



## **Middle School Program of Study**

Dear Kyrene Families,

The Kyrene School District has a wealth of options for your middle school students that will provide a strong foundation in core academic areas as well as expand their horizons with a wide range of special interest options, from computer science to performing arts.

The Middle School Program of Study is a guide to the courses and programs Kyrene School District offers for students in grades 6 through 8. It contains information about required courses as well as a long list of electives.

This catalog also provides information about Kyrene's Strategic Plan 2022, which serves as our roadmap for future planning, and about our Middle School Design, which is based on three pillars: Academic Excellence, Responsive Instruction, and Student Agency.

Middle school is an exciting step on the journey to future college and career choices. I encourage families to review the options in this guide together as you plan the next steps on your own academic journeys.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jan Vesely, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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President (outgoing)

**Bernadette Coggins**   **John King**  
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**Michelle Fahy**  
Member

**Michael Myrick**  
Member

**Margaret Pratt**  
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**Kevin Walsh**  
Member (incoming)

## District Leadership

**Dr. Jan Vesely**  
Superintendent

**Ms. Laura Toenjes**  
Assistant  
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**Dr. Mark Knight**  
Assistant  
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**Dr. Susie Ostmeyer**  
Chief Information and  
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**Mr. Chris Hermann**  
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Director of Curriculum  
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Director of Exceptional  
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**Mr. Josh Glider**  
Director of Community  
Education

**Mr. Damian Nichols**  
Director of Information  
Technology

## Equal Educational Opportunities (See Policy & Regulation AC/AC-R and JB/JB-R)

The district provides all students the opportunity to obtain an education. This includes, by law, free admission to the school up to the age of 16 or completion of the tenth grade. No student can be prevented from participating in any program solely in relation to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression. Students have the right to equal educational opportunity without interference from other students and people who do not belong on the campus.

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## District and Background Information

### Kyrene School District Vision Statement

All students achieve at their maximum potential to become problem-solvers, creators, and visionaries of tomorrow.

### Kyrene School District Mission Statement

The Kyrene School District will commit to student success for all, by providing engaging and challenging educational environments that promote and inspire passion for learning, leading, and achieving transformative life outcomes.

### Kyrene School District Core Values

It's all about... **K-Kids**.

#### Kyrene

**Kids.** All students are at the center of our work.

**Integrity.** We consistently use honesty and respect to support the well-being of our students and staff.

**Dedication.** We are committed to fostering a culture of collaboration, accountability, and communication to achieve our shared vision and mission.

**Strength.** We pride ourselves in creating and maintaining strong, engaging, and compassionate relationships amongst students, staff and community.

### District Strategic Plan and Connection to Program of Study

The District's Strategic Plan serves as a roadmap for achieving our vision where all students in Kyrene achieve at their maximum potential to become problem-solvers, creators, and visionaries of tomorrow. Goals and targeted measures drive the work of the district and focus efforts toward accomplishing our vision and mission. The relationship between expectation and results creates influence throughout our schools, relying on contributions across our community and organization so shared focus is on doing the right things and doing them well.

The development and implementation of a program of study plan falls primarily under the goal of High Performing Students but also has touchpoints in each of the other goal areas.

#### HIGH PERFORMING STUDENTS

Prepare all students to achieve their full potential in school and life by providing a dynamic learning environment that maximizes student growth and performance.

#### HIGH QUALITY TALENT

Attract and retain high quality teachers, administrators, and education support professionals.

#### INCLUSIVE CULTURE

Promote an inclusive culture of respect, high expectations, collaboration, and shared accountability for student success.

#### RESPONSIVE ORGANIZATION

Optimize district-wide systems to create an effective, agile, safe, and responsive organization.

#### COLLECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Commit to collective governance by creating the conditions and providing the necessary resources for student success.



## Introduction to the Program of Study

The Kyrene School District Middle School Program of Study is designed to give students and their families information that will help them make appropriate selections from the variety of course offerings in our middle schools. Each course is described and prerequisites are listed so that students will know which course selections are most appropriate for them. The handbook also provides program information including the tenants of middle school design, models of instruction, assessment, enrichments and supports, and descriptions of special programs and extracurricular activities at middle schools.

Students in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades are experiencing a critical period of development. They require unique educational and social experiences. During this period of sensitivity, they are confronted with increasing their knowledge of the world around them and learning to work with others while trying to become independent. The middle school program is designed to meet the individual needs of young adolescents.

It is essential for each student to better understand himself/herself. Students must learn to accept individual differences and respect each other. The Kyrene School District Middle School Program offers positive learning experiences and effective guidance for the academic, social, emotional, and physical development of each student. Student-centered programs and activities provide a bridge from elementary school to high school.

The Kyrene School District Middle School Program provides a wide range of core academic courses and electives. The core classes in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies are aligned to state and national standards and provide the foundation for student success at the high school level. Advanced courses and high school credit options are available as well as courses for students needing additional academic support. The variety of elective options allows students to explore various subjects so they can determine areas of interest for future study. Teachers and administrators strive to balance academic goals with adolescent needs. Students are scheduled with different teachers and in different rooms for each subject. Each student takes four core courses and two elective courses each year. Kyrene Middle School is an International Baccalaureate MYP Program School and requires World Languages as a core course for all students. Students at Kyrene Middle School take five core classes and two electives per year.

Collectively, we share the responsibility of making sure students receive the best possible education. The goal is to provide all students with a good foundation in the academic core, an interest in other subjects, and a positive attitude toward learning.

## Middle School Design

Kyrene recently engaged principals, teachers, students, families and community members in creating a vision for the future of Kyrene’s middle schools and crafting a plan to make the vision our reality. Together, they completed a redesign of the middle school program with the objective of increasing achievement, to provide learning opportunities and support for all students, to continue the tradition of excellence in Kyrene and to encourage families in our community to choose Kyrene schools.

Research shows that high performing and high achieving middle schools focus their efforts on key areas - academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equality - as well as organizational structures and processes that support excellence.



### Focus on Academic Excellence

The Kyrene School District has a reputation for excellence in education for over 125 years. The Middle School Design expands opportunities for advanced and innovative courses across the district incorporating real-world, integrated, and project-based learning. Examples could include but are not limited to: STEAM courses (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics, and design), humanities integration, and additional world languages. The design project will create middle school opportunities for choice programs (i.e. dual-language, traditional academy, and leadership).

### Focus on Responsive Instruction and Support

Another component of the Middle School Design is a multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) that is responsive to the academic and non-academic needs of all students including students who are academically advanced, students needing some academic or non-academic support, students with disabilities and special needs, and English language learners. MTSS guides both the provision of high-quality core educational experiences in a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and academic and/or non-academic targeted supports for students who have already demonstrated mastery and flexibly for students who may experience difficulties. MTSS systems include (a) promotion of wellness and prevention; (b) universal screening for academic, behavioral, and emotional barriers to learning; (c) implementation of evidence-based interventions that increase in intensity as needed; and (d) monitoring of ongoing student progress in response to instruction and implemented interventions.

## Focus on Student Agency

A final component of the Middle School Design is to increase student agency. Agency is the capacity and propensity to take purposeful initiative. Young people with high levels of agency do not respond passively to their circumstances; they tend to seek meaning and act with purpose to achieve the conditions they desire in their own and others' lives. The development of agency is an important outcome of schooling in addition to the skills measured by standardized testing. The Middle School Design will identify strategies to develop student agency through habits of mind, organizational strategies, mentorship, service learning, social justice, digital citizenship, and extracurricular activities.

In addition to student agency programs at each middle school, Kyrene School District has adopted additional resources to support social and emotional learning. Each middle school supports students' social and emotional learning through the use of Second Step. Second Step is a social and emotional learning curriculum that promotes the social-emotional development, safety, and well-being of children through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. All middle schools are also implementing the Signs of Suicide (SOS) curriculum. The SOS curriculum provides students with the tools to acknowledge when a peer expresses thoughts of suicide, to demonstrate care for the peer, and to tell a trusted adult.

## Instructional Model

Instructional delivery of curriculum by Kyrene teachers is built around a mastery learning and a set of research-based instructional strategies. The structure is based upon the concept of continuous progress toward mastery and the need to differentiate instruction for each student based on data. Mastery learning does not dictate either a direct instruction or inquiry-based approach to instruction; instead, it focuses on student mastery of standards.

Mastery Learning includes the following components to ensure all students achieve their maximum potential by providing challenging and engaging curriculum and instruction.

- A guaranteed and viable curriculum that builds and spirals skills and knowledge from kindergarten through grade 8.
- Units of study based upon standards, district curriculum guides, and adopted curriculum resources.
- Activities aligned to standards/objectives and anchored to the appropriate student instructional level.
- Aligned lessons using research-based teaching practices.
- Formative assessments to determine if students have mastered standards and objectives or need corrective instruction, intensive intervention, or extension/enrichment.
- Ongoing use of student data for instructional decision-making.

Elements of instruction are the critical attributes of effective teaching. Any program or model of instruction is only successful to the degree of the implementation of the elements. Researchers like Madeline Hunter (1982), Art Costa (2009), Robert Marzano (2003), Robert Bybee (2006), and most recently John Hattie (2011) have clearly demonstrated the positive impact of teacher decisions on student learning in terms of measurable achievement gains.

## Direct Instruction

Direct instruction is a model for teaching that emphasizes well-developed and carefully planned lessons designed around small learning increments and clearly defined and prescribed teaching tasks. Direct instruction is the use of straightforward, explicit teaching techniques, combined with student practice and feedback to teach concepts, skills, and application.

Elements of Direct Instruction	Description
Learning Goals and Lesson Targets	A clear, concise description of what will be learned and how it will be assessed.
Anticipatory Set	Explains purpose or relevance; captures student interest in the lesson.
Teach and Model	A demonstration or explanation of a single brief step, procedure or operation.
Guided Practice	Students' immediately imitating or practicing each small, manageable step as teacher observes.
Check for Understanding	Quick observation/assessment of each small step of lesson during and after each guided practice.
Adjust Instruction	Adjustments to teaching made on the basis of feedback received from each "check for understanding".
Closure	Students consolidate the learning from the lesson.
Independent Learning/Assessment	Students' independently practicing/completing assessment to demonstrate mastery of learning objective.

## Inquiry-Based Instruction

Inquiry-based learning is an approach to teaching and learning that places students' questions, ideas and observations at the center of the learning experience. The 5E model sequences learning experiences so that students have the opportunity to construct their understanding of a concept over time. The model leads students through five phases of learning that are easily described using words that begin with the letter E: Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate.

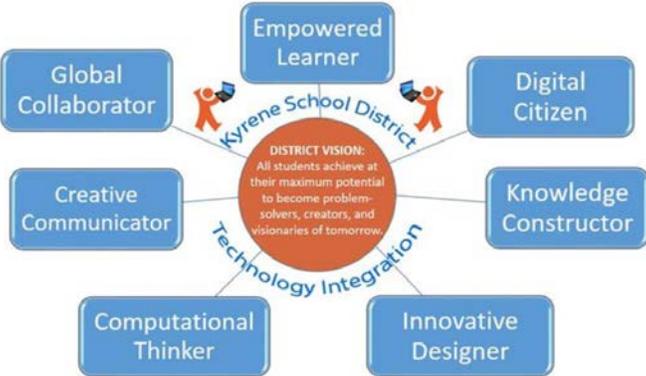


Elements of Inquiry	Description
Engage	Provides the opportunity for teachers to find out what students already know or think they know about the topic and concepts to be developed.
Explore	Provides a common set of experiences within which students can begin to construct their understanding.
Explain	Provides opportunities for students to connect their previous experiences with current learning and to make conceptual sense of the main ideas of the module.

Elaborate	Provides opportunities for students to apply or extend previously introduced concepts and experiences to new situations.
Evaluate	Provides a summative assessment of what students know and can do.

**Technology Integration**

The Kyrene School District strives to utilize technology tools and resources to provide our students with meaningful and engaging learning experiences. Technology is rarely the focus of instruction, rather it is a tool that is used to access, gather, and create information; organize and analyze information, and communicate ideas. Through the effective implementation of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Technology Standards for students and teachers, we can ensure that all of our students will reach the district vision.



To achieve this outcome, instructional technology has defined student, teacher, and administrator goals with corresponding strategies, timelines and resources in the Kyrene School District Technology Plan. The level of technology integration in classrooms will be measured through the use of the Arizona Technology Integration Matrix (TIM) or SAMR model. The use of these tools allow us to examine ways in which technology is being integrated, provide a model of how technology can be integrated throughout instruction in meaningful ways, and move from use of technology to enhance instruction to use of technology to transform instruction.

## Middle School Programs

The Kyrene School District features special programs at different schools for student choice and interest. The table shows the programs available at each school followed by brief descriptions of each.

Program	Akimel A-al	Altadeña	Aprende	Centennial	KMS	Pueblo	KTA (K-8)
Arts Integration						X	
AVID	X		X	X			X
Community Education Programming	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dual Language					X		
Electives	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Exceptional Student Services (Special Education)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Extracurricular Activities (Athletics and Clubs)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gifted	X	X	X	X	X Prep	X	X
IB - International Baccalaureate Candidate					X		
JAG Academy			X				
Leader in Me		X				X	
Traditional Academy							X
WEB	X	X	X	X	X	X	

## Arts Integration

Arts Integration is an approach to teaching in which students construct and demonstrate understanding through an art form. Students engage in a creative process which connects an art form and another subject area and meets objectives in both. The arts are essential to providing students with the means to think, feel, and understand the world around them. Students learn there are multiple ways to understand math, science and reading. These are skills for lifetime success.

## AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

AVID is a school-based system and an elective course designed to prepare self-determined students for college and career. AVID incorporates school-wide instructional strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support academic growth of all students. Students are selected to participate in the AVID Elective based on academic performance, behavior and attendance records, and commitment to AVID expectations. The AVID Elective course builds students' study skills, such as note-taking, organizational skills, and goal-setting strategies. Another critical component of the AVID Elective are tutorials, where students collaborate with their peers under the direction of college and adult mentors twice per week to support them in their academic coursework. Students also experience different field trips, guest speakers and research to increase their knowledge of college and career options.

## Community Education

Community Education Services offers a variety of outside the school day programs during the school year and over the summer. Some programs offered during the school year include Kyrene After Hours, Youth Enrichment, Battle of the Books, and Night Owls. After Hours provides age-appropriate experiences and activities for middle school students before and after school and features weekly on-site events, an Intramurals program, and a Leadership Council. Youth Enrichment classes, offered before and after school, focus on Fine Arts, STEM and Physical Education. Night Owls is a Friday Night Fun program to provide a safe and fun experience for students in a supervised setting at local events and venues and is offered at multiple middle schools.

## Dual Language Program

The innovative Dual Language program provides K-8 students with literacy and content in both English and Spanish. Students have the opportunity to reach a high level of proficiency; a 21st century skill that allows students be successful in our global community. Students benefit both socially and cognitively; develop greater non-verbal problem solving abilities; and more flexible thinking. In middle school, dual language students spend three periods a day immersed in Spanish (Spanish Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies). Students receive explicit instruction for Spanish writing, grammar, and oral language development allowing them to earn placement into advanced high school world language courses as well as confer the Seal of Biliteracy.

## Electives

All Kyrene Middle Schools offer a wide variety of elective courses. This includes courses in Performing Arts, Visual Arts, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), Leadership and Academic Support, Physical Education, and World Languages. Schools offer courses based upon student interest so not every course is offered at every school. Courses which are offered at each school is outlined in the course catalog.

## Exceptional Student Services (Special Education)

Students with disabilities with an Individual Education Program (IEP) receive Special Education services. Special Education services can be provided directly in the general education classroom through a co-teaching model where general education teachers and special education teachers co-teach core content courses. Students may also receive special education services in a resource or cross-categorical classroom. Core content class placement decisions for students with disabilities are based on student need and are Individual Education Program (IEP) team decisions.

## Extracurricular Activities (Athletics and Clubs)

Each Kyrene Middle School offers students opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities such as National Junior Honor Society, yearbook, band, theatre, science/STEM, or debate. Extracurricular activities are school specific and based upon student interest. Kyrene Middle Schools (including Kyrene Traditional Academy) offer both “cut” and “non-cut” sports for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Cut sports include: soccer, basketball, volleyball, cheer, softball, and baseball. The non-cut athletic opportunities include cross country, wrestling, and track and field. Each year, over 3,000 middle school students from the Tempe, Chandler, and Phoenix area participate in the Kyrene Athletic Program. The Kyrene Athletic Program provides a positive, high-quality, after-school sports program that emphasizes participation, teamwork, skill development, and sportsmanship.

## Gifted Program

GATE coursework is available in all four core areas (ELA, Science, Social Studies, and Math) and there are opportunities for HS credit in mathematics. GATE courses are taught by a content specialist in the area of study who has received specialized training to address the needs of gifted learners. GATE courses are designed to meet the needs of gifted learners in four domains: challenge, complexity, choice and control. Specially trained, caring teachers understand differentiation and provide social emotional supports. GATE teachers will employ advanced instructional strategies, higher depth of knowledge, differentiation in product and process, and flexible grouping as well as interest surveys, independent projects, and learning menus.

## International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program

The aim of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB MYP) is to develop internationally minded students. The curriculum is a mix of direct instruction, individual and group learning activities, class discussions, hands-on investigations, individual practice, and highly participatory learning environments. IB MYP students develop an understanding of themselves and their world around them

through the exploration of global contexts: identities and relationships, personal and cultural identity, orientations in space and time, scientific and technical innovation, fairness and development, as well as globalization and sustainability. There is also a significant focus on interdisciplinary learning, developing student learner profiles, and participation in service learning activities.

## JAG Academy

The Jaguar Academy is designed around three important features: creative thinking and problem solving, an engaging and collaborative curriculum, and integration of technology. The JAG Academy is a cohort of 60 students who remain in their cohort for core classes in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Students receive their core curriculum in an integrated block format: Humanities (English Language Arts and Social Studies) and STEM (Science and Math). Each block is approximately two hours in length and is taught by a single teacher. There are two JAG Academy teachers in each grade level. Instruction is integrated, rigorous, and collaborative. Students regularly engage in inquiry based problem solving and often work in collaborative groups.

## Leader in Me

The Franklin Covey *Leader in Me* is a whole-school transformation model and process that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century. It is based on principles and practices of personal, interpersonal, and organizational effectiveness. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* is also a key component of the overall *Leader in Me* process. Students engage in personal and academic goal setting and monitor these goals to become the problem-solvers, creators and visionaries of tomorrow.

## Kyrene Traditional Academy

KTA is Kyrene's only "traditional model" school and K-8 campus. KTA is a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence (2015). Kyrene's hallmark of child-centered education is incorporated with the core concepts of "traditional". A Kyrene traditional education embraces:

- A structured, disciplined environment where students engage in learning through rigor and inquiry, and a study of classic literature and language.
- Students in grades K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade utilize the Kyrene curriculum along with Spalding Reading and Saxon Math, taught as prescribed in program manuals. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades engage in formal instruction in debate, Socratic seminar, and research-focused writing.
- During direct, whole-group instruction, students are seated in rows facing the front of the room. Other instructional times will allow for more flexibility in grouping and delivery mode, as appropriate for the lesson.
- Homework for all grades is four nights per week with an expectation for family review and follow-up.
- Students engage in civic learning and community service projects across all grades.
- KTA has a prescribed dress code and strong expectation of direct family involvement in their child's education.

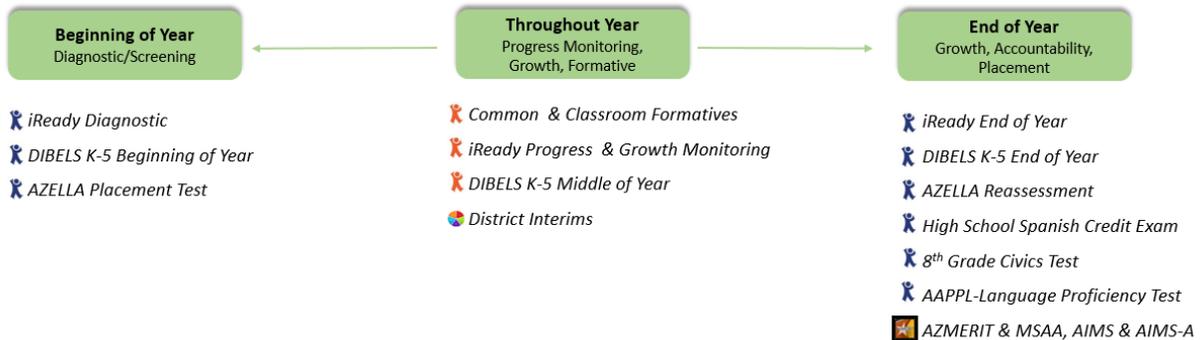
## WEB (Where Everyone Belongs)

The WEB program provides eighth grade students with leadership development training so they can serve as mentors and role models to incoming sixth graders and ensure their first experiences in middle school are successful. WEB strives to improve attendance, increase motivation, develop problem solving skills, foster emotional balance and raise academic performance for incoming sixth graders.

## Kyrene System of Assessments

Kyrene School District System of Assessments establishes appropriate measures for determining the effectiveness of curricular design and instructional programming at district, school, and classroom levels. Assessments serve to provide data used to drive decisions at all levels, ensure that students are recipients of instruction anchored in a guaranteed curriculum based upon state standards, and ensure that students are recipients of instruction of a viable curriculum taught in alignment with the district's scope and sequence. Summative assessment components will focus on assessment of learning; formative and interim assessment components will focus on assessment for learning. The system is designed to be comprehensive and inclusive, allowing for the valid assessment of all students.

Kyrene's System of Assessments include a variety of assessment instruments including diagnostic, formative, progress/growth monitoring, interims, and summative assessments. The graphic illustrates the types of assessments administered at different times of the year.



## Assessment Schedule

The table identifies the assessments that are administered district-wide at the middle grades. These assessments are administered on an annual basis, with some occurring multiple times during the year to support progress monitoring.

Test Window	Assessment	Subject & Description	Grades	Format
September	District Interim 1	Math & English Language Arts <i>KSD Interims measure student progress towards grade level/course standards as identified by mastery expectations at the time of testing.</i>	K-8	Online
October	AAPPL Dual Language Test	Language Proficiency <i>The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages are administered to students participating in Dual Language program and identifies their level of performance towards proficiency in Spanish.</i>	3-7 Dual language only	Online
November	State Civics Test	Civics <i>The High School Civics test mandated in Arizona is given to Kyrene 8th grade students.</i>	8	Online
December	District Interim 2	Math & English Language Arts <i>KSD Interims measure student progress towards grade level/course standards as identified by mastery expectations at the time of testing.</i>	K-8	Online
February	District Interim 3	Math & English Language Arts <i>KSD Interims measure student progress towards grade level/course standards as identified by mastery expectations at the time of testing.</i>	K-8	Online
February - March	State AZELLA English Proficiency Test	English Language Proficiency <i>The Arizona English Language Learner Assessment is an English proficiency assessment for students identified as English Language Learners.</i>	K-8 ELL only	Online
March	AAPPL Dual Language Test	Language Proficiency <i>The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages are administered to students participating in Dual Language program and identifies their level of performance towards proficiency in Spanish.</i>	3-8 Dual language only	Online
March - April	AIMS and AIMS-A State Science Test	Science <i>Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards is the state assessment that measures students' proficiency in grade level science. Students eligible for alternate assessments participate in AIMS-A.</i>	4 & 8	Online
April	AzMERIT & MSA State ELA and Math Test	Math & English Language Arts <i>Arizona Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching is the state assessment to measure student understanding and level of proficiency of State Math &amp; ELA Standards including writing. Students eligible for alternate assessments participate in Multi-State Alternate Assessment.</i>	3-8	Online
May	State Civics Test	Civics <i>The High School Civics test mandated in Arizona is given to Kyrene 8th grade students.</i>	8	Online
May	HS Spanish Credit Test	Language - Spanish <i>The TUHSD High School Spanish Exam assesses performance in Spanish for students enrolled in Spanish 1-2. The exam is required for high school Spanish 1-2 course credit as outlined by the Tri-District agreement.</i>	8	Paper

## Grading Policies

During middle school, students continue to build their knowledge and skills for success in not only high school but for college and/or career. Reporting of progress is standards-based in grades K-3, blended reporting in grades 4-5 (standards-based and letter grade in core subjects), and letter grades in grades 6-8 to align with high school expectations. Teachers provide specific information regarding their course expectations, assignments, and assessments within the following guidelines. Families and students are encouraged to regularly check ParentVue for information on student progress.

Weighting - Grades are weighted as follows:

- 80% on assessments
- 20% on classwork/homework

The Grading Scale is:

- A = 90 – 100%
- B = 80 - 89%
- C = 70 – 79%
- D = 60 – 69%
- F = 59% and below

## Middle School Course Catalog

Kyrene offers a continuum of courses to address learning needs of students. GATE coursework is available in all four core areas (ELA, Science, Social Studies, and Math) and there are opportunities for HS credit in mathematics.

Placement guidance is provided for students in transition between elementary and middle schools. Criteria is based in multiple measures including multiple years of AzMERIT scores, prior course grades, areas of giftedness, teacher recommendation, and other available data. While no criteria is all inclusive, students with specific characteristics are likely to demonstrate success in advanced courses. Course placements in grades 7 and 8 typically follow the program of study established in grade 6.

NOTE: Students meeting specific placement criteria may be recommended for higher grade level advanced mathematics courses in Grade 6 and will have the possibility of completing both Algebra 1 and Geometry in middle school. Students must demonstrate basic competencies for concepts in the courses that will be skipped.

Full criteria can be reviewed at <https://www.kyrene.org/advplacement>.

The course catalog is designed to give students and their families information that will help them make appropriate selections from the variety of course offerings in our middle schools. Course descriptions are organized by subject and include details about the course, prerequisites for the course, and which schools offer which courses. Priority is given for placement in year-long elective offerings. The selection of semester-long elective options is an indication of a student's interests. Every effort will be made to honor selections, however due to class size and teacher availability there can be no guarantee that every course will be offered or that the student will be placed in their requested classes.

Core Course Sequence for Grades 6-8

	ELA Course Sequence for Grades 6-8			High School* Grade 9
	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	
Grade Level Sequence	ELA 6	ELA 7	ELA 8	Freshman English
GATE Sequence	GATE ELA 6	GATE ELA 7	GATE ELA 8	Honors Freshman English
	Math Course Sequence for Grades 6-8			High School* Grade 9
	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	
Grade Level Sequence	Math 6	Math 7	Math 8	Algebra 1
Accelerated Sequence 1 <i>Students in grades 4 &amp; 5 take compact math</i>	Math 7	Math 8	Algebra 1	Honors Geometry
Accelerated Sequence 2 <i>Students in grades 4 &amp; 5 take compact math</i>	Math 8	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2
	Science Course Sequence for Grades 6-8			High School* Grade 9
	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	
Grade Level Sequence	Science 6	Science 7	Science 8	Chemistry/Physics
GATE Sequence	GATE Science 6	GATE Science 7	GATE Science 8	Honors Chemistry/Physics
	Social Studies Course Sequence for Grades 6-8			High School* Grade 9
	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	
Grade Level Sequence	Social Studies 6	Social Studies 7	Social Studies 8	World History/Geography
GATE Sequence	GATE SS 6	GATE SS 7	GATE SS 8	Honors World History/Geography

\*Outlines typical course selection for freshman year of high school.

**SCHOOL KEY**

AKI = Akimel A-aI, ALT = Altadeña, APR = Aprende, CEN = Centennial, KYR = Kyrene Middle School, KTA = Kyrene Traditional Academy, PUE = Pueblo

## Core Content Courses

### English Language Arts

#### **Language Arts 6**

Grade: 6

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Language Arts 6 addresses reading literature and informational text, writing, speaking and listening skills, and language concepts (conventions and vocabulary). Students will interact with increasingly complex texts, build knowledge through content-rich texts, and engage in evidence-based reading and writing. Texts read will vary in length and genre, but will be unified by a real-world topic on which students will read, research, write and present. Students will have multiple opportunities to engage in discussion about the topic of study in order to develop critical thinking skills. Themes may include but are not limited to childhood, human/animal Interaction, imagination, and exploration.

#### **Language Arts 7**

Grade: 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Language Arts 7 addresses reading literature and informational text, writing, speaking and listening skills, and language concepts (conventions and vocabulary). Students will interact with increasingly complex texts, build knowledge through content-rich texts, and engage in evidence-based reading and writing. Texts read will vary in length and genre, but will be unified by a real-world topic on which students will read, research, write and present. Students will have multiple opportunities to engage in discussion about the topic of study in order to develop critical thinking skills. Themes may include but are not limited to space exploration, turning points, people and the planet, facing adversity.

#### **Language Arts 8**

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Language Arts 8 addresses reading literature and informational text, writing, speaking and listening skills, and language concepts (conventions and vocabulary). Students will interact with increasingly complex texts, build knowledge through content-rich texts, and engage in evidence-based reading and writing. Texts read will vary in length and genre, but will be unified by a real-world topic on which students will read, research, write and present. Students will have multiple opportunities to engage in discussion about the topic of study in order to develop critical thinking skills. Themes may include but are not limited to rites of passage, Holocaust, taking a stand, and human intelligence.

#### **GATE Language Arts 6**

Grade: 6

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: placement criteria

Schools: ALL

GATE Language Arts 6 addresses reading literature and informational text, writing, speaking and listening skills, and language concepts (conventions and vocabulary). Inquiry based instruction provides challenge and complexity to gifted and advanced students. Gifted and advanced students benefit from differentiated teaching strategies to compliment the depth and breadth of their thinking. Opportunities to produce different products and processes based on student choice are embedded. GATE students will interact with increasingly complex texts, build knowledge through content-rich texts, and engage in evidence-based reading and writing. Texts read will vary in length and genre but will be unified by a real-world topic on which students will read, research, write and present. Students will have multiple opportunities to engage in discussion about the topic of study in order to develop critical thinking skills. Themes may include but are not limited to childhood, human/animal Interaction, imagination, and exploration.

**GATE Language Arts 7**

Grade: 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: GATE LA 6 or equivalent

Schools: ALL

GATE Language Arts 7 addresses reading literature and informational text, writing, speaking and listening skills, and language concepts (conventions and vocabulary). Inquiry based instruction provides challenge and complexity to gifted and advanced students. Gifted and advanced students benefit from differentiated teaching strategies to compliment the depth and breadth of their thinking. Opportunities to produce different products and processes based on student choice are embedded. GATE students will interact with increasingly complex texts, build knowledge through content-rich texts, and engage in evidence-based reading and writing. Texts read will vary in length and genre but will be unified by a real-world topic on which students will read, research, write and present. Students will have multiple opportunities to engage in discussion about the topic of study in order to develop critical thinking skills. Themes may include but are not limited to space exploration, turning points, people and the planet, and facing adversity.

**GATE Language Arts 8**

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: GATE LA 7 or equivalent

Schools: ALL

GATE Language Arts 8 addresses reading literature and informational text, writing, speaking and listening skills, and language concepts (conventions and vocabulary). Inquiry based instruction provides challenge and complexity to gifted and advanced students. Gifted and advanced students benefit from differentiated teaching strategies to compliment the depth and breadth of their thinking. Opportunities to produce different products and processes based on student choice are embedded. GATE students will interact with increasingly complex texts, build knowledge through content-rich texts, and engage in evidence-based reading and writing. Texts read will vary in length and genre but will be unified by a real-world topic on which students will read, research, write and present. Students will have multiple opportunities to engage in discussion about the topic of study in order to develop critical thinking skills. Themes may include but are not limited to rites of passage, Holocaust, taking a stand, and human intelligence.

**Mathematics****Math 6**

Grade: 6

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Math 6 investigates topics in ratio & proportions, expressions & equations, the number system, geometry, and statistics and probability. In addition to the mathematical content domains, there are eight standards for mathematical practice. The standards for mathematical practice apply throughout the course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. In Math 6, students will focus on three critical and two supporting content areas. Critical content areas are designated by the arrow shaped bullets.

- Develop understanding of ratio and rate and use multiplicative reasoning to solve ratio and rate problems.
- Develop competency of division of whole numbers and fractions and extend the notion of number to the system of rational numbers.
- Develop understanding of expressions, equations and inequalities.
- Develop understanding of statistical thinking.
- Reason about relationships among shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume.

**Math 7**

Grade: 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Math 7 investigates topics in ratio & proportions, expressions & equations, the number system, geometry, and statistics and probability. In addition to the mathematical content domains, there are eight standards for mathematical practice. The standards for mathematical practice apply throughout the course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. In Math 7, students will focus on two critical and two supporting content areas. Critical content areas are designated by the arrow shaped bullets.

- Develop understanding of proportional relationships.
- Develop understanding of operations with rational numbers and work with expressions, inequalities, and linear equations.
- 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.
- Drawing inferences about populations based on samples

**Math 8**

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Math 8 investigates topics in ratio & proportions, expressions & equations, the number system, geometry, and statistics and probability. In addition to the mathematical content domains, there are eight standards for mathematical practice. The standards for mathematical practice apply throughout the course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. In Math 8, students will focus on four critical content areas. Critical content areas are designated by the arrow shaped bullets.

- Develop understanding of expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations.
- Develop understanding of the concept of a function and use functions to describe quantitative relationships.
- Analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.
- Develop understanding of irrational numbers.

**Compact Math 6/7a**

Grade: 6

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: placement criteria

Schools: ALL

Compact Math 6/7a is an accelerated course that investigates topics in ratio & proportions, expressions & equations, the number system, geometry, and statistics and probability. In addition to the mathematical content domains, there are eight standards for mathematical practice. The standards for mathematical practice apply throughout the course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. In Compact Math 6/7a, students will focus on all critical areas from Grade 6 and two critical areas from Grade 7 as well as supporting content from both grade levels. Critical content areas are designated by the arrow shaped bullets.

- Develop understanding of ratio and rate and use multiplicative reasoning to solve ratio and rate problems. (Grade 6)

- Develop competency of division of whole numbers and fractions and extend the notion of number to the system of rational numbers. (Grade 6)
- Develop understanding of expressions, equations and inequalities. (Grade 6)
- Develop understanding of proportional relationships. (Grade 7)
- Develop understanding of addition & subtraction with rational numbers. (Grade 7)
- Develop understanding of statistical thinking. (Grade 6)
- Reason about relationships among shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume. (Grade 6)
- 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. (Grade 7)
- Drawing inferences about populations based on samples. (Grade 7)

### **Compact Math 7b/8**

Grade: 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Compact Math 6/7a or equivalent

Schools: ALL

Compact Math 7b/8 is an accelerated course that investigates topics in ratio & proportions, expressions & equations, the number system, geometry, and statistics and probability. In addition to the mathematical content domains, there are eight standards for mathematical practice. The standards for mathematical practice apply throughout the course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. In Compact Math 7b/8, students will focus on two critical areas from Grade 7 and all four critical areas from Grade 8 as well as supporting content. Critical content areas are designated by the arrow shaped bullets.

- Develop understanding of operations with rational numbers and work with expressions, inequalities, and linear equations. (Grade 7)
- Develop understanding of expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations. (Grade 8)
- Develop understanding of the concept of a function and use functions to describe quantitative relationships. (Grade 8)
- Analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. (Grade 8)
- Develop understanding of irrational numbers. (Grade 8)
- Investigating chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models. (Grade 7)
- Developing understanding of construction of angles, and writing and solving multi-step equations involving angle relationships. (Grade 7)

### **Algebra 1**

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Compact Math 7b/8 or equivalent

Schools: ALL

**NOTE:** This Kyrene course aligns to the Algebra I high school math standards. Students may earn high school credit upon completing the course sequence and meeting the requirements outlined in the Kyrene School District/Tempe Union High School District Articulated Agreement.

Algebra 1/2 is a high school course that investigates topics in number & quantity, algebra, functions, and statistics and probability. In addition to the mathematical content domains, there are eight standards for mathematical practice. The standards for mathematical practice apply throughout the course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent,

useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. In Algebra 1/2, students will focus on three critical areas. Critical content areas are designated by the arrow shaped bullets.

- Deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships.
- Engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions.
- Apply linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend.

### **Honors Geometry**

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Algebra 1/2

Schools: based on enrollment

**NOTE:** This Kyrene course aligns to the Geometry high school math standards. Students may earn high school credit upon completing the course sequence and meeting the requirements outlined in the Kyrene School District/Tempe Union High School District Articulated Agreement.

Honors Geometry is a high school course that investigates topics in number & quantity and geometry. In addition to the mathematical content domains, there are eight standards for mathematical practice. The standards for mathematical practice apply throughout the course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. In Honors Geometry, students will focus on five critical areas. Critical content areas are designated by the arrow shaped bullets.

- Establishing criteria for congruence of geometric figures based on rigid motions.
- Establishing criteria for similarity of geometric figures based on dilations and proportional reasoning.
- Develop understanding of informal explanations of circumference, area, and volume formulas.
- Proving geometric theorems.
- Solve problems involving right triangles.

## Science

### **Science 6**

Grade: 6

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Science 6 covers topics in life, physical, and earth/space sciences using an inquiry-based approach to learning with emphasis on planning and conducting controlled investigations with safe behavior and appropriate procedures. Topics of study will include energy, water, weather/atmosphere, and plant/human biology. Students will expand their understanding of the relationship between structures and functions of organisms which include plants and systems of the human body. Students will explore the transfer of energy in physical science and examine renewable and non-renewable energy technologies. The properties and composition of our atmosphere, lakes, rivers, and oceans are studied to better understand how systems interact to impact the water cycle, weather, climate, and our communities. 21<sup>st</sup> century skills including communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving are incorporated in the curriculum.

### **Science 7**

Grade: 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Science 7 covers topics in life and earth/space sciences using an inquiry-based approach to learning with emphasis on planning and conducting controlled investigations with safe behavior and appropriate procedures. Interactions between human populations, natural hazards, and the environment are explored and examined. Students will have an understanding of the composition, formative processes,

and history of the earth, the solar system and the universe. Analyzing and proposing possible solutions that address environmental risks and benefits of human interactions with biological and geological systems are integrated throughout the curriculum. 21<sup>st</sup> century skills including communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving are incorporated in the curriculum.

### **Science 8**

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Science 8 covers topics in life and physical sciences using an inquiry-based approach to learning with emphasis on planning and conducting controlled investigations with safe behavior and procedures. Life science includes the basic principles of cell reproduction, DNA, and heredity. With a focus on understanding how organisms change over time, students will explore biological adaptations and how an organism's behavior allows it to survive. Symbiotic relationships within an ecosystem are compared and analyzed. Physical science explores the properties of matter and their physical properties such as density, boiling points, melting points, and solubility. Students will also identify and classify different types of matter based on chemical properties such as pH and reactivity. 8<sup>th</sup> grade science is also an introduction to physics with an understanding of the relationship between force and motion using Newton's Laws of Motion. 21<sup>st</sup> century skills including communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving are incorporated in the curriculum.

### **GATE Science 6**

Grade: 6

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: placement criteria

Schools: ALL

GATE Science 6 covers topics in life, physical, and earth/space sciences using an inquiry-based approach to learning with emphasis on planning and conducting controlled investigations with safe behavior and appropriate procedures. Topics of study will include energy, water, weather/atmosphere, and plant/human biology. Students will expand their understanding of the relationship between structures and functions of organisms which include plants and systems of the human body. Students will explore the transfer of energy in physical science and examine renewable and non-renewable energy technologies. The properties and composition of our atmosphere, lakes, rivers, and oceans are studied to better understand how systems interact to impact the water cycle, weather, climate, and our communities. Gifted and talented students benefit from differentiated teaching strategies to compliment the depth and breadth of their thinking. The GATE Science 6 program of study is based on the National Gifted Education Standards and the Arizona State Science Standards. Gifted and talented students benefit from differentiated teaching strategies to compliment the depth and breadth of their thinking. The sixth grade GATE Science class investigates real-world situations through inquiry. This process provides challenge and complexity to gifted and talented students. Students will use content-rich evidence-based readings, student discussions/debates, and hands-on investigations to explore and critically analyze the specified topics of study. Students in the GATE program will apply their content knowledge to design possible solutions to real-world problems related to the science content areas.

### **GATE Science 7**

Grade: 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: placement criteria

Schools: ALL

GATE Science 7 covers topics in life and earth/space sciences using an inquiry-based approach to learning with emphasis on planning and conducting controlled investigations with safe behavior and appropriate procedures. Interactions between human populations, natural hazards, and the environment are explored and examined. Students will have an understanding of the composition, formative processes, and history of the earth, the solar system and the universe. Analyzing and proposing possible solutions that address environmental risks and benefits of human interactions with biological and geological systems are integrated throughout the curriculum. The GATE Science 7

program of study is based on the National Gifted Education Standards and the Arizona State Science Standards. Gifted and talented students benefit from differentiated teaching strategies to compliment the depth and breadth of their thinking. The seventh grade GATE science class investigates real-world situations through inquiry. This process provides challenge and complexity to gifted and talented learners. Students will use content-rich evidence-based readings, student discussions/debates, and hands-on investigations to explore and critically analyze the specified topics of study.

**GATE Science 8**

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: placement criteria

Schools: ALL

GATE Science 8 covers topics in life and physical sciences using an inquiry-based approach to learning with emphasis on planning and conducting controlled investigations with safe behavior and procedures. Life science includes the basic principles of cell reproduction, DNA, and heredity. With a focus on understanding how organisms change over time, students will explore biological adaptations and how an organism's behavior allows it to survive. Symbiotic relationships within an ecosystem are compared and analyzed. Physical science explores the properties of matter and their physical properties such as density, boiling points, melting points, and solubility. Students will also identify and classify different types of matter based on chemical properties such as pH and reactivity. 8<sup>th</sup> grade science is also an introduction to physics with an understanding of the relationship between force and motion using Newton's Laws of Motion. The GATE Science 8 program of study is based on the National Gifted Education Standards and the Arizona State Science Standards. For the gifted student, the curriculum units will expand on the depth and variety of activities and assessments. The Kyrene gifted learning environment will provide for many opportunities for the student to explore open-ended problem solving that is relevant to the student's real world. To increase autonomy, students will have choices in the curriculum regarding what topics they study, the products they decided to create to communicate their learning, and the materials that they need to accomplish them. Additionally, the content will be designed to be appropriately challenging to the individual student to ensure educational rigor.

## Social Studies

**Social Studies 6**

Grade: 6

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Social Studies 6 is a World History course that addresses the development of societies and cultures throughout the world. United States history will be addressed through how it intersects with global issues. Through the process of inquiry, investigation, and collaboration, students engage in comprehensive units of study in national and international history from around the world. Geography, civics, and economics will be taught in an integrated approach as they relate to particular historical periods. This course provides foundational knowledge that will be further explored in Social Studies 7.

**Social Studies 7**

Grade: 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Social Studies 7 is a World History course that addresses the development of societies and cultures throughout the world. United States history will be addressed through how it intersects with global issues. Through the process of inquiry, investigation, and collaboration, students engage in comprehensive units of study in national and international history from around the world. Geography, civics, and economics will be taught in an integrated approach as they relate to particular historical periods. This course will deepen understanding of concepts introduced in Social Studies 6.

**Social Studies 8**

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Social Studies 8 is a United States government course that studies the rights, rules and responsibilities of American citizens. Through the process of inquiry, investigation, and collaboration, students participate in comprehensive units of study in civics engagement and make connections to national history. Topics of study may include, but are not limited to: the foundations of the United States government, Civil Rights issues and events of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, and landmark Supreme Court cases and their implications.

**GATE Social Studies 6**

Grade: 6

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Social Studies 6 is a World History course that addresses the development of societies and cultures throughout the world. United States history will be addressed through how it intersects with global issues. GATE courses are designed for students who demonstrate the ability and desire to undertake work that is more challenging. Gifted and advanced students will have opportunities for acceleration and choice through the use of extension menus and learning contracts. Differentiated opportunities are based on pre-assessments and student interest surveys as well as connections to Language Arts themes. Through the process of inquiry, investigation, and collaboration, students engage in comprehensive units of study in national and international history from around the world. Geography, civics, and economics will be taught in an integrated approach as they relate to particular historical periods. This course provides foundational knowledge that will be further explored in Social Studies 7.

**GATE Social Studies 7**

Grade: 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Social Studies 7 is a World History course that addresses the development of societies and cultures throughout the world. United States history will be addressed through how it intersects with global issues. GATE courses are designed for students who demonstrate the ability and desire to undertake work that is more challenging. Gifted and advanced students will have opportunities for acceleration and choice through the use of extension menus and learning contracts. Differentiated opportunities are based on pre-assessments and student interest surveys as well as connections to Language Arts themes. Through the process of inquiry, investigation, and collaboration, students engage in comprehensive units of study in national and international history from around the world. Geography, civics, and economics will be taught in an integrated approach as they relate to particular historical periods. This course will deepen understanding of concepts introduced in Social Studies 6.

**GATE Social Studies 8**

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Social Studies 8 is a United States government course that studies the rights, rules and responsibilities of American citizens. GATE courses are designed for students who demonstrate the ability and desire to undertake work that is more challenging. Gifted and advanced students will have opportunities for acceleration and choice through the use of extension menus and learning contracts. Differentiated opportunities are based on pre-assessments and student interest surveys as well as connections to Language Arts themes. Through the process of inquiry, investigation, and collaboration, students participate in comprehensive units of study in civics engagement and make connections to national history. Topics of study may include, but are not limited to: the foundations of the United States government, Civil Rights issues and events of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, landmark Supreme Court cases and their implications.



proficiency level by reading literature and informational text, writing, speaking and listening skills, and language concepts (conventions and vocabulary). Students will interact with increasingly complex texts, build knowledge through content-rich texts, and engage in evidence-based reading and writing. Texts read will vary in length and genre, but will be unified by a real-world topic on which students will read, research, write and present. Students will have multiple opportunities to engage in discussion about the topic of study in order to develop listening/speaking and critical thinking skills. Themes may include but are not limited to myths, innovations, technological breakthroughs, investigations, natural resources, and facing adversity.

**Science 7 - Spanish**

Grade: 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Dual Language

Schools: KYR

Students enrolled in Science 7 - Spanish will receive instruction entirely in Spanish. Students will continue to develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at the Intermediate - High proficiency level by using an inquiry-based approach to learning topics in life and earth/space sciences with emphasis on planning and conducting controlled investigations with safe behavior and appropriate procedures. Interactions between human populations, natural hazards, and the environment are explored and examined. Students will have an understanding of the composition, formative processes, and history of the earth, the solar system and the universe. Analyzing and proposing possible solutions that address environmental risks and benefits of human interactions with biological and geological systems are integrated throughout the curriculum. 21<sup>st</sup> century skills including communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving are incorporated in the curriculum.

**Social Studies 7 - Spanish**

Grade: 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Dual Language

Schools: KYR

Students enrolled in Social Studies 7 – Spanish will receive instruction entirely in Spanish. Students will continue to develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at the Intermediate - High proficiency level by addressing the development of societies and cultures throughout the world. United States history will be addressed through how it intersects with global issues. Through the process of inquiry, investigation, and collaboration, students engage in comprehensive units of study in national and international history from around the world. Geography, civics, and economics will be taught in an integrated approach as they relate to particular historical periods. This course will deepen understanding of concepts introduced in Social Studies 6.

**Language Arts 8 - Spanish**

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Dual Language

Schools: KYR

Students enrolled Language Arts 8 - Spanish will receive instruction entirely in Spanish. Students will continue to develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at the Advanced - Low proficiency level by reading literature and informational text, writing, speaking and listening skills, and language concepts (conventions and vocabulary). Students will interact with increasingly complex texts, build knowledge through content-rich texts, and engage in evidence-based reading and writing. Texts read will vary in length and genre, but will be unified by a real-world topic on which students will read, research, write and present. Students will have multiple opportunities to engage in discussion about the topic of study in order to develop listening/speaking and critical thinking skills. Themes may include but are not limited to immigration, Holocaust, taking a stand, inventions, and diversity.

**Science 8 - Spanish**

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Dual Language

Schools: KYR

Students enrolled in Science 8 – Spanish will receive instruction entirely in Spanish. Students will continue to develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at the Advanced - Low proficiency level by using an inquiry-based approach to learning topics in life and physical sciences with emphasis on planning and conducting controlled investigations with safe behavior and procedures. Life science includes the basic principles of cell reproduction, DNA, and heredity. With a focus on understanding how organisms change over time, students will explore biological adaptations and how an organism’s behavior allows it to survive. Symbiotic relationships within an ecosystem are compared and analyzed. Physical science explores the properties of matter and their physical properties such as density, boiling points, melting points, and solubility. Students will also identify and classify different types of matter based on chemical properties such as pH and reactivity. 8<sup>th</sup> grade science is also an introduction to physics with an understanding of the relationship between force and motion using Newton’s Laws of Motion. 21<sup>st</sup> century skills including communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving are incorporated in the curriculum.

**Social Studies 8 - Spanish**

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Dual Language

Schools: KYR

Students enrolled in Social Studies 8 - Spanish will receive instruction entirely in Spanish. Students will continue to develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at the Advance - Low proficiency level by studying the rights, rules and responsibilities of American citizens. Through the process of inquiry, investigation, and collaboration, students participate in comprehensive units of study in civics engagement and make connections to national history. Topics of study may include, but are not limited to: the foundations of the United States government, Civil Rights issues and events of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, and landmark Supreme Court cases and their implications.

## Elective Courses

### Performing Arts – Instrumental

**Band** Grade: 6, 7, 8 Duration: Year  
Prerequisites: none Schools: ALL  
Band is designed for students interested in learning the fundamentals of music and to play a band instrument: flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. This course addresses basic instrumental skills, reading music, and elements of music in an ensemble setting. Students are required to participate in concerts through the school year. No prior knowledge or experience is required. Students will need to rent or purchase an instrument from an outside vendor, with some exceptions.

**Band Advanced** Grade: 7, 8 Duration: Year  
Prerequisites: Band or teacher recommendation Schools: ALL  
Students expand basic skills and techniques on band instruments. Instruction is directed toward playing music that is more difficult from a variety of styles and genres. Students may be grouped by instrumentation including brass/woodwinds, percussion/woodwinds, brass only, or percussion only. Students are required to participate in concerts through the school year. Students will need to rent or purchase an instrument from an outside vendor, with some exceptions.

**Band Mariachi** Grade: 6, 7, 8 Duration: Year  
Prerequisites: none Schools: KYR  
Band Mariachi is designed for students interested in learning the fundamentals of traditional Mexican mariachi music and to play an instrument: guitar, vihuela, guitarron, violin, or trumpet. This course addresses basic instrumental skills, reading music, and elements of music in an ensemble setting. Students are required to participate in concerts through the school year. No prior knowledge or experience is required and differentiated instruction is given to students with playing experience. Students will need to rent or purchase an instrument from an outside vendor, with some exceptions.

**Guitar** Grade: 6, 7, 8 Duration: Semester/Year  
Prerequisites: none Schools: CEN, PUE  
Guitar is designed for students who are interested in playing guitar. Basic skills of guitar playing, fingering, learning to play as part of an ensemble, as a soloist or accompanist are taught in conjunction with reading musical notation and tablature, playing chords and melodies, playing with a pick and with fingers, and rhythms and strumming. Students learn the relationship between guitar and the piano keyboard, ukulele and bass guitar. No prior knowledge or experience is required and differentiated instruction is given to students with playing experience. Students need to rent or purchase a guitar, with some exceptions.

**Music Exploration** Grade: 6, 7, 8 Duration: Semester  
Prerequisites: none Schools: KYR  
Music Exploration is a non-performance music class. Students will study world music, Western music and composers, and basic instrumentation (i.e. keyboards, percussion, and/or handbells). Students will have hands on experience with instruments, read music notation, and perform in class as an ensemble and individual.



**Theater III** Grade: 8 Duration: Semester/Year  
Prerequisites: Theater II or teacher recommendation Schools: APR  
Students use their prior knowledge from previous semesters to master more advanced theatre skills including technical design and directing. A focus on leadership, collaboration, and innovating problem solving is emphasized. Students are involved in performances of scripted and original works as an application of learning.

**Theater Crew** Grade: 6, 7, 8 Duration: Semester/Year  
Prerequisites: none Schools: APR  
Students will learn various aspects of stagecraft and theatrical production in a hands-on project-based environment. Topics include Theatrical Terms and Roles, Set Design & Construction, Lighting Design & Programming, Sound Design, Makeup Design & Application, and Production Management. Students are involved in full production design as learning application.

## Visual Arts

**Art** Grade: 6, 7, 8 Duration: Semester  
Prerequisites: none Schools: ALL  
In Art, students explore various art forms from many cultures and periods. The focus is on art making with art history and analysis integrated into each unit. Students gain foundational knowledge of art vocabulary, techniques, history and art criticism. Students use a variety of media and create a variety of art forms including drawing, painting, and sculpture.

**Art II** Grade: 7, 8 Duration: Semester  
Prerequisites: Art I or teacher recommendation Schools: APR, CEN  
In Art II, students will build from the foundational knowledge taught in Art I to deepen and broaden art vocabulary, techniques, history, and criticism. The focus is on art making with a stronger emphasis on having purpose and meaning in the creative process. New mediums such as printmaking, fibers, and mixed media may be introduced in addition to drawing, painting, and ceramics.

**Art III** Grade: 8 Duration: Semester  
Prerequisites: Art II or teacher recommendation Schools: APR, CEN  
In Art III, students will use their prior knowledge from Art I and II to further develop their artistic skills and personal style. Art vocabulary, techniques, history, and criticism will be studied and applied to inspire students to find their own artistic path. Students will have opportunities for choice in the medium to master based on those they have worked with in Art I and II. This class is for students who are serious about expanding their portfolio prior to high school.

**Photography** Grade: 7, 8 Duration: Semester  
Prerequisites: teacher recommendation Schools: APR  
In Photography, students will be introduced to photography as an art medium in this class. The focus will be on the technical use of cameras and printing as well as the history of photography and how it has been used as an art medium. After mastering the technical skills, students will learn compositional and lighting techniques to apply in their own artwork. Most equipment will be provided.

**Visual Arts Design**

Grade: 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: KYR

In Visual Arts Design, students will inquire into and analyze design problems, develop solutions to the problems through the creation of artwork, and evaluate the artwork's solution to the problem. Students will also be asked to research histories of artworks, understand the arts in context, and build an awareness of the aesthetic in real-world contexts through this integrated course.

**STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)****Audio Engineering**

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: KYR

In this course, students will compose audio pieces using production software such as Audacity, Soundation, Cakewalk, or other tools. Ultimately, students will develop a deeper understanding of composition through project-based learning.

**Computer Programming**

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: KYR

In Computer Programming, students will create various programs using the programming language C++. Students will learn the inner workings of a computer and understand the relationship between a compiler and an assembler. Students will learn how to navigate and execute code using an Integrated Development Environment (IDE).

**Computer Science 1**

Grade: 6

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: APR, PUE

This introductory course provides students with a foundation in computer science concepts that include coding, app development, game design, robotics, computer processing and networking. Throughout the course, students will strengthen essential 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to communicate, collaborate, think critically, problem solve, create and innovate. Ultimately, the goal of the course is to empower all students to use computer science to solve real-world problems and shift their mindset from technology consumers to technology creators.

**Computer Science 2**

Grade: 7

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: Computer Science 1 or equivalent

Schools: PUE

This course builds upon the knowledge and concepts introduced in Computer Science 1. The course will include coding, web page design & development, app development, game design, robotics, computer processing and networking. Throughout the course, students will strengthen essential 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to communicate, collaborate, think critically, problem solve, create and innovate. The goal of the course is to empower all students to use computer science to solve real-world problems and shift their mindset from technology consumers to technology creators.

**Media Production**

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Semester/Year

Prerequisites: teacher recommendation

Schools: ALT

In the Media Production class, students will create media that is designed strictly for publication. Students will work in a creative and collaborative atmosphere to create graphics, animations, photographs, and record and edit video to produce publication quality school announcement programs and yearbook layouts.

**Multimedia Digital Arts**

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: AKI, ALT, CEN, KTA, KYR, PUE

In Multimedia/Digital Arts, students explore and learn about production techniques that support the creation of graphic arts, web design, digital photography, animation, audio recording/mixing, and videography. A wide range of the latest hardware and software are utilized, including the Adobe Creative Cloud collection. Students collaborate in a project-based environment to develop understanding of the media used and creative techniques for future applications.

**STEM**

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: AKI, ALT, APR, CEN, KTA, KYR

The STEM course inspires student interest and passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) career paths. Students foster creativity, engage in critical thinking, and collaborate in a project-based environment. Students utilize the engineering design process to identify the effectiveness, efficiency, and durability of designs under different conditions through hands-on and technology-rich activities.

**TV Broadcasting**

Grade: 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: teacher recommendation

Schools: KYR

In the TV Broadcasting, students prepare video announcements and information to present to the school. Students practice reading and writing skills in public speaking and entertainment formats. Creativity and collaboration are brought to the screen by using video and audio recording equipment as well as graphics and editing software.

**Web Design and Coding**

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: AKI, KYR, KTA

Web Design and Coding is designed to introduce students to various skills, methods, and techniques related to coding and basic web design. Students foster creativity, engage in critical thinking, and collaborate in a project-based environment. The main focus of the class will be production (creation of web pages, applications, games, etc.); however, attention will also focus on design (organization, details, or features of a composition or product).

**Leadership and Academic Support****AVID Elective**

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: AKI, APR, CEN

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Elective is a year-long course designed to prepare self-determined students for college readiness. The AVID Elective incorporates strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support student academic growth. Students receive training in effective study skills, such as note taking, organizational skills, and goal-setting strategies. Another critical component of the AVID elective are tutorials, where students collaborate with their peers under the direction of college and adult mentors twice per week to support them in their academic coursework. Students also experience different field trips, guest speakers and research to increase their knowledge of college and career options. The concepts, strategies, and skills build in a sequenced curriculum so that students benefit from taking the AVID Elective across all three grade levels.

**Leadership**

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: AKI, CEN

The Leadership course provides students with essential life-tools for student success and developing individual responsibility in an engaging, interactive, activity based class. Students learn characteristics, attributes, and skills that encompass good leadership and taking responsibility for their own actions and direction. Activities are designed to build confidence; self-discipline, organization, communication skills, human relations, goal setting, community service, and overall self-awareness. The ultimate goal of this course to empower students to act with purpose so they may achieve the conditions they desire in their own lives.

**Math Intervention**

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester/Year

Prerequisites: placement/exit criteria

Schools: ALL

Math Intervention is designed for students who are identified as needing intervention based on at least three data points. Intervention courses will support individualized instruction in small-group settings. In addition to the entrance data points, students' individual needs will be identified based on diagnostic and progress monitoring data. Students participate in blended learning with a minimum of 45 minutes a week on an online learning platform as well as whole- and small-group instruction with highly qualified educators.

**Peer Tutoring**

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: application

Schools: ALT, APR, CEN

In Peer Tutoring, peer tutors are working one-on-one with special education students on academic activities in classrooms. They also assist special education students during exploratory, group speech lessons, adaptive physical education classes, cooking activities, art activities, library, free choice time, lunch, outings, etc. Peer tutors receive ongoing training on how best to work with students in the classroom and throughout the year they complete a variety of disability awareness assignments.

**Reading Intervention**

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester/Year

Prerequisites: placement/exit criteria

Schools: ALL

Reading Intervention is designed for students who are identified as needing intervention based on at least three data points. Intervention courses will support individualized instruction in small-group settings. In addition to the entrance data points, students' individual needs will be identified based on diagnostic and progress monitoring data. Students participate in blended learning with a minimum of 45 minutes a week on an online learning platform as well as whole- and small-group instruction with highly qualified educators.

**Student Assistant**

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: application

Schools: AKI, APR, KTA

Student Assistant provides students with the opportunity to work in the media center, office or classroom. Students work closely with the school staff to collect, distribute, and organize materials; operate audiovisual/office equipment; assist students and teachers; and perform basic administrative tasks. Students may also provide tutorial or instructional assistance to other students.

## Family and Consumer Sciences

### **Culinary Arts**

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: AKI, CEN, PUE

In Culinary Arts, students gain knowledge and apply principles of nutrition in relationship to wellness, food choices, food preparation, food storage, meal planning, and meal management. As an integral part of the course, students will participate in food laboratory where they will learn how to prepare various dishes.

### **Family and Consumer Science**

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALT, APR, CEN

In Family and Consumer Science, students explore the areas of food and nutrition, personal development, responsibility, and future career interest through individual and group projects. Students learn basic technology and sewing skills and prepare projects by hand or machine sewing. Students also learn the basics of cooking while making fun and easy recipes. This course is designed to assist students develop a focus for future goals including potential high school programs of study.

### **Sewing**

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: FACS course/teacher recommendation

Schools: APR

In Sewing, activities include sewing techniques, machine use and care, fabric selection and personally selected construction projects. Students will design a special piece of clothing using the sewing machine. They will practice workplace skills, time management, and problem-solving. This is for the student that loves to sew and is interested in Fashion and design.

## Physical Education

### **Physical Education**

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester/Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Physical Education is an introduction to physical fitness, physical skill development, and wellness concepts with an emphasis on preparation for a lifetime of physical activity. Students are required to dress out and a locker with a lock will be issued. Information on P.E. uniforms is available at the beginning of the year through the physical education teachers and school office.

### **Physical Education Advanced**

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Semester/Year

Prerequisites: PE or teacher recommendation

Schools: AKI, APR

A more in-depth look at physical fitness, physical skill development and wellness concepts geared towards students that have prior working knowledge and experience with these concepts. This course is geared toward experienced athletes so competitive true game play with limited modifications will be emphasized. Students are required to dress out and a locker with a lock is provided. Information on P.E. uniforms is available at the beginning of the year through the physical education teachers and school office.

## World Languages

**NOTE for Kyrene Middle School IB Students:** The International Baccalaureate learner is required to take Language B courses (a language different from his or her native language) each year of the Middle Years Program. Kyrene Middle School will offer three language tracks: Spanish, American Sign Language, and Mandarin Chinese. Students joining Kyrene Middle School as 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> graders with no language background, will be placed in the first course of the sequence. Students will remain on the World Language track they choose for their 3 years at KMS to meet the IB Language B requirement and maximize proficiency and language acquisition.

### **American Sign Language 1A**

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester/Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: KMS, PUE

American Sign Language 1A is a course that introduces students to the foundations of American Sign Language. Students develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at the Novice Low proficiency level by expressing some basic needs, using practiced or memorized signs and phrases, with the help of facial expressions and body placement on very familiar topics. In addition to vocabulary development, language structure, and grammar, students will be introduced to the Deaf community, the role American Sign Language plays in uniting and creating that community, 20th Century Deaf history and important figures of Deaf culture.

### **American Sign Language 1B**

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: American Sign Language 1A or equivalent

Schools: KMS

American Sign Language 1B is a full-year course and a continuation of American Sign Language 1A. Students develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at the Novice Mid proficiency level by expressing basic needs related to familiar and everyday activities, using a mixture of practiced or memorized words, phrases, and simple questions with the help of facial expressions and body placement. In addition to vocabulary development, language structures, and grammar, students will expand their knowledge of the Deaf community, Deaf culture, and Deaf history along with deeper study of important Deaf historical figures.

### **Mandarin Chinese Exploration**

Grade: 6

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALT

Mandarin Chinese Exploration introduces students to the Chinese language and culture. Students develop basic interpersonal, presentational and interpretive communication skills by exploring very familiar topics and using single words and phrases that have been practiced or memorized.

### **Mandarin Chinese 1A**

Grade: 6, 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALT, KMS

Mandarin Chinese 1A is a full-year course. Students develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive communication skills at a Novice Low proficiency level by using words and phrases that have been practiced and memorized on a variety of familiar topics including important cultural aspects of the Chinese culture.

### **Mandarin Chinese 1B**

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Mandarin Chinese 1A or equivalent

Schools: ALT, KMS

Mandarin Chinese 1B is a full-year course and a continuation of Mandarin Chinese 1A. Students continue to develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive communication skills at a Novice Mid

proficiency level by using words and phrases that have been practiced and memorized on a variety of familiar topics including important elements of the Chinese culture.

**Spanish Exploration**

Grade: 6

Duration: Semester (Year at KYR)

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Spanish Exploration is a course that introduces students to the Spanish language and culture. Students start developing interpersonal listening and speaking skills at the Novice Low proficiency level by exploring the benefits of learning a second language and exploring topics such as greetings, family, friends, school and celebrations. In addition, students explore the culture of speaking countries.

**Spanish 1**

Grade: 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none, Spanish Exploration at KMS

Schools: ALL

Spanish 1 is a yearlong course that focuses on the foundations of the Spanish language. Students develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at a Novice Mid proficiency level including vocabulary, grammar, language, sentence patterns, verb conjugation, and conversational dialogues. This class promotes the use of language in meaningful contexts. This is a rigorous academic class and requires regular homework. This course is the first course in the Spanish 1/2 sequence.

**Spanish 2**

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Spanish 1

Schools: ALL

**NOTE:** Students may earn high school credit upon completing the course sequence and meeting the requirements outlined in the Kyrene School District/Tempe Union High School District Articulated Agreement.

Spanish 2 is a yearlong course and a continuation of Spanish 1. Students continue to develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at a Novice High proficiency level including vocabulary, grammar, language, sentence patterns, verb conjugation, and conversational dialogues. This class promotes the use of language in meaningful contexts. This is a rigorous academic class and requires regular homework. This course is the second course in the Spanish 1/2 sequence.