



# PARK CITY INDEPENDENT

## 2027 PCI Middle School Course Catalog

At Park City Independent (PCI), we're excited to offer a wide variety of courses designed to support every student's learning journey. Our course list is updated regularly, and we often have additional elective options available. If you'd like to explore more choices, please give us a call—we'd love to help!

**Initial Credit** is available for all courses. **Credit Recovery** is only available for 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 | <sup>CR</sup> Credit Recovery Available

### MIDDLE SCHOOL — COURSE OFFERINGS

#### LANGUAGE ARTS

- MS Language Arts 6 <sup>CR</sup>
- MS Language Arts 7 <sup>CR</sup>
- MS Language Arts 8 <sup>CR</sup>

#### MATHEMATICS

- MS Mathematics 6 <sup>CR</sup>
- MS Mathematics 7 <sup>CR</sup>
- MS Mathematics 8 <sup>CR</sup>
- MS Pre-Algebra <sup>CR</sup>

#### SOCIAL STUDIES

- MS Ancient World History <sup>CR</sup>
- MS Modern World History <sup>CR</sup>
- MS Survey of World History <sup>CR</sup>
- MS World Cultures and Geography <sup>CR</sup>
- MS U.S. History <sup>CR</sup>
- MS Civics and Citizenship\* <sup>CR</sup>
- MS Civics, Government, and Economics <sup>CR</sup>

#### 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

#### SCIENCE

- MS Life Science <sup>CR</sup>
- MS Earth Science <sup>CR</sup>
- MS Physical Science <sup>CR</sup>

#### 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 <sup>CR</sup>

This course eases students' transition to middle school with engaging, age-appropriate literary and informational reading selections. Students learn to read critically, analyze texts, and cite evidence to support ideas as they read an array of literary and informational texts. Students sharpen their vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills through explicit modeling and ample practice. Students also engage in routine, responsive writing based on texts they have read. In comprehensive, process-based writing lessons, students write topical essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats. In this full-year course, students develop a mastery of reading, writing, and language arts skills.

#### MS LANGUAGE ARTS 7 <sup>CR</sup>

Students grow as readers, writers, and thinkers in this middle school course. With engaging literary and informational texts, students learn to think critically, analyze an author's language, and cite evidence to support ideas. Students complete an in-depth novel study and read excerpts from stories, poetry, and nonfiction. Explicit modeling and ample opportunities for practice help students sharpen their vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills. Students also respond routinely to texts they have read. In extensive, process-based writing lessons, students write topical essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats. In this full-year course, students develop a mastery of reading, writing, and language arts skills.

#### MS LANGUAGE ARTS 8 <sup>CR</sup>

In this course, students build on their knowledge and blossom as thoughtful readers and clear, effective writers. A balance of literary and informational texts engages students throughout the course in reading critically, analyzing texts, and citing evidence to support claims. Students sharpen their vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills through lessons designed to provide explicit modeling and ample opportunities to practice. Students also routinely write responses to texts they have read, and use more extensive, process-based lessons to produce full-length essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats. In this full-year course, students develop a mastery of reading, writing, and language arts skills.

### MATHEMATICS

#### MS MATHEMATICS 6 <sup>CR</sup>

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 <sup>CR</sup>

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 <sup>CR</sup>

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 <sup>CR</sup>

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 LIFE SCIENCE <sup>CR</sup>

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 EARTH SCIENCE <sup>CR</sup>

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 PHYSICAL SCIENCE <sup>CR</sup>

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 ANCIENT WORLD HISTORY <sup>CR</sup>

This full-year course covers ancient peoples, cultures, civilizations, and innovations through approximately 300 CE. Students are introduced to historical inquiry skills for application to studies of ancient civilizations. Students explore physical and human geography to explain how ancient people interacted with the environment and understand how civilizations developed. Students study early economies and how trade relations affected culture and language. In later lessons, students examine how early forms of government and technology have had a lasting influence on modern civilization. Throughout the course, students analyze maps and primary sources to identify patterns and make connections across time and space. Students are exposed to diverse cultures and learn to explore the past with historical empathy.

### MS MODERN WORLD HISTORY <sup>CR</sup>

The middle school Modern World History course presents a cohesive and comprehensive overview of world history from the Middle Ages to the modern era. This full-year course examines the role of conflict and cooperation in shaping the modern world. Students will draw upon and further develop historical inquiry skills as they examine the expansion of global economic, political, and social interactions and question the impact they had, and continue to have, on cultures and nations. Students will explore the lasting effects that revolutions in government and technology have had on peoples, nations, and the environment. Students apply historical inquiry skills to studies of civilizations from the Middle Ages to the modern era. Students study economies and the growth of more complex trade systems, the cultures of and conflicts among peoples and places, the development of political institutions, and the rise and fall of governments. In later lessons, students examine how changes in the arts, technology, and political systems have had a lasting influence on modern civilization. Throughout the course, students analyze maps and primary sources to identify patterns and make connections across time and space. Students are exposed to diverse cultures and explore the past with historical empathy. Students encounter rigorous reading and writing activities for a variety of purposes. These activities allow students to develop literacy and writing skills, as well as critical-thinking and communication skills.

### MS SURVEY OF WORLD HISTORY <sup>CR</sup>

The year-long middle school Survey of World History course provides a basic overview of all aspects of World History from the early River Valley civilizations through our modern world. Students will gain a rich understanding of global cultures and the historical factors that have shaped the world around them. Throughout the course students analyze historical sources and make connections with concepts such as government, economic systems, and technology and innovation. Students encounter rigorous reading and writing activities to develop literacy and writing skills as well as critical thinking and communication skills. The course begins with units covering ancient civilizations in the regions of Mesopotamia, India, China, and Greece and Rome. Students learn what life was like in ancient times and how the empires rose and fell. Students move on to study the social and political changes that were brought about during the Renaissance and that spurred worldwide explorations. Revolutions, imperialism, and world wars follow with in-depth studies on how these events happened and their influence. As one century ends and the next begins, students study the Cold War as well as the political and economic changes across the globe. The course concludes with the issues facing our global society from environmental issues to the role technology plays in our everyday life.

### MS U.S. HISTORY <sup>CR</sup>

Offering an interactive and comprehensive overview of American history, this course engages and inspires students to learn about the rich and diverse history of America's native peoples, early European colonization and settlement in America, and the creation of a new nation through the American Revolution. Middle school students enrolled in this course will closely examine major changes brought about by the nation's reconstruction, industrialization, urbanization, and progressive reforms and consider the implications each of these events had on the expansion of the United States' global influence through modern times. Over the course of two semesters, interesting course content encourages students to think carefully about the challenges and opportunities facing the United States in the twenty-first century.

### MS CIVICS, GOVERNMENT, AND ECONOMICS <sup>CR</sup>

Exploring the structure of the United States government on a national, state, and local level, this course challenges students to learn and understand fundamental concepts and philosophies that led to the creation of the United States Constitution. Students enrolled in this two-semester course analyze the political process, political parties, and influences that affect them both. Engaging, interactive content introduces economic concepts and encourages students to explore government and economics on a global scale. By instilling a thorough understanding of government and economics, this course inspires students to investigate what it means to be an American citizen.



## MS CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP\* CR

Civics and Citizenship is a one-semester elective appropriate for students in middle school and early high school. The course investigates events, concepts, and issues with a 360-degree view allowing multiple perspectives from various cultures and institutions to inform student learning. The course is divided into five units in which students will explore their civic roles, rights, and responsibilities; analyze the development of democracy in the United States; study the purposes and principles of the Constitution; investigate the role of power in decision-making; and discover ways to influence the government. The course provides opportunities to actively engage with the content through interactives, assignments, readings, short writings, projects, and discourse.

## MS WORLD CULTURES AND GEOGRAPHY CR

Designed to introduce students to the study of geography, this course helps students master important concepts in physical and human geography. Comprehensive and organized by region, this two-semester middle school course helps students understand the Earth's physical and human diversity. Students analyze population and settlement patterns and evaluate the ways that human activities modify the physical environment. While studying humans around the world, students compare development, standards of living, systems of government, and economic factors across the globe. In addition, students gain a rich understanding of global cultures and the historical factors that have shaped the world around them. All units in the course are parallel and include studies in physical and human geography, ancient cultures, regional studies, and modern issues.

## 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!