

Mount Vernon School District  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**COURSE CATALOG**

**2021-2022**



**LaVenture Middle School**

1200 North LaVenture Road  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273



**Mount Baker Middle School**

2310 East Section Street  
Mount Vernon, WA 98274

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***Please note: Courses are subject to change annually.***

### **Non Discrimination**

The Mount Vernon School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee(s) have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Title IX Coordinator/ Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, **Bill Nutting**, Assistant Superintendent, 124 E. Lawrence Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, (360) 428-6110;  
Section 504 / ADA Coordinator, **Clint Carlton**, Director of Special and Support Services, 920 S. 2nd Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, (360) 428-6141

## GENERAL INFORMATION

This course guide gives you information about courses that may be offered in Mount Vernon's Middle schools. We hope this guide will answer all of your questions as you decide what middle school courses to select for next year. To be a full time student you must enroll in 4 classes a day. The courses in this guide will be offered only if enough students register this spring to fill a class, so, it is very important that you think carefully your choices now so that the courses you want will be available next year. If you cannot find the answers you need, or if you would like to have individual help in planning your program, please contact a counselor at your school.

Middle School requirements are explained on the following pages. Use the planning sheets in this course guide to map out your 3 year Middle School path. We also encourage you to think about the sequence of courses you will want to take in high school. This way you will know what courses to choose in Middle School to be prepared for High School courses that interest you.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE REQUIREMENTS ARE:**

- Three years of English Language Arts
- Three years of Social Studies
- Three years of Mathematics
- Three years of Science
- Three semesters of Physical Education
- Three semesters of Health
- Three years of Electives, from the Arts (Fine, Performing, or Visual) or Technology Departments

#### **Advisory/Home Court**

Advisory is designed to help students with academic planning, personal and social development, and college readiness. Each student is assigned an advisor who works with a group of 18-25 students throughout their three years at middle school. Advisory groups meet regularly, and students are encouraged to contact their advisors if they need additional assistance.

#### **Middle School Daily Instructional Schedules**

Our Middle School schedule is an 8 period block schedule based on a semester system. Depending upon the Middle School, classes may meet every day or may meet every other day. Each course meets for approximately 85 minutes, with a full school day schedule of 4 courses each day.

## HOW OUR SCHEDULE WORKS: MOUNT BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mount Baker's schedule is an 8 period block schedule based on a semester system. Four classes meet on Blue days and the other four meet on White days. Each course meets for approximately 80 minutes. Below is an example schedule for the year.

6th, 7th & 8th Grade Requirements	Length of Time
Math	Every day - Year long
English Language Arts	Grade 6-7: Every day - Year long Grade 8: Every other day - Year long
Science	Every other day - Year long
Social Studies	Every other day - Year long
Health	Every other day - Semester long
P.E.	Every other day - Semester long

### EXAMPLE SCHEDULES:

6th & 7th GRADE							
Schedule "A" Blue Day				Schedule "B" White Day			
		1st Semester	2nd Semester			1st Semester	2nd Semester
Period	1	Math	Math	Period	5	Math	Math
	2	ELA	ELA		6	ELA	ELA
	3	Soc. St	Soc. St.		7	Science	Science
	4	Elective	Elective		8	PE	Health

8th GRADE							
Schedule "A" Blue Day				Schedule "B" White Day			
		1st Semester	2nd Semester			1st Semester	2nd Semester
Period	1	Math	Math	Period	5	Math	Math
	2	ELA	ELA		6	Science	Science
	3	Soc. St	Soc. St.		7	PE	Health
	4	Elective	Elective		8	Elective	Elective

\* If an 8th grade student is in Geometry, they will be eligible for one more Elective.

## HOW OUR SCHEDULE WORKS: LAVENTURE MIDDLE SCHOOL

LaVenture's schedule is an 8 period block schedule based on a semester system. Four classes meet on Green days, and the other four meet on White days. Each course meets for approximately 85 minutes every other day and gives students

6th, 7th & 8th Grade Requirements	Length of Time
Math	Every day - Year long
English Language Arts	Grade 6-7: Every day - Year long Grade 8: Every other day - Year long
Science	Every other day - Year long
Social Studies	Every other day - Year long
Health	Every other day - Semester long
P.E.	Every other day - Semester long

### EXAMPLE SCHEDULES:

6th & 7th GRADE											
Schedule "A" Green Day					Schedule "B" White Day						
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter		1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter		
<b>Period</b>	1	ELA		ELA		<b>Period</b>	1	ELA		ELA	
	2	Math		Math			2	Math		Math	
	3	Science		Science			3	Social Studies		Social Studies	
	4	Music or Elective	Music or Elective	Music or Elective	Music or Elective		4	PE	Health	PE	Health

8th GRADE								
Schedule "A" Green Day				Schedule "B" White Day				
	1st Semester	2nd Semester		1st Semester	2nd Semester		1st Semester	2nd Semester
<b>Period</b>	1	Math	Math	<b>Period</b>	5	Math	Math	
	2	ELA	ELA		6	Science	Science	
	3	Social Studies	Social Studies		7	PE	Health	
	4	Elective or AVID	Elective or AVID		8	Elective or AVID	Elective or AVID	

\* If an 8th grade student is in Geometry, they will be eligible for one more Elective.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADING: REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS**

The purpose of grading is to communicate with students and families about progress toward academic standards and behaviors that promote school success. Mount Vernon Middle School student progress will be reported using standards-based grading and reporting instead of traditional letter grades. This practice allows us to provide more accurate and meaningful feedback to students and families, and is aligned with the practices we use at our elementary schools. (High school credit bearing courses will continue to earn traditional letter grades.)

<b>Standards-Based Grading</b>	<b>Traditional Grading</b>
How much knowledge or skill is evident?	How many right answers?
Criteria-based	Percentages
Effort and behavior are not included in academic grade. They are reported separately.	Class grade calculated based on student understanding and classroom behaviors (e.g. homework completion)
Standard assessed, based on most recent work	Grades averaged over time
Academic and Behavior Standards: Number 4 = exceeds standard Number 3 = meets standard Number 2 = approaching standard Number 1 = below standard  Overall academic course progress: OT = On track PR = Progressing AR = At risk	Letters A-F
Scores for each standard reported on a assessment	1 score reported for each assessment

The goal should always be to earn at least a 3 and then to challenge yourself to continue to grow as a learner. Students will have multiple opportunities to work towards earning a 3. Learning is a process and commitment to ongoing practice will support student success. Once you have met the middle school standards you can be confident you will be prepared for high school.

**ACCESSING STUDENT GRADES ONLINE**

From the Mount Vernon Schools website, students and families can log into Skyward Family Access. This program allows students and families to monitor student academic progress. User IDs and passwords may be obtained from your school’s main office.



# Quick Reference

## Available Marks for the Middle School Standards Based Report Card

### Marks for Overall Content Areas (Subjects)

#### **OT—On Track**

Student is on track to meet or exceed end-of-year grade level standard.

#### **PR—Progressing**

Student is progressing toward end-of-year grade level standard, but is not quite on track to meet standard by the end of the school year.

#### **AR—At Risk**

Student is at risk of being below or well below standard at the end of the school year.

### Marks for Standards (Skills)

#### Proficiency Level Descriptors for the 4, 3, 2, 1 Marks

##### **4—Exceeding Standard**

- Student has shown mastery of knowledge and skills beyond current grade level expectation
- Student independently exceeds grade level standards

##### **3—Meeting Standard**

- Student has shown mastery of knowledge and skills equal to current grade level expectation
- Student independently demonstrated mastery of grade level standards

##### **2—Approaching Standard**

- Student has shown initial understanding of knowledge and skills equal to current grade level expectation
- Student is progressing however the skills are not yet mastered
- Student needs practice and support to reach mastery

##### **1—Attempting Standard**

- Student has shown very little or no understanding of knowledge and skills equal to current grade level expectation
- Student requires significant support and practice to approach and ultimately reach mastery

**Additional marks used on the report card to communicate information to families.**

##### **NI—Not Introduced**

Standard not yet introduced

##### **JI—Just Introduced**

Standard introduced but not yet assessed

##### **IE—Insufficient Evidence**

Not marked due to lack of evidence typically due to a student not being at school and/or not completing work

## HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR COURSES

### High School Credit for Courses Taken in Middle School

Middle school students may earn high school credit for designated credit bearing courses offered at the middle level. High school credit for designated courses may be requested by completing the high school credit request form. The request can be made at any time up to the point of the student graduating from high school. It is strongly recommended this request be made prior to the end of a student's junior year. Please note that once the grades are recorded on the high school transcript, the grade and credit cannot be removed and are included in the computation of the students' grade point average. Designated courses include: Algebra 1, Geometry, Spanish I and Spanish II. Students who pass Washington State History in middle school will automatically earn a "MET" status on their high school transcript once students enter high school.

### Looking Ahead to High School

A minimum of 30 credits are required for graduation from Mount Vernon High School.

- 6 credits are required to be a sophomore on track to graduate.
- 14 credits are required to be a junior on track to graduate.
- 22 credits are required to be a senior on track graduate.

<b>MVHS General Credit Requirements</b>	
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Credits</b>
English	4.0
Mathematics*	3.0
Social studies	3.5
Science**	3.0
Fine Arts***	2.0
Physical education	2.0
Health	.5
World Language****	2.0
Career and Technical Ed	1.0
Digital Communications	.5
Computer Science Elective	.5
Electives	8.0
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>30.0</b>

\* Through Algebra 2.

\*\* Must include 2 lab classes. Students taking biology as freshmen must later take chemistry and physics.

\*\*\* 1 credit may be a personalized pathway requirement.

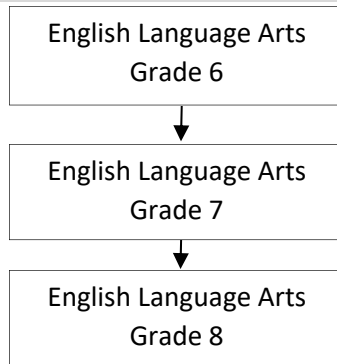
\*\*\*\* Both credits may be a personalized pathway requirement.



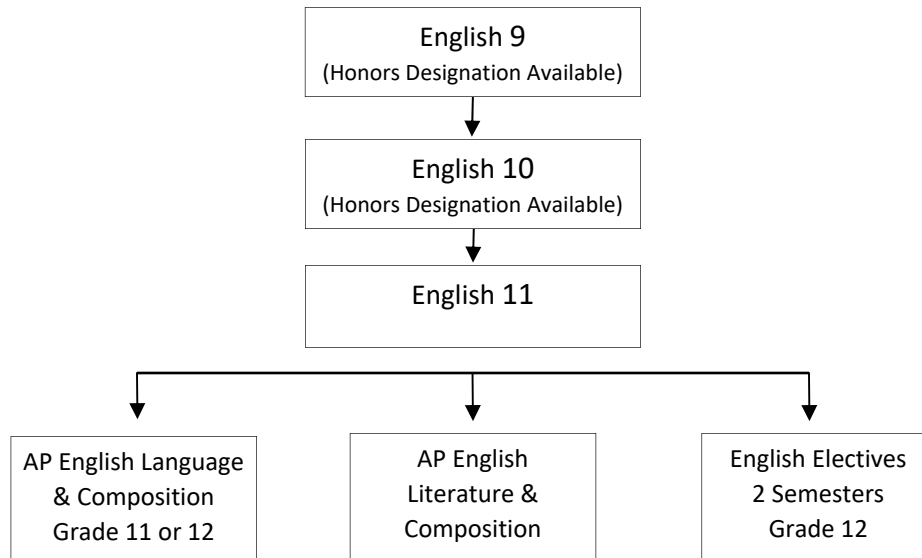
# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Course Sequence Grades 6-12

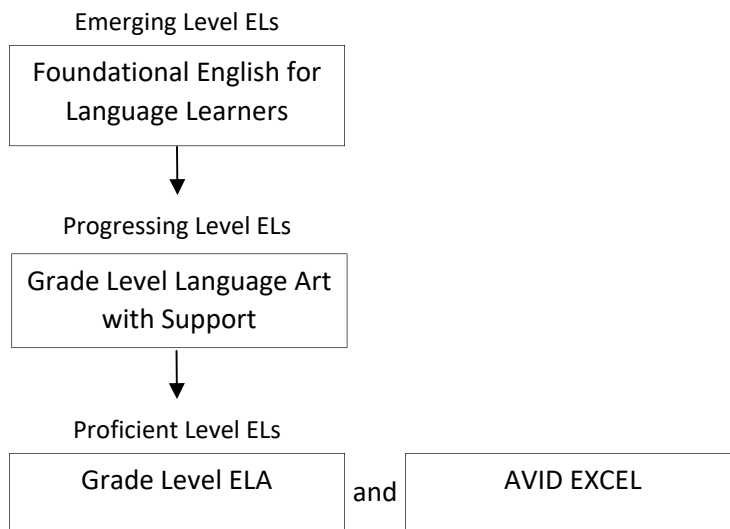
## Middle School



## High School



## Middle School EL Program



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Foundational English for Language Learners I, II, III:**

**ELA301 / ELA302** / Duration: Year

**ELA311 / ELA312** /

**ELA321 / ELA322**

*Prerequisite: qualified EL student*

This course is designed to develop students' oral language abilities and basic literacy skills, using English language development curriculum and integrated project based learning. The students develop a strong vocabulary base of nouns, verbs, and adjectives which will be used in speaking, listening, reading, and writing projects.

### **6<sup>th</sup> English Language Arts:**

**ELA601 / ELA602** / Duration: Year

In this course, students continue to develop a variety of 6th grade level comprehension, writing, and vocabulary skills and strategies. Students actively seek to understand how an individual's identity and culture shape how they read, write, and experience the world. Using their full linguistic repertoire, students develop increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). Students are supported in reading and writing grade level narrative, informational, and argumentative texts. Students grow their critical literacies, analyzing multiple perspectives and developing their critical consciousness and cross-cultural awareness. Students read a wide range of diverse, complex texts that are reflections of their lived experiences and windows into the experiences of others. Students read texts and topics of choice and write about issues and ideas they find meaningful in order to use their voice to contribute to a more just and equitable world. Students participate productively in groups, use constructive feedback to improve their work, evaluate their progress, and set future goals. Students continue to read and write for pleasure, sharing and reflecting on their experiences and the experiences of others.

### **6<sup>th</sup> English Language Arts Advanced:**

**ELA611 / ELA612** / Duration: Year

**LaVenture Middle School**

*Prerequisite: teacher recommendation; academic readiness*

This course includes the same content and experiences as 6th grade English Language Arts while infusing rigor that provides access to above grade level standards. The course is aligned with the Common Core State Standards which include College and Career Readiness standards. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content, and develop academic success.

### **7<sup>th</sup> English Language Arts:**

**ELA701 / ELA702** / Duration: Year

In this course, students continue to develop a variety of 7th grade level comprehension, writing, and vocabulary skills and strategies. Students actively seek to understand how an individual's identity and culture shape how they read, write, and experience the world. Using their full linguistic repertoire, students develop increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). Students are supported in reading and writing grade level narrative, informational, and argumentative texts. Students grow their critical literacies, analyzing multiple perspectives and developing their critical consciousness and cross-cultural awareness. Students read a wide range of diverse, complex texts that are reflections of their lived experiences and windows into the experiences of others. Students read texts and topics of choice and write about issues and ideas they find meaningful in order to use their voice to contribute to a more just and equitable world. Students participate productively in groups, use constructive feedback to improve their work, evaluate their progress, and set future goals. Students continue to read and write for pleasure, sharing and reflecting on their experiences and the experiences of others.

### **7<sup>th</sup> English Language Arts Advanced:**

**ELA711 / ELA712** / Duration: Year

**LaVenture Middle School**

*Prerequisite: teacher recommendation; academic readiness*

This course includes the same content and experiences as 7th grade English Language Arts while infusing rigor that provides access to above grade level standards. The course is aligned with the Common Core State Standards which include College and Career Readiness standards. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, language, and collaborative strategies are used purposefully to build knowledge and skills and to help students become independent readers, writers, and thinkers as they continue to progressively build the skills necessary for academic success.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (CONT.)

### **8<sup>th</sup> English Language Arts:**

**ELA801 / ELA802** / Duration: Year

In this course, students continue to develop a variety of 8th grade level comprehension, writing, and vocabulary skills and strategies. Students actively seek to understand how an individual's identity and culture shape how they read, write, and experience the world. Using their full linguistic repertoire, students develop increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). Students are supported in reading and writing grade level narrative, informational, and argumentative texts. Students grow their critical literacies, analyzing multiple perspectives and developing their critical consciousness and cross-cultural awareness. Students read a wide range of diverse, complex texts that are reflections of their lived experiences and windows into the experiences of others. Students read texts and topics of choice and write about issues and ideas they find meaningful in order to use their voice to contribute to a more just and equitable world. Students participate productively in groups, use constructive feedback to improve their work, evaluate their progress, and set future goals. Students continue to read and write for pleasure, sharing and reflecting on their experiences and the experiences of others.

### **8<sup>th</sup> English Language Arts Advanced:**

**ELA811 / ELA812** / Duration: Year

**LaVenture Middle School**

*Prerequisite: teacher recommendation; academic readiness*

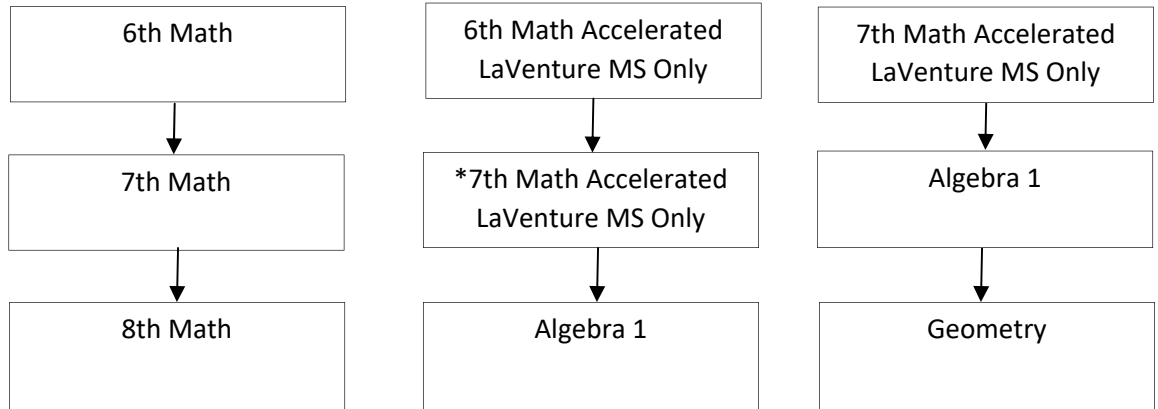
This course includes the same content and experiences as 8th grade English Language Arts while infusing rigor that provides access to above grade level standards. The course is for 8th Graders and is aligned with the Common Core State Standards which include College and Career Readiness standards. Reading, writing, speaking, listening language, and collaborative strategies are used purposefully to build knowledge and skills and to help students become independent readers, writers, and thinkers as they transition into high school. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content, and develop academic habits of mind.

# MATHEMATICS

## Course Sequence Grades 6-12

### Middle School

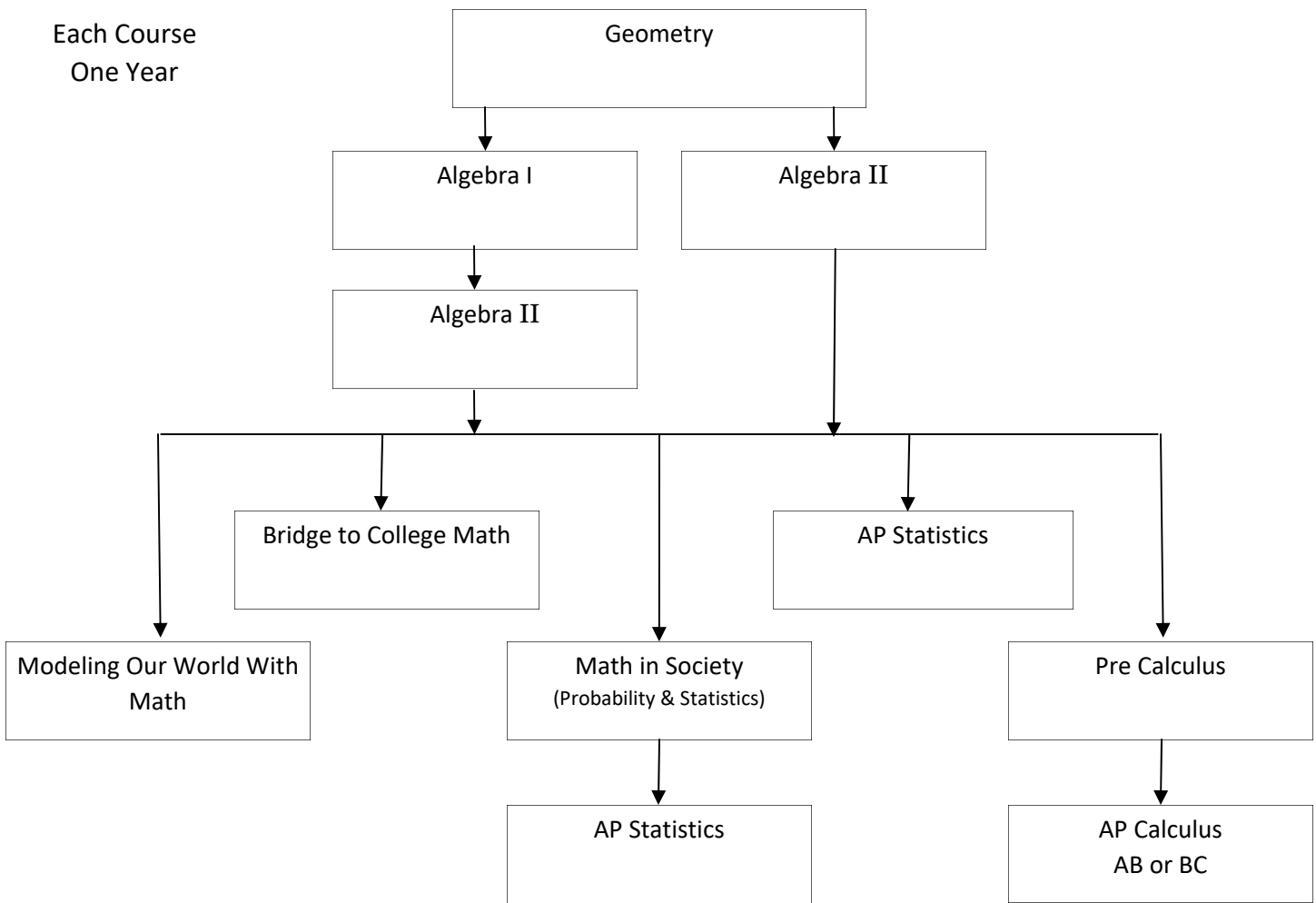
Math is required for Grades 6-11



\*Mount Baker MS students who took 7th Math Accelerated in 20-21 may advance to Algebra I.

### High School

Each Course One Year



## MATH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### 6<sup>th</sup> Math:

**MTH601 / MTH602** / Duration: Year

Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Math Accelerated:

**MTH621 / MTH622** / Duration: Year

**LaVenture Middle School**

*Prerequisite: teacher recommendation*

This is a challenging and rapid-paced course with an Instructional focus on all the 6th, 7th and 8th grade level math standards. Students that successfully complete this course will be eligible for enrollment in Algebra 1 in 7th grade. Admittance is based primarily on standardized test results and a readiness assessment.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Math:

**MTH701 / MTH702** / Duration: Year

Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Math Accelerated:

**MTH721 / MTH722** / Duration: Year

**LaVenture Middle School**

*Prerequisite: teacher recommendation*

This is a challenging and rapid-paced course with an Instructional focus on the 7th and 8th grade level math standards. Students that successfully complete this course will be eligible for enrollment in Algebra 1 in 8th grade. Admittance is based primarily on standardized test results and a readiness assessment.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Math:

**MTH801 / MTH802** / Duration: Year

Instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

### Algebra 1:

**MTH082 / MTH084** / Duration: Year

*Prerequisite: teacher recommendation; academic readiness assessment*

*Other Note: eligible for high school credit*

Core topics include solving equations and systems of equations, linear, quadratic and exponential functions with a focus on problem solving.

### Geometry:

**A - MTH143 / B - MTH144** / Duration: Year

*Prerequisite: Algebra 1*

*Other Note: eligible for high school credit*

Core topics include angles, proofs, triangles, congruence, similarity, quadrilaterals, trigonometry, surface area and volume, and coordinate geometry. Concepts are taught with an emphasis on Algebra 1 skills.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

All course placements are determined by IEP team according to goals and present performance levels.

### Middle School

Learning Lab  
Available 6,7,8  
Added to Gen Ed ELA

ELA Support  
Available 6,7,8  
Added to Gen Ed ELA  
May include Learning Lab

ELA Intensive  
Available 6,7,8  
Replaces Gen Ed ELA  
Includes Learning Lab

### High School

English 1-4  
Available 9-12  
Replaces Gen Ed ELA  
May include Learning Lab

Learning Lab  
Available 9-12  
Added to Gen Ed ELA

## SPECIAL EDUCATION - MATH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

All course placements are determined by IEP team according to goals and present performance levels.

### Middle School

Learning Lab  
Available 6,7,8  
Added to Gen Ed Math

Math Support A or B  
Available 6,7,8  
Added to Gen Ed Math

Math Intensive  
Available 6,7,8  
Replaces Gen Ed Math  
May include Learning Lab

### High School

Learning Lab  
Available 9-12  
Added to Gen Ed Math

Math 1-3 or Consumer Math 1  
Available 9-12  
Replaces Gen Ed Math  
May include Learning Lab

## SPECIAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Life Skills:**

**LFS400** / Duration: determined on individual basis

*Prerequisite: IEP Team decision*

Life Skills is a program built for students who need Specially Designed Instruction across domains and subjects. We focus on academics, social and emotional goals, and adaptive skills. We are able to provide a higher level of support and use this support to work on each student's IEP goals and to help them integrate into the general education population. We practice street safety, grocery shopping, cooking and more.

### **BEARS Program (Behaviors for Everyone with Advocacy, Respect & Self Discipline):**

**GDE400** / Duration: determined on individual basis

*Prerequisite: IEP Team decision*

This course is for students with IEP goals to support improving emotional / behavioral skills. A primary goal for this course is the development of personal responsibility for social, emotional and academic performance. This course is part of the Guide program of supports to teach specific skills to regulate their emotions and social responses, manage their feelings including anger, correct thinking errors, and increase appropriate social decision making and responsibility. Areas of academic need according to IEP goals may also be addressed within this course. The course utilizes a system of defined expectations and responsibilities which help students learn and apply new skills in all settings of the school campus. The system includes a daily communication system to teachers and parents, and daily tracking of student performance to individualize student supports.

### **Academic Learning Support**

**ALS600 / ALS700/ ALS800** / Duration: determined on individual basis

*Prerequisite: must meet IEP goal*

Students in Learning Lab class will have opportunity for individualized instruction based on focused areas using general education class materials for content. Students may receive teach-reteach, study strategy skills, self-determination instruction, etc. in addition to their specific areas of specially designed instructions.

### **Social, Academic and Executive Function Support**

**SLC400** / Duration: determined on individual basis

*Prerequisite: IEP Team decision*

The class is designed to meet the educational needs of students who have significant difficulties in the area of organizational skills, executive functioning skills and social competency skills that are often associated with autism spectrum disorders.

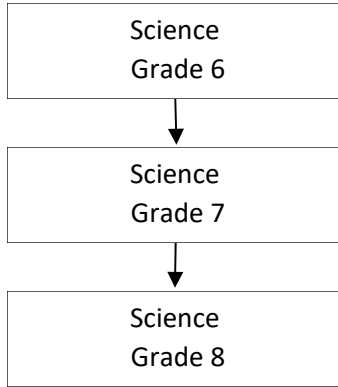
Using evidence-based practices, the goal is to provide instruction opportunities for application, knowledge, training and support to maximize independence and enhance students opportunities to achieve their full potential.

# SCIENCE

Course Sequence Grades 6-12

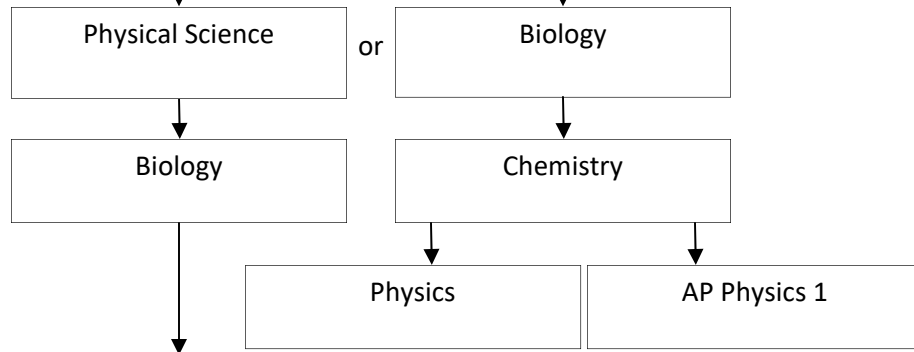
## Middle School

Science is required for Grades 6-11

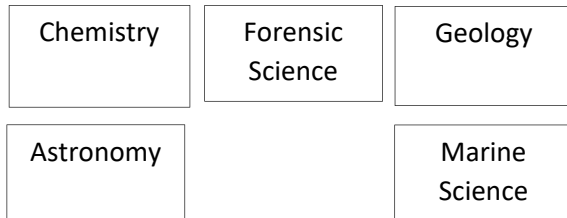


## High School

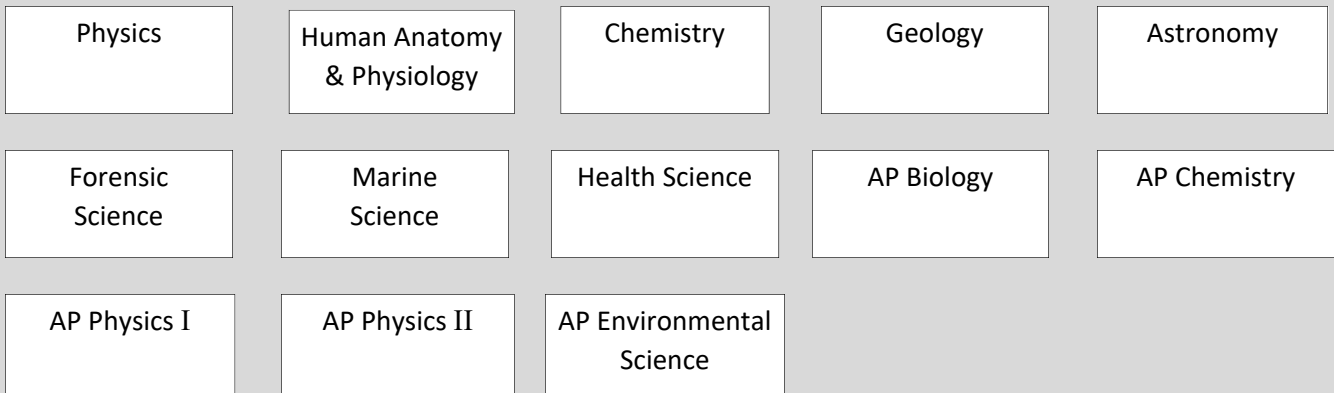
*The high school science course sequence is currently under review.*



Pick one or more below.



## Other High School Electives





## SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **6<sup>th</sup> Science:**

**SCI601 / SCI602** / Duration: Year

6th grade focuses on basic physics, and earth & space science. Students start by studying energy and then use that as a context to move into force and motion (Newtonian physics). Students build on that understanding to then move into light and waves and then finally finish up with earth and space science. In earth and space science students focus on stars, our solar system, earth's seasons, and phases of the moon.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Advanced Science:**

**SCI611 / SCI612** / Duration: Year

**LaVenture Middle School**

Students will learn about basic physics, earth and space science with opportunities to extend inquiry skills beyond what is expected in a regular 6th grade science class.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Science:**

**SCI701 / SCI702** / Duration: Year

7th grade focuses on geology and earth's systems. Students also start by studying energy at the beginning of the year and then move into the structure of the earth. Students will also learn plate tectonics, land forms, earthquakes, and volcanoes. From there students extend their knowledge to other geological hazards native to the Pacific Northwest and focus on the factors that influence landslides. The class will finish by studying the water cycle, weather patterns, and global climate change.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Advanced Science:**

**SCI711 / SCI712** / Duration: Year

**LaVenture Middle School**

Students will learn about geology and energy, and the structure of the earth. This will also include the geology of the Pacific Northwest. Students will have opportunities to extend inquiry skills beyond what is expected in their regular 7th grade science class.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Science:**

**SCI801 / SCI802** / Duration: Year

8th grade focuses on biology. Students start the year by studying energy and how it moves through ecosystems. Students split ecosystem units into smaller parts that investigate life. Students will also study cells with regards to form and function and finish up the year with genetics, natural selection, and evolution.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Advanced Science:**

**SCI811 / SCI812** / Duration: Year

**LaVenture Middle School**

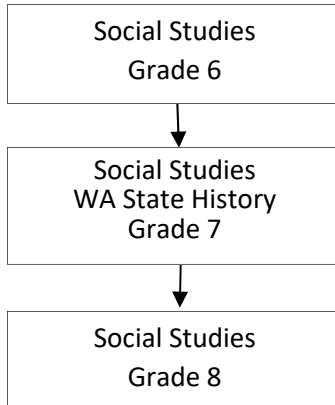
Students will learn about genetics, ecosystems, cells, and energy, just as in the standard 8th grade class. There will be an emphasis on the math, physical science standards and creating opportunities to extend their inquiry skills beyond that which is usually expected in a regular 8<sup>th</sup> grade science course.

# SOCIAL STUDIES

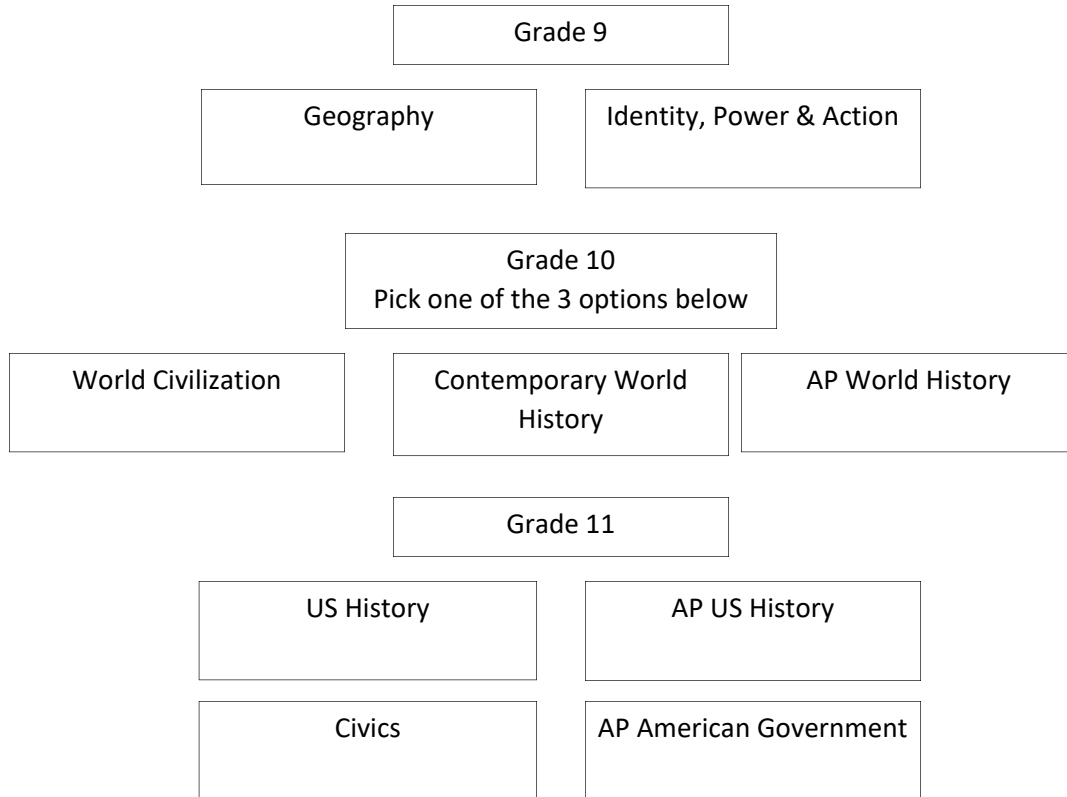
Course Sequence Grades 6-12

## Middle School

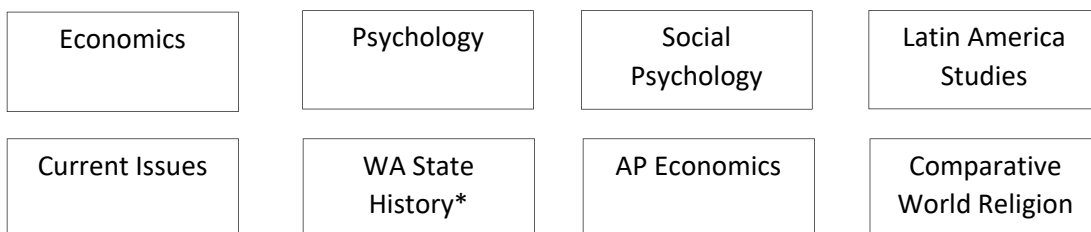
Social Studies is required for Grades 6-10



## High School



## Other Electives



\* If not MET in Middle School.

## SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **6<sup>th</sup> Social Studies:**

**SOC601 / SOC602** / Duration: Year

Explore the world of Ancient History through projects, simulations, and technology! Learn where the first humans lived, how technology developed, and when the first civilizations emerged around the world.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Washington State History & Civics:**

**SOC701 / SOC702** / Duration: Year

Learn about our own Washington State history, including Native American cultural and interactions. The emphasis of this course is to apply essential learning about civics and history to our state and local areas. Economic and geographic content will also be included.

*Additional Note: Educational Milestone– Must pass in Middle School or High School to graduate.*

### **8<sup>th</sup> Social Studies:**

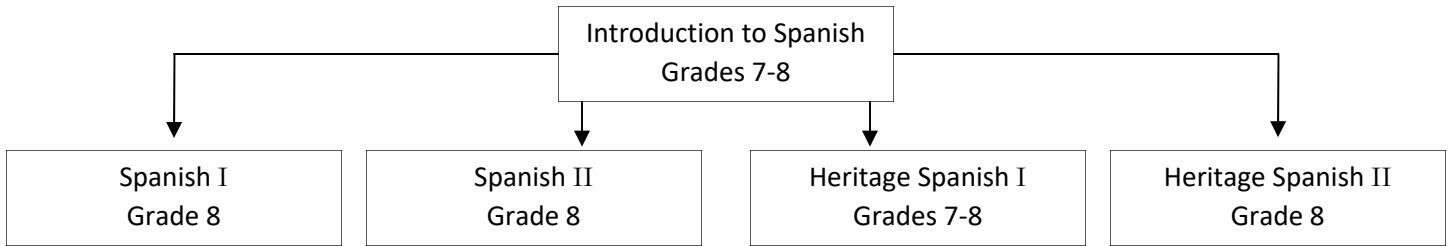
**SOC801 / SOC802** / Duration: Year

In 8th grade social studies you will learn how our country came to be, including the struggles, mysteries, people, and wars that have shaped this great Nation. Through geography, economics, government, laws, and stories, we will look at how this country was formed and thrives today.

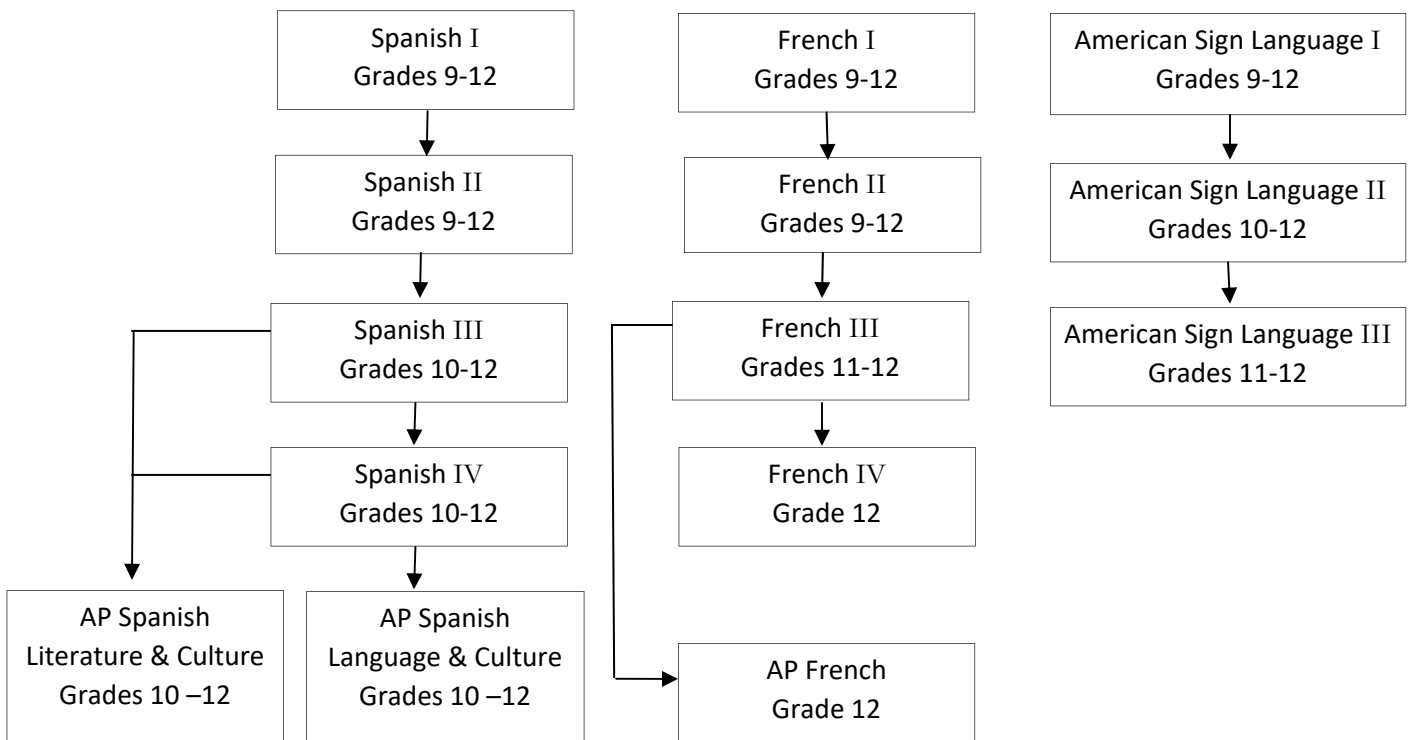
# WORLD LANGUAGES

## Course Sequence Grades 6-12

### Middle School



### High School



## WORLD LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Intro Spanish:**

**FLG200** / Duration: Semester

Grade: 7-8

*Other Note: only able to take once*

This class will provide you with a general introduction to the Spanish language: pronunciation, vocabulary, and basic grammar rules. We will work on 4 skills: listening, speaking, reading, and limited writing. This semester-long class is best for students with little or no experience with Spanish, or for students who are considering taking Spanish for high school credit their 8th grade year.

### **Spanish I:**

**FLG005 / FLG006** / Duration: Year

Grade: 8

*Other Note: high school credit*

You will learn to listen, speak, read, and write in Spanish as you study themes such as sports & hobbies, school, family, and vacations. We will also study the unique cultural heritage of Mexico. This year-long course is designed for total beginners, or for those students who have had limited exposure to Spanish either in school or in their family.

### **Spanish II:**

**FLG007 / FLG008** / Duration: Year

Grade: 8

*Other Note: high school credit*

You will learn to listen, speak, read, and write in Spanish as you study themes such as sports & hobbies, school, family, and vacations. We will also study the unique cultural heritage of Mexico. This year-long course is designed for students who have completed Spanish I or are fluent Spanish speakers in their homes and want to improve their language skills.

### **Heritage Spanish I:**

**FLG001** / Duration: Year

Grade: 7-8

**LaVenture Middle School**

This year-long course is designed specifically for native or heritage speakers of Spanish who already have some oral language proficiency. The purpose of this course is to enable students whose heritage language is Spanish to develop, maintain, and enhance proficiency in Spanish by providing them the opportunity to listen, speak, read, and write in a variety of contexts for a variety of audiences including the family, school, and community. This course will allow students to explore the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world, including their own, and it will enable students to gain a better understanding of the nature of their own language.

### **Heritage Spanish II:**

**FLG002** / Duration: Year

Grade: 8

**LaVenture Middle School**

This year-long course is designed specifically for native or heritage speakers of Spanish who bring oral language proficiency and have been introduced to reading and writing in Spanish. The purpose of this course is to provide students whose heritage language is Spanish to build upon the language knowledge students bring and advance their proficiency of Spanish reading, writing, oral and auditory expression in multiple contexts and audiences. This course will allow students to explore the cultures and histories of the Spanish-speaking world, including their own, and it will enable students to gain a better understanding of the nature of their own language.

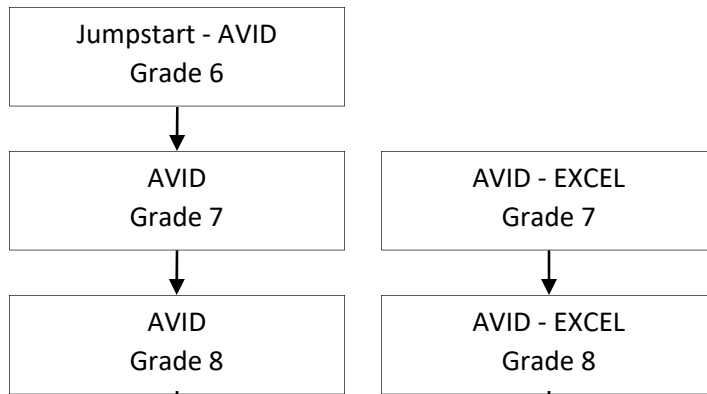
*Heritage 1 is a prerequisite and/or by teacher recommendation. The Heritage Spanish II course may serve as a pathway for entry of the dual language program based on Spanish proficiency in the four modalities.*

# AVID

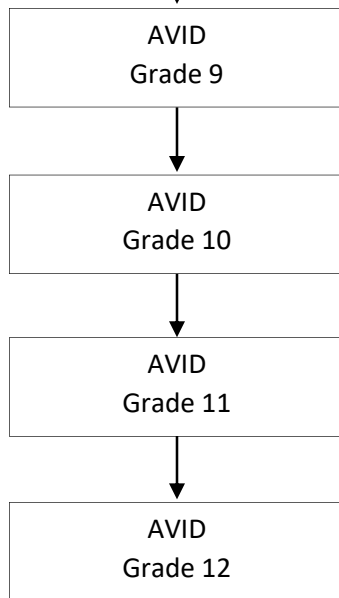
## Course Sequence Grades 6-12

### Middle School

7th and 8th grade  
College and Career  
Readiness thru AVID



### High School



# AVID COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## What is AVID?

### AVID is not just another program...

- AVID is a philosophy that holds students accountable to the highest standards. Provide academic and social support, and students will rise to the challenge.
- AVID is a college readiness system that prepares all students for college and career.
- AVID is grounded in the instructional strategies focusing on the academic skills of Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading (WICOR).
- AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

## What AVID Does

Simply, AVID trains educators to use proven practices in order to prepare students for success in middle school, high school, college, and a career. Especially students traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

## AVID Fundamentals

- Teaches skills and behaviors for academic success
- Provides intensive support with tutorials and strong student/teacher relationships
- Creates a positive peer group for students
- Develops a sense of hope for personal achievement gained through hard work and determination.

## AVID in Mount Vernon School District

AVID has been a part of Mount Vernon School District since the fall of 2003, beginning with the first cohort group of students at Mount Vernon High School and LaVenture Middle School. Since then, AVID has grown and all three of our secondary schools, serving students in grades 6-12, are AVID National Demonstration Schools. In 2017, we began AVID elementary at Little Mountain Elementary School. AVID is strongly supported by the MVSD Board of Directors and is a key component of the District's strategic plan.

## AVID EXCEL

AVID EXCEL accelerates student's academic language acquisition and increases their access to the 9th grade AVID Elective and college preparatory courses. Through a sequential set of middle school 7th and 8th grade courses, students are supported to build their academic language, leadership skills, and overall sense of commitment to school with a cohort of peers who share their same college readiness goals. It is offered at both Mt Baker and LaVenture Middle Schools.

The AVID EXCEL course sequence is comprised of the AVID EXCEL Summer Bridge and the AVID EXCEL Elective. Emphasis is on developing students' academic language proficiency in all domains--reading, writing, speaking and listening--while also developing self-determination, leadership skills, and motivation.

## Mount Vernon School District AVID Contacts:

Kristi Drake, AVID Coordinator, Mount Vernon HS  
[kdrake@mvsd320.org](mailto:kdrake@mvsd320.org)

Bonnie Schuh, AVID Coordinator, LaVenture MS  
[bschuh@mvsd320.org](mailto:bschuh@mvsd320.org)

Monica Nosky, AVID Coordinator, Mount Baker MS  
[mnosky@mvsd320.org](mailto:mnosky@mvsd320.org)

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## AVID:

**AVD701 / AVD702 / AVD801 / AVD802** / Duration: Year  
Grade: 7-8

*Prerequisite: application, interview process, and teacher recommendation*

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) AVID is designed to increase school-wide learning and performance. The mission of AVID is to ensure that all students enrolled complete a college preparatory path. With AVID providing support, students enrolled are required to take rigorous courses, maintain an organized binder, participate in community service activities, and commit to making school a priority in their lives. Areas addressed are organization, time management, test taking, study skills, writing, and navigating college research. Students enrolled in AVID commit to the program for the duration of their middle school career with the intent to continue in high school.

## AVID JUMPSTART

**AVD600** / Duration: Semester

### Mount Baker Middle School

An introduction to AVID strategies and skill for recommended 6th grade students.

## AVID EXCEL:

**AVD711 / AVD712 / AVD811 / AVD812** / Duration: Year

AVID Excel is specifically for students who qualify as English language learners. In addition to learning AVID strategies and skills, this class supports and enhances their learning in reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

# HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## Course Sequence Grades 6-12

### Middle School

All Grades  
1 Semester Health  
& 1 Semester PE

Physical Education  
Grade 6 –1 Semester  
Health  
Grade 6 –1 Semester

Physical Education  
Grade 7 –1 Semester  
Health  
Grade 7 –1 Semester

Physical Education  
Grade 8 –1 Semester  
Health  
Grade 8 –1 Semester

### M.S. Electives

PE Elective  
Grades 7 - 8

Yoga  
Grade 8  
LaVenture Only

Net Sports  
Grades 7 - 8  
Mount Baker Only

### High School

Basketball  
Grades 9 -12  
1 Semester

Soccer  
Grades 9 -12  
1 Semester

Tennis / Badminton  
Grades 9 -12  
1 Semester

Volleyball  
Grades 9 -12  
1 Semester

Weight Training  
Grades 9 -12  
1 Semester

Body Shaping  
Grades 9 -12  
1 Semester

Yoga  
Grades 9 -12  
1 Semester

Health & Fitness  
Walking  
Grades 9 -12  
1 Semester

### Other Electives (Dependent on class size)

Advance  
Weight Training  
Grades 10-12  
1 Semester

Advance Yoga  
Grades 11 -12  
1 Semester



## HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **6<sup>th</sup> Health:**

**HEA600** / Duration: Semester

*Other Note: Each grade level will learn specific units.*

Students will learn information needed to make good health decisions. Each grade level is broken up into specific categories of focus. The units covered in this course will focus on motivating each student to voluntarily take a role in protecting, maintaining, and improving their health through responsible actions and decisions. This class is centered on Washington's Common Core Standards. Units may include but are not limited to: Self Esteem, Family, Decision Making, Puberty, and Gender Roles

### **7<sup>th</sup> Health:**

**HEA700** / Duration: Semester

*Other Note: Each grade level will learn specific units.*

Students will learn information needed to make good health decisions. Each grade level is broken up into specific categories of focus. The units covered in this course will focus on motivating each student to voluntarily take a role in protecting, maintaining, and improving their health through responsible actions and decisions. Units may include but are not limited to: Bullying, harassment, sexual health, reproduction system, and CPR.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Health:**

**HEA800** / Duration: Semester

*Other Note: Each grade level will learn specific units.*

Students will learn information needed to make good health decisions. Each grade level is broken up into specific categories of focus. The units covered in this course will focus on motivating each student to voluntarily take a role in protecting, maintaining, and improving their health through responsible actions and decisions. Units may include but are not limited to: Communication, HIV/AIDS, Drugs and Alcohol.

### **6<sup>th</sup> P.E:**

**PED600** / Duration: Semester

Students in grade six will combine fundamental skills into more complex movement forms in modified game, rhythmic activities, and recreational activities. The goal of this class is for students to improve their fitness and further develop fundamental sports skills to allow them to successfully participate in various games and activities.

### **7<sup>th</sup> P.E:**

**PED700** / Duration: Semester

In grade seven, students continue to develop competence in modified versions of various games, rhythmic, recreational activities. They can apply similar concepts from one sport or movement setting to another. Students continue to develop responsible personal and social behaviors by demonstrating decision-making skills, conflict-resolution skills, appropriate etiquette, and respect for others

### **8<sup>th</sup> P.E:**

**PED800** / Duration: Semester

In grade eight, students demonstrate competence in skillful movement in modified game situations and a variety of rhythmic and recreational activities. They transition from modified versions of movement forms to more complex applications across all types of activities. Students set goals, track progress, and participate in activities to improve health-related fitness.

### **Net Sports:**

**PED220** / Duration: Semester

**Mount Baker Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

This class is designed for students who want a fun, competitive, challenging, active experience. A variety of net sports will be played. Planned games include badminton, tennis, beach ball and regular volleyball, and pickle ball. No previous experience required. Participation in all activities is required.

### **YOGA**

**PED710 / PED810** / Duration: Semester

**LaVenture Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

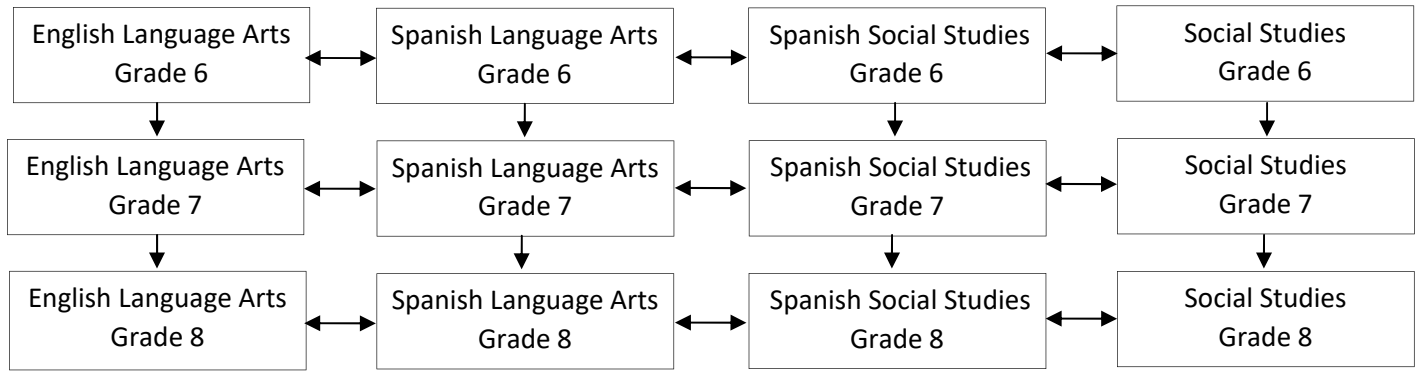
Yoga is a PE elective for 7th and 8th graders. Students will learn about different types of yoga including: flow, partner, yin, chair and yoga nidra. Yoga class will highlight the lifelong importance of fitness, with an emphasis on technique and relaxation.

# DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Course Sequence Grades 6-12

Spanish Dual Language  
LaVenture Middle School Only

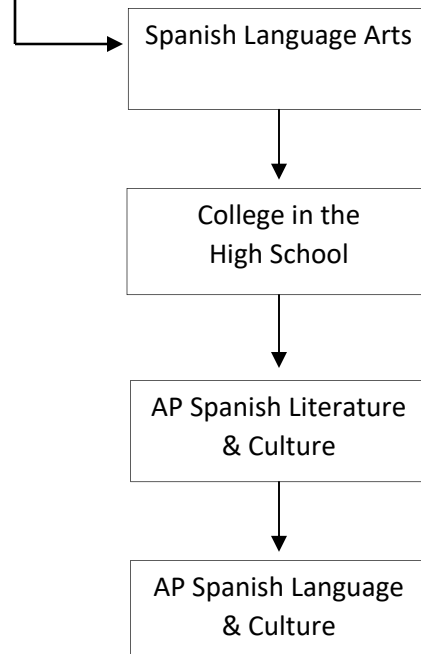
## Middle School



**Stamp Assessment Grade 8**

## High School

*The high school Dual Language course sequence is currently under development.*



**Eligible for Seal of Biliteracy on High School Transcript / Diploma**

## DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM (CONT.)

The goal of Mount Vernon's dual language program is to develop biliterate skills through the learning of core content learning standards. Literacy and social studies are integrated into the two languages to create learning environments that involve learning standards within a multicultural perspective. Our K-5 elementary program is housed at Madison Elementary and the middle school program is taught at LaVenture Middle School. Students receive 50% of their instruction in English and 50% in Spanish. The program includes students who are native speakers of English and Spanish.

### Program Goals

1. Bilingualism and Biliteracy: Develop high levels of proficiency in two languages – Spanish and English
2. High levels of academic achievement: Perform at or above grade level in academic areas in both languages
3. Cross-cultural attitudes: Demonstrate positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors, and high levels of self-esteem

### Example Schedule:

6th, 7th & 8th GRADE							
Schedule "A" Green Day				Schedule "B" White Day			
		1st Semester	2nd Semester			1st Semester	2nd Semester
Period	1	ELA	ELA	Period	5	Spanish LA	Spanish LA
	2	Math	Math		6	Math	Math
	3	Spanish / English Social Studies	Spanish / English Social Studies		7	Science	Science
	4	PE / Health	PE / Health		8	Elective / Music	Elective / Music

## DUAL LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Dual English Language Arts 6:**

#### **LaVenture Middle School**

DLA601 / DLA602 / Duration: Year

In this 6th grade Dual Language course, students continue to develop their English literacy and language skills as they interpret, analyze, and discuss grade level text. Students actively seek to understand how an individual's identity and culture shape how they read, write, and experience the world. Students are supported as they read and write grade level narrative, informational, and argumentative pieces for a range of audiences. Using their full linguistic repertoire, students develop increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). Students grow their critical literacies, by analyzing multiple perspectives and developing their critical consciousness and cross-cultural awareness. Students read texts and topics of choice and write about issues and ideas they find meaningful in order to use their voice to contribute to a more just and equitable world. Students participate productively in groups, use constructive feedback to improve their work, evaluate their progress, and set future goals. Students continue to read and write for pleasure, sharing and reflecting on their experiences and the experiences of others.

### **Dual Spanish Language Arts 6:**

#### **LaVenture Middle School**

SLA601 / SLA602 / Duration: Year

In this 6th grade Dual Language course, students continue to develop their Spanish literacy and language skills as they interpret, analyze, and discuss grade level text. Students actively seek to understand how an individual's identity and culture shape how they read, write, and experience the world. Students are supported as they read and write grade level narrative, informational, and argumentative pieces for a range of audiences. Using their full linguistic repertoire, students develop increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). Students grow their critical literacies, by analyzing multiple perspectives and developing their critical consciousness and cross-cultural awareness. Students read texts and topics of choice and write about issues and ideas they find meaningful in order to use their voice to contribute to a more just and equitable world. Students participate productively in groups, use constructive feedback to improve their work, evaluate their progress, and set future goals. Students continue to read and write for pleasure, sharing and reflecting on their experiences and the experiences of others.

### **Dual English Language Arts 7:**

#### **LaVenture Middle School**

DLA701 / DLA702 / Duration: Year

In this 7th grade Dual Language course, students continue to develop their English literacy and language skills as they interpret, analyze, and discuss grade level text. Students actively seek to understand how an individual's identity and culture shape how they read, write, and experience the world. Students are supported as they read and write grade level narrative, informational, and argumentative pieces for a range of audiences. Using their full linguistic repertoire, students develop increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). Students grow their critical literacies, by analyzing multiple perspectives and developing their critical consciousness and cross-cultural awareness. Students read texts and topics of choice and write about issues and ideas they find meaningful in order to use their voice to contribute to a more just and equitable world. Students participate productively in groups, use constructive feedback to improve their work, evaluate their progress, and set future goals. Students continue to read and write for pleasure, sharing and reflecting on their experiences and the experiences of others.

### **Dual Spanish Language Arts 7:**

#### **LaVenture Middle School**

SLA701 / SLA702 / Duration: Year

In this 7th grade Dual Language course, students continue to develop their Spanish literacy and language skills as they interpret, analyze, and discuss grade level text. Students actively seek to understand how an individual's identity and culture shape how they read, write, and experience the world. Students are supported as they read and write grade level narrative, informational, and argumentative pieces for a range of audiences. Using their full linguistic repertoire, students develop increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). Students grow their critical literacies, by analyzing multiple perspectives and developing their critical consciousness and cross-cultural awareness. Students read texts and topics of choice and write about issues and ideas they find meaningful in order to use their voice to contribute to a more just and equitable world. Students participate productively in groups, use constructive feedback to improve their work, evaluate their progress, and set future goals. Students continue to read and write for pleasure, sharing and reflecting on their experiences and the experiences of others.

## DUAL LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (CONT.)

### **Dual English Language Arts 8:**

#### **LaVenture Middle School**

DLA801 / DLA802 / Duration: Year

In this 8th grade Dual Language course, students continue to develop their English literacy and language skills as they interpret, analyze, and discuss grade level text. Students actively seek to understand how an individual's identity and culture shape how they read, write, and experience the world. Students are supported as they read and write grade level narrative, informational, and argumentative pieces for a range of audiences. Using their full linguistic repertoire, students develop increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). Students grow their critical literacies, by analyzing multiple perspectives and developing their critical consciousness and cross-cultural awareness. Students read texts and topics of choice and write about issues and ideas they find meaningful in order to use their voice to contribute to a more just and equitable world. Students participate productively in groups, use constructive feedback to improve their work, evaluate their progress, and set future goals. Students continue to read and write for pleasure, sharing and reflecting on their experiences and the experiences of others.

### **Dual Spanish Language Arts 8:**

#### **LaVenture Middle School**

SLA801 / SLA802 / Duration: Year

In this 8th grade Dual Language course, students continue to develop their Spanish literacy and language skills as they interpret, analyze, and discuss grade level text. Students actively seek to understand how an individual's identity and culture shape how they read, write, and experience the world. Students are supported as they read and write grade level narrative, informational, and argumentative pieces for a range of audiences. Using their full linguistic repertoire, students develop increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). Students grow their critical literacies, by analyzing multiple perspectives and developing their critical consciousness and cross-cultural awareness. Students read texts and topics of choice and write about issues and ideas they find meaningful in order to use their voice to contribute to a more just and equitable world. Students participate productively in groups, use constructive feedback to improve their work, evaluate their progress, and set future goals. Students continue to read and write for pleasure, sharing and reflecting on their experiences and the experiences of others.

### **Dual Social Studies 6:**

#### **LaVenture Middle School**

DSS601 / DSS602 / Duration: Year

In this course, students explore the development and influence of indigenous societies in the world. With a special focus on the heterogeneous cultures of Abya Yala (Latin America) students will apply the tools of geography, economics, history, and civics. Using their full linguistic repertoire students draw on a multiplicity of resources to ask and answer questions about individual and collective identities, engage in academic discussions, and develop critical reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students participate productively in groups, use constructive feedback to improve their work, evaluate their progress, and set future goals. All instruction is in Spanish.

### **Dual Social Studies 7:**

#### **LaVenture Middle School**

DSS701 / DSS702 / Duration: Year

In this course, students analyze central historical processes that have shaped Washington State. It focuses on the experiences of Indigenous Peoples of the PNW, questions of tribal sovereignty, Chicano histories, and the impact of World War I and II on transportation, immigration, labor, and technology. By applying the tools of geography, economics, history, and civics, students draw on a multiplicity of resources to ask and answer questions about individual and collective identities, engage in academic discussions, and develop critical reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. At the core of the course, students develop their full linguistic repertoire in order to analyze the aforementioned questions and themes. Students participate productively in groups, use constructive feedback to improve their work, evaluate their progress, and set future goals. All instruction is in Spanish.

### **Dual Social Studies 8:**

#### **LaVenture Middle School**

DSS801 / DSS802 / Duration: Year

By examining multiple perspectives, in this course students analyze major historical processes shaping the United States since 1776 to the beginning of the twentieth century. It also invites students to make connections between those historical processes and the present. By applying the disciplinary tools of geography, economics, history, and civics, students draw on a multiplicity of resources to ask and answer questions about individual and collective identities, engage in academic discussions, and develop critical reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. At the core of the course, students develop their full linguistic repertoire in order to analyze the aforementioned questions and themes. Students participate productively in groups, use constructive feedback to improve their work, evaluate their progress, and set future goals. All instruction is in Spanish.

# PERFORMING ARTS – MUSIC

Course Sequence Grades 6-12

## Middle School

MS Electives

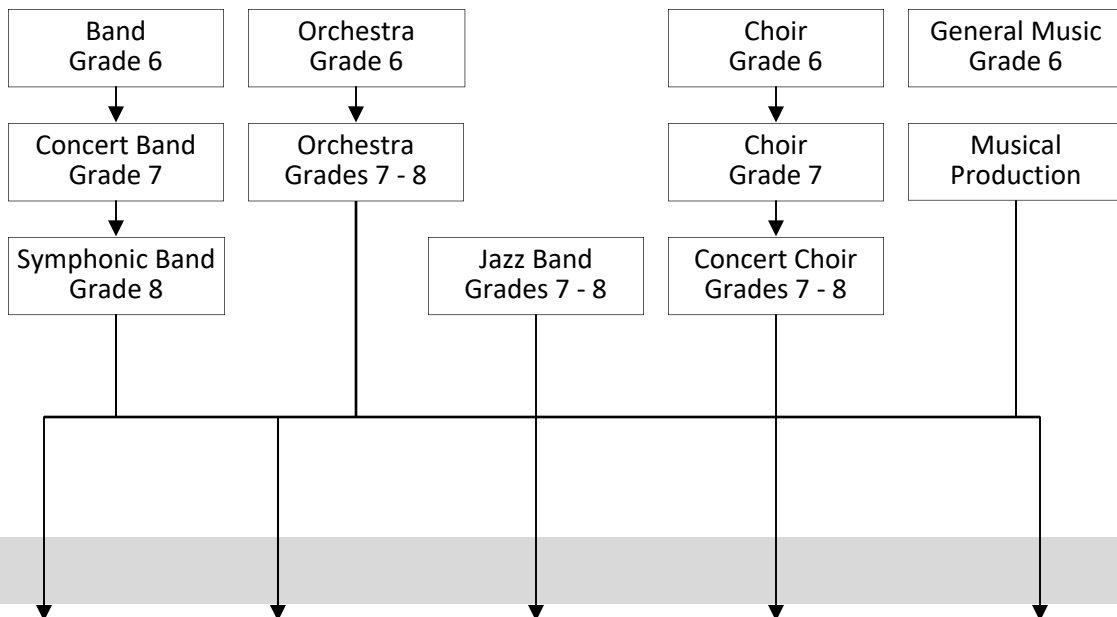
Mariachi Band  
MBMS only

Marimba Ensemble  
LVMS only

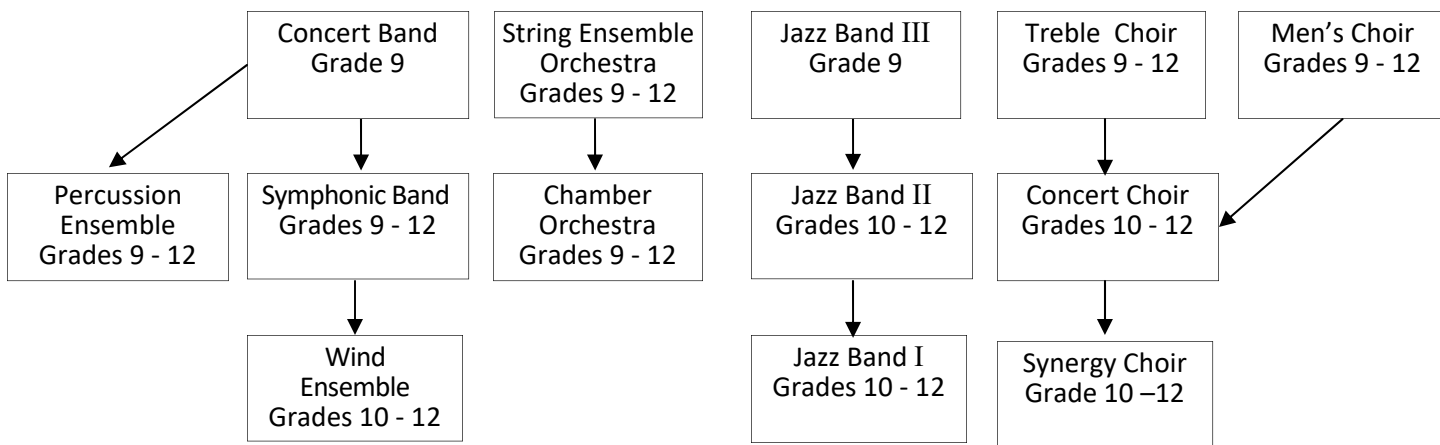
World Music  
LVMS only

Beginning Guitar  
LVMS only

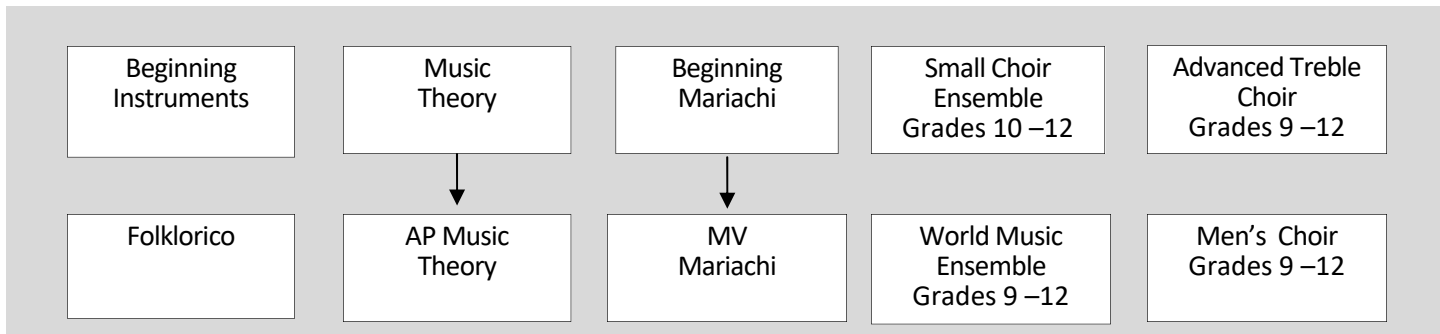
Folklorico  
MBMS only



## High School



## Other High School Music Elective



## MUSIC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Cadet Band:**

**BND201 / BND202** / Duration: Year

Grade: 6

This beginning band class is for anyone wanting to learn how to play a WIND instrument! This class does not teach guitar, piano, or drums, but if you want to be part of the band then this class is the place for you! Clarinet, flute, trumpet, trombone, or saxophone are good instruments for students to start with.

### **Concert Band:**

**BND211/ BND212** / Duration: Year

Grade: 7

Concert Band is an ensemble for 7th and 8th grade band students who want to continue playing an instrument but may not be ready for the rigor of Symphonic Band. This class reviews fundamentals, plays fun music, begins learning chamber music, and gets to perform in seasonal formal concerts.

### **Symphonic Band:**

**BND221 / BND222** / Duration: Year

Grade: 8

This class is for the serious musician who is ready to practice regularly and perform often. This class comes with the added responsibility of assembly performances, difficult chamber music, and many concerts.

### **Jazz Band:**

**BND231 / BND232** / Duration: Year

Grade: 7-8

*Prerequisite: auditions required*

This class is for the serious musician who is ready to practice regularly and perform often. This class comes with the added responsibility of many performances throughout the year.

### **Beginning Choir:**

**CHR201 / CHR202** / Duration: Year

Grade: 6

This class is a great introduction to middle school and high school choir. It is for those students who have been in choir before or just want to learn more about singing. You will get to experience the fundamentals of music in a fun and interactive way.

### **Falcon Choir:**

**CHR211 / CHR212** / Duration: Year

**LaVenture Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

Falcon Choir is open to 7th or 8th grade students who want to learn more about singing. If you have been in choir before or you're brand new, Falcon Choir is a great place to start your singing career. This class will teach you how to read music and prepare you for middle and high school choir.

### **Men's Choir:**

**CHR221 / CHR222** / Duration: Year

**Mount Baker Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

Justin Timberlake, Adam Levine, and Jason Mraz all started in choir! Are you a guy who wants to learn how to sing? This class is for you! This is a high energy choir class that gets to travel (during the school day), play a lot of games, learn to read music, and perform awesome songs together. It is less demanding than Concert Choir, but just as fun.

### **Women's Choir:**

**CHR231 / CHR232** / Duration: Year

**Mount Baker Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

Adele, Ariana Grande, Carrie Underwood, they all started in choir! Are you a girl who wants to learn how to sing? This class is for you! This is a less demanding choir class where you can really gain confidence in your singing. You do not have to be the best singer, just willing to learn! This class gets to travel during the school day and perform together.

### **Concert Choir:**

**CHR241 / CHR242** / Duration: Year

**Mount Baker Middle School**

Grade: 8

**LaVenture Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

*Prerequisite: auditions required*

This is an audition class that is for the student who really wants to take choir to the next level. This class works incredibly hard, but gets to travel more often and perform in front of more audiences and participate at various festivals throughout the year. Advanced study of vocal production, note reading, sight singing, and choral ensemble singing is included.

## MUSIC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (CONT.)

### Orchestra I:

**ORC201 / ORC202** / Duration: Year

Grade: 6

This course is open to all who have successfully completed Fifth Grade Orchestra. Instead of coming before school, Orchestra is now part of your school day! Our music in middle school is more advanced than in elementary school as we continue to work on tone, intonation, balance, dynamics and music theory. We also begin playing in five-part harmony, as each section as their own part. Three evening concerts per year are required. Students who have not previously been in orchestra may be eligible to join with special permission from Ms. Watson.

### Orchestra II:

**ORC211 / ORC212** / Duration: Year

Grade: 7- 8

This course is open to all who have successfully completed Orchestra I. Orchestra is a performance-based course which requires student participation in day and evening performances. We build on what we have learned in Elementary and Sixth Grade Orchestra and take it to the next level. The orchestra will perform in a large group adjudication in the Spring.

### Rhythm & Keyboards I & II:

**MUS200/MUS210** / Duration: Semester

**Mount Baker Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

Students will learn to read rhythms in a fun, non-threatening atmosphere while drumming along with popular songs. Upon completion of the drumming unit, students will learn basic piano skills on Yamaha keyboards. No previous musical experience is necessary—we will start at the beginning using numbers and letters before learning to read music. Students will have completed the equivalent of almost any piano Book One by the end of this course. After passing off each required packet, students may use our classroom iPads to learn songs of their choice.

### Mariachi Band

**BND241 / BND242**/ Duration: Year

Grade: 7-8

Mariachi is a performing ensemble that will learn and play traditional mariachi style music. Students will learn to play an instrument as well as sing traditional songs in Spanish. This is a class open to current trumpet and violin students, as well as anyone interested in learning mariachi style guitar. Guitar players need no previous experience. Instruments are available to borrow.

### Music & Culture:

**MUS220** / Duration: Semester

**Mount Baker Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

This is a beginning course in which students engage in creative musical exercises to develop imagination, observation, and concentration. Students also condition their bodies and voices to be flexible, coordinated, and expressive. Students are introduced to musical drama through activities such as improvisation, pantomime, storytelling, characterization, stage directions, and vocal projection. This course includes the basic elements of dramatic production.

### Marimba Ensemble

**MUS231 / MUS232**/ Duration: Year

**LaVenture Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

*Prerequisite: sixth-grade World Music Director's consent upon completion of application*

Marimba Ensemble is a year-long music performance elective. Students learn traditional Zimbabwe-Style and contemporary compositions demanding complex form and meters. Students are given leadership rolls through solo and lead playing. Personal responsibility and commitment are shown to the highest level. Marimba performs with the instrumental music department in three formal concerts during the school year, and throughout the Skagit Valley community.

### Beginning Guitar

**MUS241** / Duration: Year

**LaVenture Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

This course is a one-semester class that provides beginning guitar training for students who have no prior experience on the instrument. Students will learn to read and play melodies and the most common chords. Students will also become aware of the basic elements of music theory. LaVenture owns a classroom set of nylon string classical guitars which are used in class and can be checked out for home practice after a student and parent or guardian has filled out, signed and returned an instrument loan contract. World Music teaches the skills necessary for success in school and life: respectful communication, listening, and sustained focus.



## MUSIC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (CONT.)

### World Music

**MUS230** / Duration: Semester

**LaVenture Middle School**

Grade: 6

World Music is a one semester class which introduces the music of Africa and Latin America through drumming and playing marimbas. In addition to extending student knowledge of beat, melody, harmony and rhythm, World Music teaches the skills necessary for success in school and life: respectful communication, listening, and sustained focus.

### Folklorico Dance

**MUS231 / 232** / Duration: Year

**Mount Baker Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

This class focuses on learning and perfecting various footwork relating to Mexican Dance, known as zapateado. Students will refine their spatial kinesthetic awareness, learn the proper warm-up/cool downs of dance class and develop a vocabulary of dancing terminology. This is a performance class.

# FINE & VISUAL ARTS – ARTS

Course Sequence Grades 6-12

## Middle School

Intro to Art

Drama

Pottery

Art Tech  
LVMS only

Exploring Art in a  
Digital World

## High School

Fundamentals of  
Art I

Ceramics / 3D Art

Drawing & Painting

Advanced Art

Creative Arts

Metal Art  
Fabrication

Digital Photography

Graphic Arts  
1 & 2

MVHStv

Video Production

## ART COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Intro to Art:**

**Art200** / Duration: Semester

**LaVenture Middle School**

Grade: 7 - 8

**Mount Baker Middle School**

Grade: 6

Students will be introduced to the world of art by completing projects using materials such as charcoal, paint, pastels and clay. We will also learn about several famous artists. Special attention will be given to helping students improve their art skills and vocabulary.

### **6th Grade Art:**

**Art210** / Duration: Semester

**LaVenture Middle School**

Grade: 6

Students will be introduced to the world of art by completing projects using a variety of materials such as painting, collage, pastels, paper-mache, and watercolor. Students will learn the basics of art and be introduced to the seven elements of art, which will be applied to each art project.

### **Pottery/Sculpture:**

**Art220** / Duration: Semester

This class will focus on creating sculptures from materials such as clay and wire. Students will learn several techniques for working with clay and glaze.

### **Color and Painting:**

**Art230** / Duration: Semester

**Mount Baker Middle School**

Grade: 7- 8

*Other note: This class cannot be repeated.*

Students will learn about color theory through watercolor painting, working toward a final self-portrait project. Students will also learn about the history of printing and will learn several printing techniques leading to a final project.

### **Digital Art**

**Art240** / Duration: Semester

**Mount Baker Middle School**

Grade: 7- 8

*Other note: This class cannot be repeated.*

Students will use drawing and painting apps on classroom iPads as well as learning basic photography skills for creating portraits and advertising. Final project involves group work to "Create your own Culture".

## ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

### **Intro to Tech:**

**TEC201 / TEC202** / Duration: Semester

**LaVenture Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

**TEC200** / Duration: Semester

**Mount Baker Middle School**

Grade: 6

This class will cover primary topics: Learning the basics of using productivity software (word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation), introduction to robotics using Spheros, and internet safety among other topics.

### **Tech II:**

**TEC211 / TEC 212** / Duration: Semester

**LaVenture Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

The class will cover more advanced topics of Technology.

### **Robotics:**

**TEC210** / Duration: Semester

**Mount Baker Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

With an economy that has a higher demand for STEM fields, we need to learn how to make a difference in the world. This class will learn basic programming and navigation using Parallax Activity Bots. Students will learn how computer programming can solve problems while exploring basic robotics.

### **3D Printing:**

**TEC220** / Duration: Semester

**Mount Baker Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

This course will cover 2 primary topics: Learning to design and print 3D models and learning basic circuitry and physical computing using the Arduino platform.

### **Intro to Animation:**

**TEC230** / Duration: Semester

**Mount Baker Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

This course will cover introduction to computer animation. Students will work independently and in small groups. Students will work to write, direct and animate computer shorts. Class uses Audacity and Story Maker among other programs.

### **Office Assistant:**

**TAO200** / Duration: Semester

Grade: 8

*Prerequisite: application*

The Attendance Office offers on-the-job training in general office skills and public relations. Students will deliver messages, file, assist with mailings, and help students and staff in a polite and courteous manner. Students will collect attendance records from classrooms.

### **Leadership:**

**LED201 / LED202** / Duration: Semester

Grade: 7-8

*Prerequisite: application*

This semester-long class is for 7th and 8th graders who are dedicated to creating memorable experiences for all students on campus, to promoting school spirit, and to growing as leaders. Leadership students will organize school activities such as dances, assemblies and spirit week, will give presentations to home court classes, and will volunteer at nearby Senior Centers and at Little Mountain Elementary, and much more! MBMS Only: You must apply to be in Leadership class. Once accepted, you will be strongly encouraged to run for an ASB officer position as well as help with 6th grade orientation.

### **Drama:**

**DRA200** / Duration: Semester

**LaVenture Middle School**

Grade: 7-8

In this class, we will learn about and practice basic drama skills like acting, projection, memorization, character, and movement. In addition, we will learn about playwriting, dialogue, and costuming. Students will perform in front of their peers, both in monologues and in scenes with multiple actors. Students will also learn about giving constructive feedback to their peers to help improve acting skills.



Mount  
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