



**GEORGE  
WALTON  
ACADEMY**  
— EST. 1969 —

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
EXPERIENCE  
2021 - 2022

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## OUR MISSION

George Walton Academy provides challenging instruction, engaging experiences, and global perspectives designed to inspire lives of intellectual curiosity, integrity, and purpose.

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

Middle School is a time of growth, exploration, and discovery. Amid all the changes and challenges that Middle School students face, George Walton Academy aims to provide a safe and nurturing environment where students can grow intellectually, socially, and emotionally. To do this, we are organized by grade-level rather than by discipline, allowing an interdisciplinary team of teachers to work together to meet the unique needs of their specific group of students. Balancing foundational knowledge and skills with core competencies like collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and problem solving, teachers design learning experiences for students that are challenging, engaging, and relevant. In addition to the core subjects, students have the opportunity to explore a variety of elective courses in the arts, language, and STEM fields. The wide range of experiences offered in Middle School allows students to follow their curiosities and perhaps discover a new passion or two. While navigating these years can be a challenge for students and parents alike, GWA faculty and staff are committed to partnering with you to ensure that your child has a successful Middle School experience.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The courses included in the Course Offerings section of this guide reflect the general curriculum for the Middle School. George Walton Academy reserves the right to cancel a course if there is insufficient student enrollment or insufficient faculty availability. If a course is cancelled, the Registrar will notify students to make another selection.

## REGISTRATION

- Review the course requirements for George Walton Academy Middle School and the elective options described in this guide.
- Discuss with your parents, teachers, and advisers the requirements of your specific academic needs and interests.
- Complete the Middle School pre-registration form with all required and elective courses.
- Obtain signatures from teachers and parents before submitting your final form.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENT

George Walton Academy reserves the right to place students in a course or courses when first choice requests cannot be accommodated or when the student's previous achievement and learning characteristics suggest a specific level. The final placement decision is based on the demonstrated ability of the student's mastery of basic skills, previous achievement, and level of maturity.

## ADVANCED COURSE PLACEMENT

Placement of a student in an advanced level course will depend upon the recommendation of the current teacher. A student interested in being selected may discuss his interest with his current teacher. Final selection is based on the student's mastery of basic skills, previous achievement, and level of maturity.

- Students selected for advanced courses must have displayed exceptional ability and interest in previous work. The student should be highly self-motivated and willing to commit significant time to the course.
- Once enrolled in an advanced course, the student is expected to maintain above-average performance as evaluated by the teacher and above-average interest in the subject matter. Any student not maintaining these requirements may be removed from the class at the conclusion of the semester.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The Middle School operates on a 2-semester calendar. A minimum of 4-5 academic courses and 2-3 elective courses are required each semester. An overview of the course requirements for each grade level is provided below.

GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
English	English	English*
Mathematics	Mathematics*	Grade 8 English
Social Studies	Grade 7 Math	Advanced English
Earth Science	Advanced Math	Mathematics*
World Language Rotation	Social Studies	Pre-Algebra
Elective (semester or year-long)	Life Science*	Advanced Pre-Algebra
Elective (semester or year-long)	Grade 7 Life Science	Advanced Algebra I
	Advanced Life Science	Social Studies*
	World Language/Elective**	Grade 8 Georgia History
	French 1A	Advanced Georgia History
	Spanish 1A	Physical Science*
	Elective (semester or year-long)	Grade 8 Physical Science
	Elective (semester or year-long)	Advanced Physical Science
		World Language/Elective**
		French
		Spanish
		ASL
		Elective (semester or year-long)
		Elective (semester or year-long)

*\*Course level is determined by previous performance in the content area and teacher recommendation.*

*\*\*Students are encouraged to begin their study of a world language, otherwise they may select a third elective.*

## DROP/ADD POLICY

A great deal of care is taken by the school to ensure that students are adequately advised regarding course selections for each school year. Students may initiate a course Drop/Add request no later than the end of the first full 10 days of class of fall term (for fall term electives and year-long courses) or the end of the first full 10 days of the spring term (for spring term electives).

## RENWEB

RenWeb is a platform where parents can access information about their child's courses and progress. Teachers regularly post grades, lesson plans, homework, and other important class information and resources. Students and families receive personalized login information and can access RenWeb through the Family Portal on the GWA website.

## EMAIL

Each student receives a personalized GWA email account to use for school related purposes. Beginning in Middle School, faculty and staff use email regularly to communicate with students directly. Students should expect to check their email on a daily basis to ensure that they are not missing any important information.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL

## COURSE OF STUDY

2021-2022



## SIXTH GRADE COURSE OF STUDY

All sixth grade students will take the following required courses.

English  
Mathematics  
Social Studies  
Earth Science  
World Language Rotation

Students will choose 2 electives each semester.  
*Courses are 1 semester only unless otherwise noted.*

Intro to Video Production  
Intro to Computer Aided Design  
Robotics and Engineering  
Bible  
Foundations in Art (*prerequisite to all other Studio Arts*)  
Studio Art I\*  
Studio Art: Drawing\*  
Studio Art: Painting\*  
Studio Art: Fibers\*  
Dance  
Advanced Dance Team\*  
Intro to Drama (*prerequisite to all other drama courses*)  
Dramatic Performance\*  
Improv Comedy\*  
Beginning Piano  
Advanced Piano\*  
Physical Education (*semester or year*)  
Foundations of Strength and Conditioning (*semester or year*)  
Math Lab  
Study Skills  
Band (*year*)  
Percussion Theater (*year*)

*\*Prerequisite or teacher approval needed*

# SEVENTH GRADE COURSE OF STUDY

All seventh grade students will take the following required courses.

English  
Mathematics  
    Grade 7 Math or Advanced Math\*  
Social Studies  
Science  
    Grade 7 Life Science or Advanced Life Science\*

Students will choose 3 electives each semester.  
*\*Courses are 1 semester only unless otherwise noted.*

Intro to Video Production  
Intro to Computer Aided Design  
Robotics and Engineering  
Board Game Design  
Bible  
Foundations in Art (*prerequisite to all other Studio Arts*)  
Studio Art I\*  
Studio Art: Drawing\*  
Studio Art: Painting\*  
Studio Art: Fibers\*  
Dance  
Advanced Dance Team\*  
Intro to Drama (*prerequisite to all other drama courses*)  
Dramatic Performance\*  
Improv Comedy\*  
Beginning Piano  
Advanced Piano\*  
Physical Education (*semester or year*)  
Foundations of Strength and Conditioning (*semester or year*)  
Math Lab  
Study Skills  
Band (*year*)  
Percussion Theater (*year*)  
French 1A  
Spanish 1A

*\*Prerequisite or teacher approval needed*

# EIGHTH GRADE COURSE OF STUDY

All eighth grade students will take the following required courses.

Students will choose 3 electives each semester.  
*\*Courses are 1 semester only unless otherwise noted.*

## English

Grade 8 English or Advanced English\*

## Mathematics

Pre-Algebra, Advanced Pre-Algebra\* or  
Advanced Algebra I\*

## Social Studies

Grade 8 Georgia History or Advanced Georgia  
History\*

## Science

Grade 8 Physical Science or Advanced Physical  
Science\*

## Intro to Video Production

Intro to Computer Aided Design

Robotics and Engineering

Board Game Design

Bible

Foundations in Art (*prerequisite to all other Studio Arts*)

Studio Art I\*

Studio Art: Drawing\*

Studio Art: Painting\*

Studio Art: Fibers\*

Dance

Advanced Dance Team\*

Intro to Drama (*prerequisite to all other drama courses*)

Dramatic Performance\*

Improv Comedy\*

Beginning Piano

Advanced Piano

Physical Education (*semester or year*)

Foundations of Strength and Conditioning (*semester or year*)

Health

Study Skills

Band (*year*)

Percussion Theater (*year*)

French

Spanish

American Sign Language

*\*Prerequisite or teacher approval needed*



# MIDDLE SCHOOL

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2021-2022



## ENGLISH

### GRADE 6 ENGLISH

Sixth grade English incorporates writing, literature, grammar, and vocabulary instruction designed to help students become more effective communicators. Students explore theme, character traits, and figurative language through a variety of texts, including fiction, nonfiction, short stories, and poems. Students also develop the ability to cite textual evidence to support analyses when responding to text both orally and in writing. The writing process is applied as students produce narratives, literary responses, and research writing. Throughout the course, students practice and hone their grammar skills and begin to produce more sophisticated communication.

### GRADE 7 ENGLISH

The purpose of seventh grade English is to develop students' communication skills as listeners, readers, writers, and speakers. Students continue to strengthen their basic skills in the areas of spelling, vocabulary, and grammar and apply these skills directly to their writing. Throughout the year, students practice synthesizing and organizing ideas to produce structured essays in various modes, including persuasive, narrative, and expository.

### GRADE 8 ENGLISH

In the eighth grade English course, students continue to grow as communicators. With daily practice in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and vocabulary, students strengthen their command of the English language. Students engage with a variety of texts, including fiction, nonfiction, dramas, speeches, and poetry to sharpen their skills in reading critically, analyzing texts, and citing evidence to support a claim. Writing with purpose is also a major focus of this course. Students develop the skills necessary to compose literary essays, responses to literature, creative writing pieces, as well as research papers.

This course is also offered at the advanced level for self-motivated students who have excelled in their previous studies. ***\*The advanced course requires a teacher recommendation.***

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## GRADE 6 WORLD HISTORY (Ancient World to the 15th century)

This course is designed to expose students to the story of the human past from the earliest civilizations through the fifteenth century. Organized chronologically, lessons explore developments in religion, philosophy, the arts, and science and technology. Geography concepts and skills are introduced as they appear in the context of the historical narrative. Students use primary and secondary sources to analyze the interaction among various cultures while emphasizing their enduring contributions to the human experience.

## GRADE 7 WORLD HISTORY (Renaissance to the present)

Students continue their exploration of the human story in this course picking up with the Renaissance and progressing through to the present day. Organized chronologically, lessons explore developments in religion, philosophy, the arts, and science and technology. Geography concepts and skills are introduced as they appear in the context of the historical narrative. Students use primary and secondary sources to analyze the interaction among various cultures while emphasizing their enduring contributions to the human experience.

## GRADE 8 GEORGIA HISTORY

This course is a study of Georgia's history and government and their impact on the citizens of the state. Students investigate the geography of the state and key individuals throughout time to determine how they impacted the state's history and development. Primary sources are used to give students valuable insight into multiple historical perspectives and help them analyze events as they occur.

This course is also offered at the advanced level for self-motivated students who have excelled in their previous studies. ***\*The advanced course requires a teacher recommendation.***

# MATHEMATICS

## GRADE 6 MATHEMATICS

This course focuses on building conceptual understanding, computational and procedural fluency, and problem solving skills. Students increase their understanding of mathematical concepts through active engagement in topics including rational numbers, algebraic thinking, proportional reasoning, statistics, data analysis, and plane and solid shapes.

## GRADE 7 MATHEMATICS

This collaborative problem-based course is designed to strengthen mathematical foundations, so that students are ready for their understanding to be extended next year through linear relationships. Through the lens of problem-solving in context, this course emphasizes students reaching fluency when working with the rational number system and basic algebra. This course also focuses on cultivating the positive mathematical habits of perseverance, precision, and clear communication.

This course is also offered at the advanced level for self-motivated students who have excelled in their mathematics studies and prepares students for Algebra I. ***\*The advanced course requires a teacher recommendation.***

## GRADE 8 PRE-ALGEBRA

This course is designed to view all prior pre-algebra topics through the lens of linear functions thereby connecting middle school mathematics to high school Algebra I. The course also briefly reviews some non-linear function topics including geometry, exponents, and statistics.

This course is also offered at the advanced level for self-motivated students who have excelled in their mathematics studies and also includes an introduction to polynomials. ***\*The advanced course requires a teacher recommendation.***

## GRADE 8 ADVANCED ALGEBRA I

This course is for self-motivated students who are at least a full year ahead in their studies of mathematics with a firm plan to take Calculus in high school. This course is the best fit for students who see math as their area of strength and passion. ***\*This course requires a teacher recommendation.***

# SCIENCE

## GRADE 6 EARTH SCIENCE

How and why is the Earth constantly changing? How do human activities and Earth's natural processes affect one another? What is Earth's place in the universe? How do Earth's various systems interact? These are just some of the questions that students explore as they study the four main branches of Earth Science: geology, hydrology, meteorology, and astronomy. Throughout the course, students also engage in scientific practices like collecting, analyzing and interpreting data, planning and carrying out investigations, and constructing explanations of scientific phenomena.

## GRADE 7 LIFE SCIENCE

This course builds on students' prior knowledge and introduces them to more complex systems, patterns, and relationships among living organisms. Through hands-on activities, investigations, and laboratories, students practice the scientific method and uncover key principles that govern the natural world. Students explore the diversity and classification of living organisms, cellular structure and function, genetics and inheritance, and the anatomy of the human body. Students also investigate the world of microbes, plants, and animals, as well as the interactions and conservation of species.

This course is also offered at the advanced level for self-motivated students who have excelled in their scientific studies. ***\*The advanced course requires a teacher recommendation.***

## GRADE 8 PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Eighth grade science focuses on learning the basics of chemistry and physics and provides a foundation for deeper exploration of each branch. The course is designed to provide an introduction to fundamental principles that govern the physical world around us. Students use scientific tools and processes to explore a variety of topics, including matter, chemical and physical properties and changes, chemical structure and reactions, motion, and energy.

This course is also offered at the advanced level for self-motivated students who have excelled in their scientific studies. ***\*The advanced course requires a teacher recommendation.***

## WORLD LANGUAGE

Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, the Middle School world language program will be restructured to provide students with a stronger foundation as they enter Upper School. All sixth grade students will participate in an exploratory quarterly rotation through each of the four languages offered in Upper School to give them an idea of what to expect and better prepare them to select a language to pursue further. In seventh grade, students will be able to select French 1A or Spanish 1A which will work in conjunction with French 1B or Spanish 1B, taken in their eighth grade year, to serve as the equivalent of a level 1 course in Upper School. While students will still need to take 2 consecutive years of a language in Upper school to meet their graduation requirements, this structure will position them to begin their language study in Upper School in level 2 and allow them to go further in their study and mastery of the language.

## WORLD LANGUAGE ROTATION

All sixth-grade students will rotate through four languages over the course of the year. Students will take one quarter each of American Sign Language, French, Latin, and Spanish. This exploratory approach will provide students with an introductory experience to a variety of languages, cultures, and geography and prepare them for a more formal study of the language of their choice. ***\*This course is open to grade 6 students only.***

## FRENCH 1A

French 1A is a full-year course designed as the first half of a level one course. Combined with French 1B in eighth grade, students will engage in an in-depth study of the French language, culture, and geography similar to what they would experience in an Upper School level 1 course. This course focuses on four key areas of language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Successful completion of French 1A and French 1B will give students a solid foundation for building fluency and prepare students for Honors French 2 in ninth grade. ***\*This course is open to grade 7 students only.***

## SPANISH 1A

Spanish 1A is a full-year course designed as the first half of a level one course. Combined with Spanish 1B in eighth grade, students will engage in an in-depth study of the Spanish language, culture, and geography similar to what they would experience in an Upper School level 1 course. This course focuses on four key areas of language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Successful completion of Spanish 1A and Spanish 1B will give students a solid foundation for building fluency and prepare students for Honors Spanish 2 in ninth grade. ***\*This course is open to grade 7 students only.***

## GRADE 8 FRENCH

This course is designed to provide a solid foundation in the French language and culture. Students will learn through theme-based activities how to communicate in French, focusing on the four key areas of language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will experience the French culture through its cuisine, music, and traditions. ***\*This course is open to grade 8 students only.***

## GRADE 8 AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL)

This course is a study of the fundamentals of American Sign Language. Students will focus on specific language and cultural behaviors of the Deaf Community in addition to the basics of grammar, vocabulary, and fingerspelling. This year-long course prepares students to enter Honors ASL 2 in their freshman year. ***\*This course is open to grade 8 students only.***

## GRADE 8 SPANISH

The objective of this course is to help students master basic communication skills in Spanish. Students engage in speaking, reading, listening, and writing activities in order to gain proficiency in Spanish. We will complete tasks and projects that help students build skills to communicate in a variety of real life contexts. In addition, we will be exploring the cultural aspects of many Spanish speaking countries. ***\*This course is open to grade 8 students only.***

# MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES 2021-2022



## SEMESTER COURSES

### INTRODUCTION TO VIDEO PRODUCTION

This introductory course is designed to begin to develop the student's understanding of the video production process. Throughout this course students will gain experience in pre-production, production and post production of videos. Emphasis will be placed on the planning process, editing audio/video and publishing of original student content.

### INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN

Introductory course in Computer Aided Design. Students will begin to develop skills using Autodesk TinkerCAD. Students will build 3D digital models and projects may include use of 3D printers and laser cutters.

### ROBOTICS AND ENGINEERING

This course is designed as an introduction to robotics and engineering concepts. Students will work individually and as teams throughout the semester on hands-on learning experiences that integrate science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) concepts. Students will explore the fundamentals of programming, algorithms, problem solving, and engineering as they design and program robots to accomplish tasks.

### BOARD GAME DESIGN AND PUBLISHING

In this semester long course, students will work in groups to design and produce a board game. This course presents a long-term project as the backdrop for application of their academic knowledge, cooperative learning skills, and practical life skills. ***Open to grades 7 and 8 only.***

### BIBLE

In Middle School Bible, students will get the chance to explore both familiar and unfamiliar Bible stories while learning how to navigate through the Bible. We also touch on various holidays and customs in the Jewish and Christian faiths and culture as they happen during the school year. Students should be able to find a passage of scripture, study it verse by verse, and have a general idea about where the story falls in the overall timeline of God's story!

## FOUNDATIONS IN ART

Introductory level course designed to begin to develop the student's understanding of the design process, techniques, materials and tools. Students complete projects that promote creative thinking, problem solving and reflection. This course of study will include the fundamentals of drawing, painting, sculpture, fiber arts and color theory and is a prerequisite for additional studio art classes.

## STUDIO ART I

This course builds on the concepts introduced in Foundations in Art. Students will broaden their knowledge of art history, terminology and techniques. Students will begin to learn to analyze and appreciate artwork by participating in group discussions and critiques. Projects may include drawing, painting, fibers, sculpture, ceramics, and digital work. ***Prerequisite: Foundations in Art or teacher approval***

## STUDIO ART: DRAWING

This course builds on drawing concepts introduced in Foundations in Art. Students will expand their knowledge of terminology and techniques by using a variety of drawing mediums and materials. Projects may include pencil, charcoal, chalk, colored pencil, scratchboard, pen and ink, and digital drawing. ***Prerequisite: Foundations in Art or teacher approval***

## STUDIO ART: PAINTING

This course builds on painting concepts introduced in Foundations in Art. Students will expand their knowledge of painting terminology and techniques by experimenting with a variety of brushes, paints, papers and canvases. ***Prerequisite: Foundations in Art or teacher approval***

## STUDIO ART: FIBERS

This course builds on the concepts introduced in Foundations in Art. Students will expand their knowledge of fiber arts by completing projects that may include weaving, cross stitching, string art, beading, and hand embroidering. ***Prerequisite: Foundations in Art or teacher approval***

## DANCE

This course is designed to introduce and develop an understanding of basic dance concepts, technique and terminology. Dance styles to be explored include, but are not limited to ballet, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop and ballroom dance techniques. Beginning choreographic elements and principles will be explored. Students will participate in a concert dance performance at the end of the course.

## ADVANCED DANCE TEAM

The Advanced Dance Team is comprised of dancers who are motivated and dedicated to dance and want to explore ways to become the best dancer they can be. The class will expand upon styles and techniques explored in the introductory dance class, but will be more challenging with more of a focus on performance. Students will perform in the winter and spring showcases, but will also represent the school by performing in various community and sporting events. Also, dancers will have the option of competing in dance competitions at the local, regional and national levels. ***Prerequisite: Acceptance by audition or teacher approval***

## INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA

Introductory level course designed to begin to develop the student's understanding of theatre. This course includes history of theatre and basic theatre terminology. Students will start to build their tool-kit by sampling the different types of theatrical performance.

## DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE

This course builds on the concepts introduced in Introduction to Drama. Students will deepen their understanding of characterization and stage presence as they prepare a theatrical production to be performed at the end of the semester. ***Prerequisite: Introduction to Drama or teacher approval***

## IMPROV COMEDY

This course builds on the concepts introduced in Introduction to Drama, specifically in the world of improv comedy. Students will learn more about short-form and long-form improvisation and finish the semester with a showcase. ***Prerequisite: Introduction to Drama or teacher approval***

## BEGINNING PIANO

This course is for students who have zero to very little piano and music experience. During this course, students will learn the basics of playing piano, music notation, and composing. We will explore a variety of music genres. Students will also have the opportunity to explore music technology and the basics of composition.

## ADVANCED PIANO

Experience in piano is required for this course. During the year, students will build upon their current knowledge, playing more advanced music, duets, and trios. We will explore all genres of music, including jazz, classical, pop, and contemporary works.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course provides students the opportunity to participate in activities requiring teamwork and cooperation. Activities emphasize physical fitness, and include a variety of games, drills, and individual and team sports.

## FOUNDATIONS OF STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING

This course helps students develop a strong foundation in the fundamentals of strength and conditioning to maximize athletic performance and promote a lifetime of wellbeing. Emphasis will be placed on skill acquisition, strength building, and overall personal fitness.

## HEALTH

The Health course is designed to develop awareness of the need for good health through these topics: personal health and fitness, emotional and mental health, family life education, prevention and control of disease, nutrition, community and environmental health, consumer health, first aid and safety. Students will be encouraged to apply this knowledge to their lifestyles now and in the future. Successful completion of this course will fulfill your Upper School requirement, though the final grade will not be calculated in the student's Upper School transcript. ***Open to eighth-grade students only.***



## **MATH LAB**

Math Lab is a supplemental math course designed to provide students with additional support in their current math course while also reinforcing foundational skills. With more focused instruction and individualized attention, students deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts, increase computational fluency, strengthen their problem-solving skills, and increase their confidence and success as mathematicians.

## **STUDY SKILLS**

This course is designed to provide students with a complete set of tools and techniques to become successful, independent learners. Students will focus on developing executive functioning skills including organization, time management, note-taking, retaining and recalling information, and effective learning and study strategies.

## **YEAR-LONG COURSES**

### **BAND**

It is not too late to ‘Join the Band’. Lifelong musical skills are taught and refined in this yearlong class. Students will participate in three concerts per year. All band classes are yearlong courses that progress to different levels of music as they progress through this nationally renowned program. Band students will also have the opportunity to try out for GWA’s award winning Marching Bulldog Band. This is an extra-curricular competitive activity that meets during football season.

### **PERCUSSION THEATER**

The focus of this class is to further enhance skills on the various percussion instruments and develop a better understanding of basic rhythms, music theory, performance practices/etiquette and technique. This group has a full curriculum including marching percussion, concert percussion, percussion ensemble and individual performance techniques and understandings.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

This course provides students the opportunity to participate in activities requiring teamwork and cooperation. Activities emphasize physical fitness, and include a variety of games, drills, and individual and team sports.

### **FOUNDATIONS OF STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING**

This course helps students develop a strong foundation in the fundamentals of strength and conditioning to maximize athletic performance and promote a lifetime of wellbeing. Emphasis will be placed on skill acquisition, strength building, and overall personal fitness.

### **FRENCH 1A**

French 1A is a full-year course taken in seventh grade designed as the first half of a level one course. Combined with French 1B in eighth grade, students will engage in an in-depth study of the French language, culture, and geography similar to what they would experience in an Upper School level 1 course. This course focuses on four key areas of language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Successful completion of French 1A and French 1B will give students a solid foundation for building fluency and prepare students for Honors French 2 in ninth grade. ***\*This course is open to grade 7 students only.***

## SPANISH 1A

Spanish 1A is a full-year course taken in seventh grade designed as the first half of a level one course. Combined with Spanish 1B in eighth grade, students will engage in an in-depth study of the Spanish language, culture, and geography similar to what they would experience in an Upper School level 1 course. This course focuses on four key areas of language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Successful completion of Spanish 1A and Spanish 1B will give students a solid foundation for building fluency and prepare students for Honors Spanish 2 in ninth grade. ***\*This course is open to grade 7 students only.***

## GRADE 8 FRENCH

This course is designed to provide a solid foundation in the French language and culture. Students will learn through theme-based activities how to communicate in French, focusing on the four key areas of language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will experience the French culture through its cuisine, music, and traditions. ***\*This course is open to grade 8 students only.***

## GRADE 8 AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL)

This course is a study of the fundamentals of American Sign Language. Students will focus on specific language and cultural behaviors of the Deaf Community in addition to the basics of grammar, vocabulary, and fingerspelling. This year-long course prepares students to enter Honors ASL 2 in their freshman year. ***\*This course is open to grade 8 students only.***

## GRADE 8 SPANISH

The objective of this course is to help students master basic communication skills in Spanish. Students engage in speaking, reading, listening, and writing activities in order to gain proficiency in Spanish. We will complete tasks and projects that help students build skills to communicate in a variety of real life contexts. In addition, we will be exploring the cultural aspects of many Spanish speaking countries. ***\*This course is open to grade 8 students only.***