algorithms and basic cybersecurity, and even implementing powerful tools like Google apps. You will also improve your ability to type, code, and use audio and video editing software. In the end, you will learn all about how to be an effective and responsible digital citizen in a cyberworld that is only growing increasingly quick and complex. Let's get up to speed!