



# ELEARN21 MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG 2017-2018

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## **English/Language Arts**

### **MS Language Arts 6**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Four parts

Prerequisites: Four parts

Required Materials:

Description: In English/Language Arts 6, students read to enhance their understanding of different genres and to enhance their own writing. Students practice the writing process in each part of the course as they plan, organize, compose, and edit four projects: a brief narrative essay about a personal hero; a piece of creative fiction; an essay analyzing a poem; and a research project. As they read the coming-of-age novel *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor, students focus on the elements of fiction and examine elements of the author's craft. In a tour of folktales, students embark on a journey to South America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and even ancient Greece and Rome. Students are introduced to several types of poetry, learn to recognize poetic devices, evaluate the effectiveness of a poet's message, and, ultimately, compose their own poetry. As they explore nonfiction and informational texts, students build on concepts they learned in the elementary grades to develop higher-level critical thinking skills. A study of advertising and persuasive techniques helps students become more informed consumers. Students strengthen speaking and listening skills through predicting, questioning, summarizing, clarifying, and synthesizing. Students learn to work collaboratively, incorporate multimedia in their presentations, and present their findings in unique, effective ways.

### **MS Language Arts 7**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Four parts

Prerequisites: Four parts

Required Materials:

Description: In English/Language Arts 7, students read and analyze literature from poetry to novels and folklore to myth, using what they learn to enhance their own writing. The course begins with the steps of the writing process, which includes identifying parts of speech and using them correctly and effectively. A study of writing style focuses on slang, sentence variety, and transitions. Students learn how characters, setting, and plot contribute to literary fiction as they identify and explain these components and use them creatively in their own narrative essays. Reading poetry allows students to focus on figurative and descriptive language, which they apply to writing descriptive essays. Students also learn about the themes and characteristics of myth and folklore. A study of nonfiction focuses on research and organization as students produce objective informational essays. Students learn active reading and research skills that enable them to recognize bias and the techniques of persuasion in different genres, including biographical writing, then write persuasive essays based on their own beliefs or opinions.

### **MS Language Arts 8**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Four parts

Prerequisites: Four parts

Required Materials:

Description: In English/Language Arts 8, students continue their exploration of various genres, using active reading techniques such as note-taking and drawing conclusions from texts. Students review the steps of the writing process, making connections between each stage of writing, the genre they are studying, and a well-formed final product. To prepare students for writing narrative essays, lessons focus on plot, theme, and historical setting. Writing reflective and persuasive essays based on their own thoughts and ideas allows students to demonstrate their individuality. Solid research and understanding of organizational methods and visual features provide the foundation for writing informational essays. After improving their ability to recognize biased language, students write persuasive essays to express their own opinions. Students then look at the unique characteristics of poetry, myth, and folklore, and discover the conventions of playwriting and how drama employs the elements of fiction.

# Mathematics

## Mathematics- 6th Grade

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Four parts

Prerequisites: Four parts

Required Materials:

Description: In Math 6, each skill provides a stepping stone to the next. Students learn how to find the prime factors of composite numbers, then use this ability to work with fractions. They apply ratios and rates in a number of applications, including converting between English and metric measurements, determining unit rates, and finding unit prices. To build a foundation for learning algebra, students study the properties of addition and multiplication and the order of operations. Students then use these concepts as they write, evaluate, and factor algebraic expressions. After they learn to solve single-variable one- and two-step equations and inequalities, students extend their knowledge by graphing the solutions on number lines and the coordinate plane. The exploration of two dimensions continues as students work with plane polygons, classify shapes, and solve for shapes' perimeters and areas. Students learn to transform two-dimensional figures by translating, rotating, and reflecting both figures and graphs of equations, then move on to solid figures. Finally, students delve into statistics as they identify, interpret, and construct various data; solve for and interpret measures of center including mean, median, and mode; and use those measures to analyze data and construct appropriate data displays, which they can apply to a wide range of situations in other subject areas.

## Mathematics- 7th Grade

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Four parts

Prerequisites: Four parts

Required Materials:

Description: Math 7 teaches skills essential to adult life and lays the groundwork for future mathematics classes. Students learn to apply their work with rational numbers and integers to everyday situations. Students convert words to expressions and vice versa, using equations and inequalities as problem-solving tools. They compute tax, percentage of error, commission, and interest using rates, ratios, and proportions; graph ordered pairs; and graph and write linear equations. Their work with simple figures—triangles, angles, circles, quadrilaterals, and polygons—focuses on finding areas and perimeters. Students then move on to scale drawings and composite figures composed of simple figures, and compute the volumes and surface areas of solids including prisms, cylinders, pyramids, cones, and spheres. Students collect data and use graphs, charts, and diagrams to read, interpret, and display the data—and they also learn how graphs can be misleading. Students apply the study of sampling and populations to applications involving probability, likely and unlikely outcomes, permutations, combinations, and compound events. Students learn to represent these concepts using Venn diagrams and charts, tools they will encounter in other courses.

## **Mathematics- 8th Grade**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Four parts

Prerequisites: Four parts

Required Materials:

Description: Math 8 helps students see the power of mathematics in everyday life. The course begins with a review of percentages and proportions, applying these concepts to conversion factors and emphasizing English and metric measurement. Work with linear equations includes computing rates of change, finding intercepts, graphing linear functions, and describing the action of a line. Number patterns and sequences foster a study of arithmetic and geometric means as students learn to find missing terms in sequences. An investigation of the Cartesian plane teaches students how to work with scale drawings, dilations, and graphs. Students learn about the properties of triangles, the Pythagorean Theorem, and the properties of parallel lines cut by a transversal. With pie charts, bar graphs, histograms, scatter plots and other linear models, students explore probability and make predictions and correlations. Students apply the concepts of independent and dependent events, odds, combinations, permutations, and factorials to situations from playing cards to determining how many different outfits they have in their closets.

## **Middle School Algebra**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Four parts

Prerequisites: Four parts

Required Materials:

Description: How do you write, simplify, and solve equations? How can you display data so it can be easily interpreted and understood? In Algebra, students learn how to translate phrases into expressions, and sentences into equations and inequalities, placing them into their simplest forms. Students find solutions to equations by graphing them on number lines or the coordinate plane. Students learn the value of finding the best tool for the job as they acquire different strategies to use in various situations, such as finding the slope of a line, solving a system of equations or inequalities, or factoring polynomials. Building on this knowledge, students apply transformations to polynomial functions, explore inverses and one-to-one functions, and examine exponential and logarithmic functions. Work in statistics includes organizing and analyzing data; making stem-and-leaf plots; finding mean, mode, and median; making box-and-whisker plots; and recognizing misleading graphs. At the completion of this course, students are prepared for additional math courses in middle and high school.

# Science

## Science- 6th Grade

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Four parts

Prerequisites: Four parts

Required Materials:

Description: Scientists make exciting observations and learn amazing facts about the world. Harnessing students' natural curiosity and ability to observe, Science 6 surveys the physical and life sciences through engaging, interactive activities and media-rich content. Students begin by surveying the branches of science, noting important milestones in the development of scientific study, and discovering the contributions of some influential scientists. They examine the matter that makes up the world, the laws that govern the movement of matter, and how matter is affected by contact and noncontact forces. Students investigate energy, its sources, and methods of energy generation and transfer. As they examine the structure of Earth, students learn about natural resources and the impact of human populations on the balance of nature. Students also study weather, wind, storm formation, and ways data is used to predict the weather. Students begin learning about life science through the discoveries Robert Hooke made using his microscope. The vital relationship between structure and function is examined as students learn about the components of cells and the organ systems of the human body. The study of living things continues as students learn about the major groups of organisms and scientists who contributed to current knowledge about each group. The relationships among these groups, called kingdoms, and among living and nonliving things are revealed as students learn about biogeochemical cycles. The ecology section completing the course discusses water quality, conservation efforts, and recycling.

## Science- 7th Grade

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Four parts

Prerequisites: Four parts

Required Materials:

Description: Science 7 brings together some of the most fascinating sciences- general, physical, earth, and life sciences- essential for investigating the world around us. After learning common measurement systems and the essentials of lab safety, students are ready to apply the scientific method to everyday situations such as a broken lamp or a hungry dog. Students learn about matter and energy, and about electromagnetic waves and the electromagnetic spectrum, focusing on the properties of visible light. Earth itself becomes the focus as students study the different geologic eras in Earth's history, the parts of the planet, and phenomena including earthquakes and volcanoes. Delving into Earth's past, students examine the fossil record and discover the clues to provide to the history of numerous species and how they adapted to their environment. Students learn how species change over time through mutation and natural selection. Finally, students explore food webs, the roles of different organisms in an ecosystem, and why preserving Earth's limited natural resources through conservation efforts is imperative.

## Science- 8th Grade

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Four parts

Prerequisites: Four parts

Required Materials:

Description: Science 8 focuses on the smallest structures—the atoms that make up our world and the cells that make up our bodies—and the largest systems—the cycles of the natural world, the interaction of energy and matter, classical mechanics including Newton’s Three Laws of Motion and the Law of Universal Gravitation, and the bodies that make up the universe. Beginning with classification systems, students learn about the elements and the structure of atoms. Students apply what they learn about temperature scales, the difference between temperature and heat, and chemical reactions to the study of energy and ways matter can change. This understanding of chemistry helps students in their next phase of study: cell function, the life-giving functions of photosynthesis and respiration, the biology of their own bodies, and the genetics that make each living being unique. The focus widens again as students explore classical mechanics: Newton’s Three Laws of Motion and the Law of Universal Gravitation. Students then apply classical mechanics to planetary motion, the effects of the Moon, travel beyond our planet, and the most up-to-date discoveries about the universe.

# **Social Studies**

## **Social Studies- 6th Grade**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Four parts

Prerequisites: Four parts

Required Materials:

Description: Making sense of the unique and fascinating places in the world requires a broad range of knowledge and skills. Students explore how Earth's geography has affected human life and culture as they learn about the development of early civilizations in Asia and the Mediterranean. Students examine the great religious traditions born during this time, witness the growth of dynasties in Far Eastern Asia, and learn about the ideas that spawned the Renaissance. As the world became caught up in the excitement of the Age of Exploration, the Americas were "discovered," though vibrant and thriving civilizations had existed there for thousands of years. Students learn about the struggles of these native civilizations, the slaves who were brought to build a new nation, and independence movements in the western world. Modern nations continue to face many challenges including trade, migration, urbanization, and the human rights movement. In an exploration of recent history, students learn about dictators and witness revolutions in Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas. In the final section of the course, students study the impact of globalization and the technology driving it.

## **Social Studies- 7th Grade**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Four parts

Prerequisites: Four parts

Required Materials:

Description: History, government, economics, sociology, geography, and anthropology all come together to show how modern culture arose from ancient and classical civilizations. Beginning with the New Kingdom of Egypt, students witness how ancient civilizations grew into classical empires that gave rise to medieval Europe. They discover how feudal Europe moved toward the Renaissance, and how its ideals of humanism and constitutional government ignited the scientific revolution and the Protestant Reformation. Students study the development of spirituality in the Middle East, the growth of dynasties in the Far East, and the formation of Mesoamerican civilization. As students learn about the development of modern nations and their quest for overseas colonies, they see how the competition for colonies and extreme nationalism led to international conflicts, including the Seven Years War and the Cold War. Students discover how our political identity has evolved through developments including the Industrial Revolution, the labor and progressive movements, the struggle for civil rights, the economics of a modern society, and the dawn of the Information Age.

## **Social Studies- 8th Grade**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Four parts

Prerequisites: Four parts

## Required Materials:

Description: In Grade 8 Social Studies, students focus on the history of North America and, in particular, the history of the United States. Before Europeans knew that North America existed, indigenous civilizations thrived throughout the continent. Students learn how colonial life led to first attempts at self-government and how European influence continues to this day. As they witness the expansion of US borders, students discover how the desire for land and resources led to the removal of native populations, wars with neighbors, and annexations. Students see the impact of civil war and witness the struggle of slavery and America's emergence as an industrial powerhouse. In their study of the twentieth century, students trace the reasons for and outcomes of the Civil Rights Movement and consider the role of the United States as a world power.

# **World Languages**

## **MS Chinese 1**

Course Provider: Accelerate Education

Course Length: Two Semesters

Prerequisites: Two Semesters

Required Materials:

Description: This fun, interactive course for middle school students is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. The instruction is equivalent to that found in the first semester of High School Chinese I. Students begin their introduction to Chinese by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Both Chinese characters and pinyin are presented together throughout the course and specific character practices are introduced after the first quarter. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Chinese-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

## **MS Chinese 2**

Course Provider: Accelerate Education

Course Length: Two Semesters

Prerequisites: Two Semesters

Required Materials:

Description: Students continue their language-learning adventure by progressing to this next level of middle school Chinese. The instruction is equivalent to that found in the second semester of High School Chinese I. Students expand their introduction to Chinese through focus on four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Both Chinese characters and pinyin are presented together throughout the course and specific character practices are introduced after the first quarter. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various

Chinese-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

## **MS French 1**

Course Provider: Accelerate Education

Course Length: Two Semesters

Prerequisites: Two Semesters

Required Materials:

Description: This fun, interactive course for middle school students is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. The instruction is equivalent to that found in the first semester of High School French I. Students begin their introduction to French by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various French-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

## **MS French 2**

Course Provider: Accelerate Education

Course Length: Two Semesters

Prerequisites: Two Semesters

Required Materials:

Description: Students continue their language-learning adventure by progressing to this next level of middle school French. The instruction is equivalent to that found in the second semester of High French I. Students expand their introduction to French through focus on four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various French-speaking countries, and take frequent

assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

## **MS German 1**

Course Provider: Accelerate Education

Course Length: Two Semesters

Prerequisites: Two Semesters

Required Materials:

Description: This fun, interactive course for middle school students is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. The instruction is equivalent to that found in the first semester of High School German I. Students begin their introduction to German by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various German-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

## **MS German 2**

Course Provider: Accelerate Education

Course Length: Two Semesters

Prerequisites: Two Semesters

Required Materials:

Description: Students continue their language-learning adventure by progressing to this next level of middle school German. The instruction is equivalent to that found in the second semester of High School German I. Students expand their introduction to German through focus on four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various German-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

## **MS Latin 1**

Course Provider: Accelerate Education

Course Length: Two Semesters

Prerequisites: Two Semesters

Required Materials:

Description: This fun, interactive course for middle school students is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. The instruction is equivalent to that found in the first semester of High School Latin I. Since mastering a classical language presents different challenges from learning a spoken world language, students learn Latin through ancient, time-honored, classical language approaches which include repetition, parsing, written composition, and listening exercises. These techniques, combined with a modern multimedia approach to learning grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, provide students with a strong foundation for learning Latin. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading comprehension activities, writing activities, multimedia culture, history, and mythology presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on engaging with authentic classical Latin through weekly encounters with ancient passages from such prestigious authors as Virgil, Ovid, and Lucretius. The curriculum concurs with the Cambridge school of Latin; therefore, students will learn ancient high classical styles of pronunciation and grammar in lieu of generally less sophisticated medieval styles, making it possible for students to comprehend the most Latin from the widest range of time periods. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, understand and analyze the cultural and historical contexts of the ancient sources they study, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

## **MS Latin 2**

Course Provider: Accelerate Education

Course Length: Two Semesters

Prerequisites: Two Semesters

Required Materials:

Description: Students continue their language-learning adventure by progressing to this next level of middle school Latin. The instruction is equivalent to that found in the second semester of High School Latin I. Since mastering a classical language presents different challenges from learning a spoken world language, students learn Latin through ancient, time-honored, classical language approaches which include repetition, parsing, written composition, and listening exercises. These techniques, combined with a modern multimedia approach to learning grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, provide students with a strong foundation for learning Latin. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading comprehension activities, writing activities, multimedia culture, history, and mythology presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on engaging with authentic classical Latin through weekly encounters with ancient passages from such prestigious authors as Virgil, Ovid, and Lucretius. The curriculum concurs with the Cambridge school of

Latin; therefore, students will learn ancient high classical styles of pronunciation and grammar in lieu of generally less sophisticated medieval styles, making it possible for students to comprehend the most Latin from the widest range of time periods. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, understand and analyze the cultural and historical contexts of the ancient sources they study, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

## **MS Spanish 1**

Course Provider: Accelerate Education

Course Length: Two Semesters

Prerequisites: Two Semesters

Required Materials:

Description: This fun, interactive course for middle school students is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. The instruction is equivalent to that found in the first semester of High School Spanish I. Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

## **MS Spanish 2**

Course Provider: Accelerate Education

Course Length: Two Semesters

Prerequisites: Two Semesters

Required Materials:

Description: Students continue their language-learning adventure by progressing to this next level of middle school Spanish. The instruction is equivalent to that found in the second semester of High Spanish I. Students expand their introduction to Spanish through focus on four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in

each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

# Electives

## MS Art Explorations

Course Provider: Accelerate Education

Course Length: One Semester

Prerequisites: One Semester

Required Materials:

Description: Introducing students to diverse areas in the arts can broaden their perspective on the arts in general. Arts Explorations encourages students to experience each of the modern arts disciplines including Visual Arts, Theatre, Music, Media Arts and Dance. Students will also be able to identify areas of special interest where they would like continued study and the ways that the arts can be a part of their career paths.

## MS Basic Drawing

Course Provider: Accelerate Education

Course Length: One Semester

Prerequisites: One Semester

Required Materials: 1 drawing pencil, 2B

1 round hair brush #10

1 bottle India Ink, black

1 Pilot Varsity Pen, self-contained black ink

2 conté crayons: white, black

1 Art gum eraser

1 white, wax Crayola crayon

40 sheets white drawing paper, 9x12

5 sheets construction paper, 9x12, black

15 sheets grey construction paper, 9x12

14 large envelopes, 10 x 13

2 sheets white watercolor paper (rough, heavy, stiff)

2 sheets rice paper 9 1/2 x12 (soft, translucent)

25 sheets newsprint, 9x12

1 bottle white glue (obtain locally)

Description: In Basic Drawing, students will experiment with several different art materials and tools to see what each tool can do best. Students will explore ordinary things around them to become more observant of the structures and meanings of things which can be seen in your their home and community.

Your work will be your own study of the forms, textures, movements, and patterns of the things that you see every day.

Each project and each lesson is based on the one before it; so always do the lessons in the order they are given. Be sure to follow the directions exactly regarding which materials, sizes, and subject matter to use for each project. Each lesson will be a study of a new way of drawing. The examples given will show only the method and materials to be used, never the same subject or size as the project assigned. The examples are never to be copied. An example will only show one way of using the technique described.

By becoming more observant, by experimenting with new materials, and by exploring a variety of methods, students will continue to grow in artistic skill and enjoyment.

Beyond fundamental skills are various levels of creativity. Each lesson provides room for expressing the technical skill learned in a unique, creative way.

## **MS Beginning Painting**

Course Provider: Accelerate Education

Course Length: One Semester

Prerequisites: One Semester

Required Materials: Chromacryl tube of acrylic paints

Round brush

Flat brush

Watercolor paints (includes brush)

Set of markers

Painting paper (The pad of paper may be labeled watercolor paper. Please use for all paintings, including acrylic.)

Newsprint paper (This paper is for sketches and testing paints. Do not use for painting projects.)

1–4b pencil

7 project cardstock pages

Description: This course introduces students to classical and contemporary painting, techniques and concepts, with emphasis on the understanding of its formal language and the fundamentals of artistic expression. Painting from still life, landscape, and life models from observation will be geared towards realism; at the same time, various other painting styles could be explored. Color theory, linear perspective, compositional structure, figure/ground relationships, visual perception, spatial concepts, and critical thinking skills will all be emphasized. Students will study and research major painting styles and movements in historical context. The hope is that students will use this global approach to develop a “critical eye” in evaluation of contemporary painting. Acrylic and watercolors are the mediums used in this class. The main emphasis of this course is to encourage and nourish individuality and creativity.

## **Health and Fitness (Middle School)**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Two parts

Prerequisites: Two parts

Required Materials:

Description: What does it mean to be healthy? What are the steps for creating or improving a healthy lifestyle? This course helps students take charge of their own well-being by providing up-to-date information about physical activity, nutrition, and overall health. Students learn the importance of setting goals, well-being, recognizing peer pressure, making good decisions, and resolving conflicts. Students learn about the benefits of exercise and physical activity, and how to avoid unhealthy behaviors. Activities are designed to help students understand nutrition, analyze food labels, and develop an appropriate exercise plan. Students learn how physical activity affects different body systems and about key exercise concepts including cross-training, overload, and flexibility. Students become more familiar with the systems of their

bodies, learn about common ailments, and examine the importance of self-esteem and emotional well-being in creating overall health.

### **Middle School Career Exploration**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Two parts

Prerequisites: Two parts

Required Materials:

Description: What career are you best suited for? In this course, students will explore career options in many different fields including business, health science, public administration, the arts, and information technology.

### **Middle School Journalism**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Two parts

Prerequisites: Two parts

Required Materials:

Description: Who? What? When? Where? In this course, students will learn how to gather information, organize ideas, format stories for different forms of news media, and edit their stories for publication.

### **Middle School Photography: Drawing with Light**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Two parts

Prerequisites: Two parts

Required Materials: A digital or film camera capable of manual aperture and shutter speed settings. If using a digital camera, software to transfer and view photos on a PC. A printer is optional. If using a film camera, students will need to purchase color and black and white film and have the film processed into digital files or prints.

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

### **MS Art History and Appreciation**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Two parts  
Prerequisites: Two parts  
Required Materials:

Description: Where do artists find their inspiration? How can you tell a Rembrandt from a Renoir? Art History and Appreciation surveys artwork and architecture from different periods in human history. Students learn how artists use their abilities to observe and interpret reality and create unique artistic styles and works. Part 1 focuses on the art and architecture in Europe, Africa, and the Americas, while Part 2 moves east to Asia and Oceania. In each part of the course, students note the development of different art movements, the variation in artistic techniques, and the influence of significant artists and designers. Lessons explain the tools, skills, and techniques artists use to create their works. Students also learn how to differentiate between art movements in significant periods of history. At the end of this course, students can recognize different artistic styles, movements, and techniques, and identify specific pieces of artwork by period and origin.

### **MS Internet Safety**

Course Provider: Edison  
Course Length: One part  
Prerequisites: One part  
Required Materials:

Description: Why take safety measures when using the Internet? What are the differences between interacting in the real world and interacting in a virtual world? In Internet Safety, students think critically about what constitutes appropriate behavior online and expand the range of their online interactions. This course begins by identifying safety precautions for online communication, sharing content responsibly, keeping accounts safe, and preventing identity theft and viruses. Students learn to identify appropriate online behavior and compare and contrast real and virtual citizenship. The course defines cyberbullying and encourages students to consider its consequences, and to report those who engage in the behavior. Lessons also include explanations of phishing, plagiarism, copyright terms, and fair use. The course ends by explaining how to recognize quality websites for research, safely use social networking sites, and buy and sell items online.

### **MS Introduction to OpenOffice Applications**

Course Provider: Edison  
Course Length: Two parts  
Prerequisites: Two parts  
Required Materials:

Description: How can a word processing program eliminate errors in writing? What are some ways to make in-class presentations more interesting and interactive? In Introduction to OpenOffice Applications, students investigate OpenOffice Writer and OpenOffice Impress, the OpenOffice.org™ word processing and presentation applications, and discover the benefits of using the OpenOffice environment. With OpenOffice Writer, students create, save, and customize Writer documents to complete class assignments and perform real-world tasks. Students learn document management, how to edit and proofread documents, and how to

change the appearance of text. By producing and managing presentations in OpenOffice Impress, students learn how to create custom templates and handouts and display data effectively. Students even learn how to add sounds, animations, and interactive elements to their presentations. After completing this course, students are prepared to use Write and Impress to complete academic assignments.

## **Music Theory and Appreciation (Middle School)**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Two parts

Prerequisites: Two parts

Required Materials:

Description: Have you ever wondered why some notes sound great together and others don't? Or how musicians translate the symbols of sheet music into the music you hear? Music theory—the study of how music works—is essential to any aspiring composer or performer. Students develop their knowledge through listening exercises, drawing and identifying notation, creating basic compositions, and analyzing music samples. In the second part of the course, students focus on music appreciation as they survey the development of music, beginning in ancient Greece and ending with modern western music. Students learn how to distinguish music from different periods and describe how music relates to its historical, cultural, and social context. By the completion of this course, students have a strong foundational understanding of music, preparing them to learn how to play an instrument or continue to more advanced music studies.

## **Pennsylvania MS Physical Education**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: Three parts

Prerequisites: Three parts

Required Materials:

Description: How does a baseball player throw a ball, and what is the role of the players who are “fielding?” Can students move like a football player, or like the athletes who play their favorite sports? What scientific forces are taking place while participating in different sports? In this unique and innovative course, students will be able to experience physical activities first hand – participating in those that enhance basic movement patterns and those that are involved in specific game play. Moving through the course, lessons will address specialized movements, methods for participation, the various components of physical fitness, concepts related to nutrition, personal and social behaviors, sport science basics, and values. Students will be encouraged to create personal fitness goals for themselves and to work toward them through the span of the course, which will enable them to develop an understanding of the value that physical activity has in their lives. Creative “Show me” and “Tell me” assessments will require video and document submissions that test student’s knowledge and understanding of the lessons, which will help them to make progress toward their current and future goals. By the close of the course, students will experience each type of movement, participate in the physical activities of their choice, and complete a fitness log that details their journey. This course will prepare students to become physically active in their upcoming years, all the way through adulthood, and will teach them to find methods that suit their personal desires while preventing harmful conditions associated with a sedentary lifestyle.

## **Problem Solving (Middle School)**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: One part

Prerequisites: One part

Required Materials:

Description: This course provides students with a fundamental overview of problem solving. Students learn George Pólya's four steps to problem solving and identify the best strategies for solving particular problems, such as determining how long it will take to save enough money for a new video-game system, how to choose the best transportation option, or what to do when the computer crashes and a term paper is due. The course also covers advanced concepts such as finding patterns and using inductive reasoning—even using algebraic techniques for solving real-world problems. After completing this course, students will have the confidence to tackle any type of problem, from a challenging math activity to losing a set of keys.

## **Study Skills (Middle School)**

Course Provider: Edison

Course Length: One part

Prerequisites: One part

Required Materials:

Description: Why are study skills important? What methods and techniques can students use to support studying, limit distractions, and prevent procrastination? The Study Skills course helps students develop a program to manage their study time, enhance concentration, and accomplish goals. Topics include identifying causes of study-related stress; techniques for relieving stress; the pros and cons of studying alone and in study groups; and improving reading comprehension, reading fluency, writing, and note-taking. The course concludes with strategies for preparing for tests and reducing test anxiety, leaving students well-prepared to meet their academic challenges.