



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 2023, 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 your child's academic adventures.

Sincerely,

Ms. Laura Toenjes

Superintendent

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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 generally 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 Programme 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 ensuring 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, student agency - 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 System 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, 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 emotional learning curriculum that promotes the social emotional development, safety, and well-being of children through 8th grade. All middle schools also implement 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 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 that utilize 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 (learning intention) and how it will be demonstrated (success criteria).
Anticipatory Set	An engaging activator to help students establish purpose, retrieve prior knowledge, and/or preview learning.
Teach and Model	A demonstration or explanation of a brief step, procedure or operation.
Guided Practice	Students' immediately imitate or practice each small, manageable chunk as teacher observes.
Check for Understanding	Quick observation/formative assessment of each chunk of lesson during and after each guided practice.
Adjust Instruction	Adjustments to teaching based on feedback received from each check for student understanding.
Closure	Students consolidate the learning from the lesson. Revisit or reflect on the lesson target(s) with students, in order to help organize the new learning or information into a meaningful context so that they can apply their new knowledge to future learning opportunities.
Independent Learning/Assessment	Students' independently practice/complete assessment to demonstrate mastery of learning objective.

Inquiry-Based Instruction

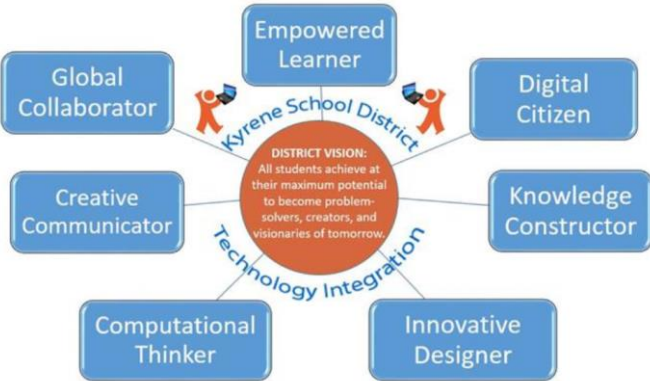
Inquiry-based learning is an approach to teaching and learning that places students' questions, ideas and observations at the center of the learning experience. The 5E model sequences learning experiences so that students have the opportunity to construct their understanding of a concept over time. The 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 each 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 using the Arizona Technology Integration Matrix (TIM) or SAMR model. 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)	KDA (K-8)
AOI (Arizona Online Instruction)								X
AVID	X		X	X			X	
Community Education Programming	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Dual Language	X				X			
Electives	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Exceptional Student Services (Special Education)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Extracurricular Activities (Athletics and Clubs)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gifted	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme					X			
Leader in Me		X				X		X
Traditional Academy							X	
WEB	X	X	X	X	X	X		

AOI (Arizona Online Instruction)

Kyrene Digital Academy is an online K-8 school in the Kyrene School District. Kyrene teachers deliver regular and responsive live and recorded instruction to students in an online environment, as well as offer support and feedback through formative and summative assessment and virtual meetings. Teachers work with students in large group, small groups, and individually. Students at Kyrene Digital Academy have live interactions with Kyrene teachers and classmates and participate in interactive lessons from wherever the internet is available. Lessons and content are aligned with Kyrene curriculum guides and are consistent with the lessons occurring on our campuses. Coursework is a mixture of online and offline work. Students record their attendance and activities by tracking and submitting hours logs.

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 Health and Wellness. 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

Kyrene's Dual Language Immersion program provides K-8 students with content-based instruction in English and Spanish. Learning a second language brings several well-documented cognitive, academic and employment benefits. Research shows that bilinguals demonstrate greater cognitive flexibility, increased attention control, better memory, and superior problem-solving skills as well as enhanced understanding of their primary language. (Lindholm-Leary 2001)

Our content-driven program begins at kindergarten and continues through middle school to meet the goals of bilingualism, biliteracy, high academic achievement, and sociocultural competence. The goal is that students, over several years of participation in the program, become proficient and literate in both

languages, and develop cultural competence to succeed in a global society. In middle school, dual language students spend two periods a day immersed in Spanish (Spanish Language Arts and Social Studies). Students receive explicit instruction for Spanish writing, grammar, and oral language development allowing them the opportunity 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 offered at each school are 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 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 and Kyrene Digital 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.

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 to further strengthen Approaches to Learning and connect to 21st century workplace skills.

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 5th grade utilize the Kyrene curriculum along with Spalding Reading taught as prescribed in program manuals. Students in 6th through 8th 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)

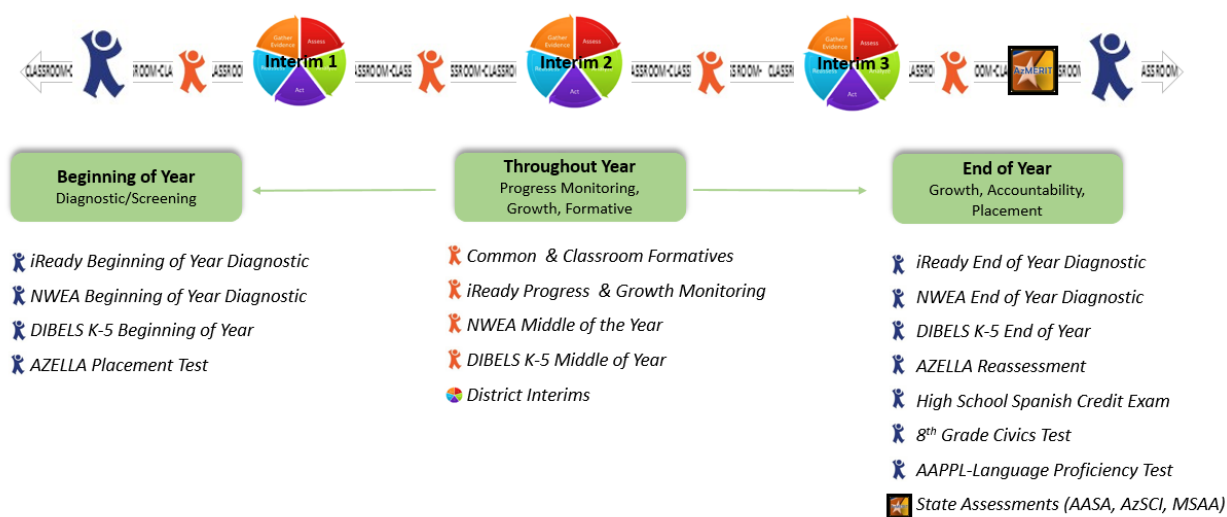
The WEB program provides eighth grade students with leadership development training so they can serve as mentors and role models to incoming sixth graders and ensure their first experiences in middle school are successful. WEB strives to improve attendance, increase motivation, develop problem solving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

Kyrene Comprehensive System of Assessments



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
August December May	NWEA MAP Math (3 times per year)	Math <i>MAP Growth is an adaptive assessment for measuring achievement and growth in math. It provides teachers with accurate, and actionable evidence to help target instruction for each student or groups of students.</i>	6-8	Online
September December February	District Interims (3 times per year)	Math and English Language Arts Middle School Social Studies and Science <i>KSD Interims measure student progress towards grade level/course standards as identified by mastery expectations at the time of testing.</i>	K-1 2-8	Paper Online
September February	Panorama SEL Student Survey (2 times per year)	Social-Emotional Learning Survey <i>The Panorama Student Survey gathers student perceptions about their classroom and school experience. Research shows that student perceptions strongly correlate with learning outcomes and can be an important improvement tool for school systems and student support.</i>	3-8	Online
November April	AAPPL Dual Language Test (Fall and Spring)	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 the Dual Language program and identifies their level of performance towards proficiency in Spanish.</i>	3-8 Dual language only	Online
January	State Civics Test	Civics <i>The High School Civics test mandated in Arizona for high school graduation is given to Kyrene 8th grade students.</i>	8	Online
February March	AZELLA State 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-1 2-8 ELL only	Paper Online
March April	AzSCI and MSAA State Science Test	Science <i>AzSCI is the state assessment to measure student understanding and level of proficiency of State Science Standards. Students eligible for alternate assessments participate in Multi-State Alternate Assessment.</i>	5 & 8	Online
April	AASA & MSAA State ELA and Math Test	Math & English Language Arts <i>Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA) is the state assessment to measure student understanding and level of proficiency of State ELA & Math Standards. Students eligible for alternate assessments participate in Multi-State Alternate Assessment.</i>	3-8	Online
May	HS Spanish Credit Test	Language - Spanish <i>The TUHSD High School Spanish Exam assesses performance in Spanish for students enrolled in Spanish 1B. The exam is required for high school Spanish 1 course credit as outlined by the Tri-District agreement.</i>	8	Online & 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. Teachers in each subject provide an average of two grades per week. 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
- NOTE: Grading for advisory and intervention is pass/fail.

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. Placement criteria is based on multiple measures including multiple years of state assessment scores, prior course grades, areas of giftedness, teacher recommendation, and other available data. While no criteria are 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. Full criteria can be reviewed at <https://www.kyrene.org/Page/40951>. 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.

The course catalog is designed to give students and their families information that will help them determine interest 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 interests, 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 classes of highest interest.

Core Course Sequence for Grades 6-8

	ELA Course Sequence for Grades 6-8			High School*
	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
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 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Grade Level Sequence	Math 6	Math 7	Math 8	Algebra 1
Accelerated Sequence 1 <i>Students in grades 4 & 5 take compact math</i>	GATE Math 7	GATE Math 8	GATE Algebra 1	Honors Geometry
Accelerated Sequence 2 <i>Students in grades 4 & 5 take compact math</i>	GATE Math 8	GATE Algebra 1	Honors Geometry	Algebra 2
	Science Course Sequence for Grades 6-8			High School*
	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Grade Level Sequence	Science 6	Science 7	Science 8	Integrated Science
GATE Sequence	GATE Science 6	GATE Science 7	GATE Science 8	Honors Integrated Science
	Social Studies Course Sequence for Grades 6-8			High School*
	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Grade Level Sequence	Social Studies 6	Social Studies 7	Social Studies 8	World History/Geography
GATE Sequence	GATE Social Studies 6	GATE Social Studies 7	GATE Social Studies 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, PUE = Pueblo, KDA = Kyrene Digital Academy, KTA = Kyrene Traditional Academy

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 generations, 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 generations, 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 or GATE Math 7

Grade: 6, 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Compact Math 5b/6 for GATE 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 or GATE Math 8

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: GATE Math 7 or equivalent for GATE 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.

GATE Algebra 1

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: GATE Math 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 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, 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: GATE Algebra 1

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 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 structure and properties of matter, Earth's place in the universe and relationships within ecosystems. Students will develop and use models to represent that matter is made up of smaller particles and explore how variations in temperature and/or pressure affect changes in state of matter. Students will develop an understanding of the scale and properties of objects in the solar system and how gravity and energy cause observable patterns in the Sun-Earth-Moon system. Students will construct models that show the cycling of matter and flow of energy in ecosystems and demonstrate the interdependence of organisms and their environment including biotic and abiotic factors.

Science 7

Grade: 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Science 7 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 forces, weather and climate, Earth's systems and cells. Students will explore how cause and effect take place within and between wide variety of force and motion systems from forces on individual objects to the forces that shape our Earth. Students will develop an understanding of the patterns of energy flow along with matter cycling within and among Earth's systems. Students will build upon their knowledge that all living things are made of cells and explain how cells, tissues, and organ systems maintain life.

Science 8

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Science 8 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 atoms and chemical reactions, energy, Earth and human activity and diversity of life. Students will apply stability and change to explore chemical properties of matter and chemical reactions to further understand energy and matter. Students will explore natural and human-induced cause-and-effect changes in Earth systems over time. Students will also develop an understanding of patterns and how genetic information is passed from generation to generation. They will also develop the understanding how traits within populations change over time.

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 structure and properties of matter, Earth's place in the universe and relationships within ecosystems. Students will develop and use models to represent that matter is made up of smaller particles and explore how variations in temperature and/or pressure affect changes in state of matter. Students will develop an understanding of the scale and properties of objects in the solar system and how gravity and energy cause observable patterns in the Sun-Earth-Moon system. Students will construct models that show the cycling of matter and flow of energy in

ecosystems and demonstrate the interdependence of organisms and their environment including biotic and abiotic factors. 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: GATE Science 6 or equivalent Schools: ALL

GATE Science 7 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 forces, weather and climate, Earth's systems and cells. Students will explore how cause and effect take place within and between wide variety of force and motion systems from forces on individual objects to the forces that shape our Earth. Students will develop an understanding of the patterns of energy flow along with matter cycling within and among Earth's systems. Students will build upon their knowledge that all living things are made of cells and explain how cells, tissues, and organ systems maintain life. 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: GATE Science 8 or equivalent Schools: ALL

GATE Science 8 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 atoms and chemical reactions, energy, Earth and human activity and diversity of life. Students will apply stability and change to explore chemical properties of matter and chemical reactions to further understand energy and matter. Students will explore natural and human-induced cause-and-effect changes in Earth systems over time. Students will also develop an understanding of patterns and how genetic information is passed from generation to generation. They will also develop the understanding how traits within populations change over time. 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 is viewed through geographic and historical lenses. Geography, civics, and economics will be taught in an integrated approach as students work to understand the cultural, religious, economic, and political systems of regions within the Middle East, Europe, Russia, and Asia. Through the process of inquiry, investigation, and collaboration, students engage in comprehensive units of study in global history, with an additional unit of Geography to familiarize students with key concepts that will be expanded upon in later courses. 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 viewed through historical and geographic lenses. Students will understand the relationships and interactions of societies and cultures throughout the world, with an emphasis on Africa, North America, Central America, South America, and the Pacific Realm. United States history will be addressed through how it intersects with global issues in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. Through the process of inquiry, investigation, and collaboration, students engage in comprehensive units of study in national and international history. 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 civics course that studies the rights, rules, and responsibilities of American citizens, as well as their role as global citizens. Through the process of inquiry, investigation, and collaboration, students participate in comprehensive units of study in civic engagement, human rights, and economics to make connections between historical and current issues as a base for implementing change in society. Topics of study may include but are not limited to the foundations of the United States government, right and responsibilities of US citizens, Civil Rights issues, events of the 20th and 21st centuries, and personal finance.

GATE Social Studies 6

Grade: 6

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: placement criteria

Schools: ALL

GATE Social Studies 6 is a World History course that is viewed through geographic and historical lenses. Geography, civics, and economics will be taught in an integrated approach as students work to understand the cultural, religious, economic, and political systems of regions within the Middle East, Europe, Russia, and Asia. 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 instructed with student-centered learning techniques using the Prompts of Depth and Complexity. This course provides foundational knowledge that will be further explored in Social Studies 7.

GATE Social Studies 7

Grade: 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: GATE SS 6 or equivalent

Schools: ALL

GATE Social Studies 7 is a World History course viewed through historical and geographic lenses. Students will understand the relationships and interactions of societies and cultures throughout the world, with an emphasis on Africa, North America, Central America, South America, and the Pacific Realm. United States history will be addressed through how it intersects with global issues throughout the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. 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 focusing on student centered learning techniques using the Prompts of Depth and Complexity. 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: GATE SS 6 or equivalent

Schools: ALL

GATE Social Studies 8 is United States civics course that studies the rights, rules, and responsibilities of American citizens, as well as their role as global citizens. Through the process of inquiry, investigation, and collaboration, students participate in comprehensive units of study in civic engagement, human rights, and economics to make connections between historical and current issues as base for implementing change in society. 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 instructed with student-centered learning techniques using the Prompts of Depth and Complexity. Topics of study may include, but are not limited to the foundations of the United States government, right and responsibilities of US citizens, Civil Rights issues, events of the 20th and 21st centuries, and personal finance.

Humanities 6

Grade: 6

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: AKI, APR

The Humanities courses inspire a love of history, geography, culture, and literature, while cultivating collaborative learners and 21st century citizens. The program focuses on the interrelated skills of reading and analyzing text, composing different styles of writing, as well as thinking critically about the world around them. Humanities 6 will address the development of societies and cultures throughout the world, with an emphasis on regions throughout the Middle East, Europe, Russia, and Asia. Skills of inquiry, investigation, and collaboration will be reinforced through literacy-based instruction which will be expanded upon in later Humanities courses. Humanities 6 is offered as a two-hour block and addresses the same standards as the Social Studies 6 and English Language Arts 6 courses.

Humanities 7

Grade: 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Humanities 6 or equivalent

Schools: APR

The Humanities courses inspire a love of history, geography, culture, and literature, while cultivating collaborative learners and 21st century citizens. The program focuses on the interrelated skills of reading and analyzing text, composing different styles of writing, as well as thinking critically about the

world around them. Humanities 7 will address the development of societies and cultures throughout the world, with an emphasis on Africa, North America, Central America, South America, and the Pacific Realm. United States history will be addressed through how it intersects with global issues. Skills of inquiry, investigation, and collaboration will be reinforced through literacy-based instruction which will be expanded upon in later Humanities courses. Humanities 7 is offered as a two-hour block and addresses the same standards as the Social Studies 7 and English Language Arts 7 courses.

Humanities 8

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Humanities 7 or equivalent

Schools: APR

Humanities 8 explores civic and economic understanding while 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 civic engagement and economic decision making while making connections to national and global history. Students will build upon the interrelated skills of text analysis, writing, and critical thinking. Topics of study may include but are not limited to the foundations of the United States government, rights and responsibilities of US citizens, Civil Rights issues, events of the 20th and 21st centuries, and personal finance. Humanities 8 is offered as a two-hour block and addresses the same standards as the Social Studies 8 and English Language Arts 8 courses.

Dual Language

Students need to be enrolled in the Dual Language Program in order to be eligible to take dual language courses. New students interested in Dual Language may take a Spanish screener to determine eligibility. Students in the Dual Language Program in middle school take Spanish Language Arts and Social Studies entirely in Spanish.

Language Arts 6 - Spanish

Grade: 6

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Dual Language enrollment

Schools: AKI, KYR

Students enrolled in Language Arts 6 - Spanish will receive instruction entirely in Spanish. Students will continue to develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at the Intermediate - Mid 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 childhood, human/animal Interaction, imagination, and exploration.

Social Studies 6 - Spanish

Grade: 6

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Dual Language enrollment

Schools: AKI, KYR

Students enrolled in Social Studies 6 - Spanish will receive instruction entirely in Spanish and continue to develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at the Intermediate - Mid proficiency level by addressing the development of societies and cultures throughout the Middle East, Europe, Russia, and Asia. 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, working through increasingly complex texts and discussions in Spanish. Geography, civics, and economics will be taught in an integrated approach as they relate to particular historical periods, with an additional unit of Geography to familiarize students with key concepts that will be expanded upon in 7th and 8th grade. This course provides foundational knowledge that will be further explored in Social Studies 7 - Spanish.

Language Arts 7 - Spanish

Grade: 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Dual Language enrollment

Schools: AKI, KYR

Students enrolled in Language Arts 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 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.

Social Studies 7 - Spanish

Grade: 7

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Dual Language enrollment

Schools: AKI, 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, with an emphasis on Africa, North America, Central America, South America, and the Pacific Realm. United States history will be addressed through how it intersects with global issues throughout the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. Through the process of inquiry, investigation, and collaboration, students engage in comprehensive units of study in national and international history. 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 enrollment

Schools: AKI, 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.

Social Studies 8 - Spanish

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Dual Language enrollment

Schools: AKI, 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 Advanced - 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 civic engagement and make connections to national history. Topics of study may include but are not limited to the foundations of the United States government, right and responsibilities of US citizens, Civil Rights issues, events of the 20th and 21st centuries, and personal finance.

Spanish Conversation Intermediate

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Dual Language enrollment

Schools: AKI

Dual Language students continue developing their listening and speaking skills to improve their conversational abilities. The goal is for students to gain essential skills to express themselves orally with clarity and confidence on a range of topics, including holidays, celebrations, traditions, personal values and daily life situations. This course includes practice in speaking through role-playing, presentations, debates, simulated interviews, discussions, and exercises to develop oral fluency. The class is conducted in Spanish; successful students will exhibit a Novice High Level on AAPPL or Student Oral Proficiency Assessments.

Advisory and Projects

Advisory

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALL

Advisory promotes a school community and a sense of belonging, trust, and confidence, which can help middle school students solve academic and interpersonal problems. The course will provide guidance in decision-making, self-advocacy, goal setting, organization, study skills, and positive relationships. Social emotional lessons focus on self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making that will be taught through the use of worksheets, videos, stories, role-plays, games, and discussion. Students will be graded on a Pass/Fail grading system. Frequency of class meeting times varies by campus.

IB Projects

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: IB enrollment

Schools: KYR

The IB Projects course meets once per week. During this course, students develop and apply academic knowledge, personal skills, and social skills in real-life situations involving research, decision-making, problem-solving, initiative, responsibility, and accountability for their actions through service-learning activities. Each grade level engages in two service-learning activities per year, one that focuses on their global community and one that focuses on their local community. Each activity includes four phases: Investigating, Planning, Taking Action, and Reflecting. Eighth grade students participate in a Community Project. This is a student-led, culminating service-learning activity during which students apply the knowledge gained throughout their three years of service learning into a project and community of their choosing under the mentorship of their IB Projects teacher. The eighth grade Community Project final score is reflected in the students' Individuals and Society grade. The IB Projects course is pass/fail.

Elective Courses

Performing Arts – Instrumental

Band

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

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

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: AKI, ALT, APR, KTA, KYR, PUE

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.

Guitar

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester/Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: KDA, 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.

Mariachi

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: KYR

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.

Mariachi Advanced

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Mariachi or teacher recommendation Schools: KYR

The Mariachi Advanced course is offered for the purpose of allowing students to perform in an ensemble which has a selected membership, and which specializes in performing intermediate-advanced level Mariachi ensemble literature. This course addresses intermediate-advanced instrumental skills, reading music, and elements of music in an ensemble setting. Students are required to participate in concerts through the school year. Prior knowledge or experience is required and instrumental includes guitar, vihuela, guitarron, violin, and trumpet.

Music Exploration

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none Schools: KDA, KTA, 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.

Orchestra

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none Schools: ALT, APR, CEN, KYR, PUE

Orchestra provides students with an opportunity to learn to play the violin, viola, cello or bass. This class teaches basic string instrument skills, reading music, and elements of music. 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.

Orchestra Advanced

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Orchestra or teacher recommendation Schools: ALT, APR, KYR

Students expand basic skills and techniques on string instruments. Instruction is directed toward playing music that is more difficult from a variety of styles and genres. 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.

Performing Arts – Vocal and Drama

Chorus

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

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

Chorus is an entry-level course for students interested in learning how to sing. Basic fundamentals of music including sight-reading and vocabulary are introduced. Students sing music written in two parts and will learn elements of music theory and solfege. Students will focus on the technical aspects of singing in a choir and explore a variety of genres and cultures. Students are required to perform in concerts throughout the year.

Chorus Advanced

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Chorus or teacher recommendation

Schools: AKI, ALT, APR, KYR, KTA

Advanced chorus is a singing ensemble designed for experienced music students. Students will demonstrate proficiency in vocal technique, note reading skills, and matching pitch. Students will continue to develop vocal technique and musicianship, while performing various choral works of a more advanced level. Students are required to participate in concerts each quarter as well as other performance opportunities that arise throughout the year.

Theatre

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

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

In Theatre, students experience the beginning foundations of acting technique including exercises and improvisations exploring awareness, relaxation, observation, pantomime, voice, and theatrical vocabulary. A focus on becoming comfortable on stage, character work, and collaboration is emphasized. Students are involved in performances as an application of learning. Students also learn audience etiquette and constructive criticism.

Theatre II

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Semester/Year

Prerequisites: Theatre or teacher recommendation

Schools: AKI, APR, KYR, PUE

In Theatre II, students will use their prior knowledge to master more advanced theatre skills including acting, technical design, and directing. Students will explore theatre history. A focus on leadership, collaboration, and innovative problem solving is emphasized. Students are involved in performances of scripted and original works as an application of learning.

Theatre III

Grade: 8

Duration: Semester/Year

Prerequisites: Theatre II or teacher recommendation

Schools: APR, KYR

In Theatre III, 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.

Theatre Crew

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester/Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: AKI, KYR, PUE

In Theatre Crew, 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: KYR

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.

Creative Writing Explorations

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: KDA, KYR

Creative Writing Explorations is a semester-long class devoted to the study and craft of fiction-writing, offering students the opportunity to develop and improve their technique and individual style in the expressive form of the short story. The emphasis of the course is on writing; however, students will study exemplary representations and authors to obtain a fuller appreciation of the form and craft in order to create their own short stories for publication.

Photography

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: teacher recommendation

Schools: AKI, 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: 7, 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

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: KYR

In Audio Engineering, 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 Science 1

Grade: 6

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: AKI, 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 21st 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: AKI, APR, 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 21st 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, KYR

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: ALL

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.

Principles of Agriculture Grade: 6, 7, 8 Duration: Semester
 Prerequisites: none Schools: AKI

The purpose of the middle school agricultural education program is to explore and stimulate interest in agricultural science through prescribed classroom and laboratory experiences. Through well-planned instructional activities, students have the opportunity to develop an understanding related to plant and animal life. This includes biotechnology, the conservation of natural resources, and the impact of agriculture and natural resource utilization on the environment. Basic personal and community leadership and safety, and agricultural technology are included as a part of the instructional program. Typical learning activities involve hands-on learning experiences including performing basic principles of plant, soil, and animal science; studying and modeling the significance of humankind’s interrelationship with soil, water and air. Daily work in our school garden and with our school chickens will be an integral part of this class.

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: 6, 7, 8 Duration: Semester
 Prerequisites: teacher recommendation Schools: AKI, APR, KYR, PUE

In 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, 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).

Yearbook Grade: 6, 7, 8 Duration: Semester/Year
 Prerequisites: none Schools: AKI, APR, KDA, PUE

The Yearbook elective is a course designed to develop basic principles of yearbook production. In this course, students will develop skills in one or more of the following areas: page design, graphics, writing, editing, photography, publishing techniques, marketing, advertising, and distribution; all while producing a creative, innovative yearbook which records school memories and events. Participants gain useful, real world skills in time management, marketing, teamwork, and design principles. Actual work results in the current production of the school’s yearbook.

Leadership and Academic Support

AVID Elective 6

Grade: 6

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: AKI, APR, CEN

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Elective 6 is a semester elective course designed to prepare self-determined students for the middle school transition in addition to college and career. AVID incorporates school-wide instructional strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support academic growth of all students. The 6th grade AVID Elective course builds students' study skills, such as note-taking, organizational skills, and goal-setting strategies and also targets building self-confidence and self-efficacy skills. Students focus on public speaking and presentation skills and engage in teambuilding activities. Students also experience different field trips, guest speakers and research to increase their knowledge of college and career options.

AVID Elective

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: AKI, APR, CEN

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Elective is a year-long course for 7th and 8th grade. Students in 7th and 8th grade must apply, interview, and sign a one-year AVID agreement. The focus of the course is on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support academic growth. Students receive training in effective study skills, such as note taking, organizational skills, and goal-setting strategies. Tutorials, small group student work, are held twice per week that are led by college students, other adults, peer tutors and/or cross-age tutors. 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/Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: ALT, KDA, KTA, KYR

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: APR, CEN, KYR

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.

WEB Leadership

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: application

Schools: ALT

The WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Leadership course is a middle school orientation and transition program that welcomes new 6th grade middle school students. The WEB 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 apply those skills to help develop and acclimate our new 6th grade students on our campus. Students who enroll in this class will be mentoring students and providing social and academic/behavioral lessons and follow-ups on a monthly (or more) basis to enhance the climate and school community.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Culinary Arts

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: AKI, APR, 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, CEN

In Family and Consumer Science, students will explore culinary arts, nutrition, practical sewing skills, and workplace skills in careers using technology. Using sewing machines, students will complete projects they will bring home to enjoy. Students will work in groups using workplace skills in the kitchens or independently and will engage in problem-solving and critical thinking while investigating careers and finance. This course is for students who enjoy cooking, are interested in sewing to make useful and fun projects, and have a desire to focus on practical skills related to high school and beyond.

Textile Arts

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: none

Schools: APR

In Textile Arts, activities include hand sewing techniques, machine use and care, fabric selection and various construction projects. Students will practice workplace skills such as time management, perseverance, and problem-solving. Students may take this course once each year. Advanced students will design special pieces of clothing using the sewing machine and work on personal choice projects with instructor approval.

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 Yoga

Grade: 7, 8

Duration: Semester/Year

Prerequisites: none

Schools: AKI

Physical Education Yoga is an introduction class for students to understand the purpose of a healthy body and mind to improve one's quality of life and a basic understanding of the foundations of yoga. This course is geared to increase and improve flexibility, muscle strength, respiration, cardio and circulatory health. Students are required to dress out in appropriate, comfortable clothing such as fitted shorts, leggings, yoga pants, etc. A positive attitude is a must, and mindfulness is a daily focus.

Zero Hour Physical Education

Grade: 6, 7, 8

Duration: one season

Prerequisites: none

Schools: KYR

Zero-hour physical supports students in the IB program participating in a non-cut sport to fulfill their physical education requirement. Non-cut sports include Cross Country in the Fall, Wrestling in the Winter, and Track in the Spring. Students only need to participate in one sports season each year to fulfill the requirement. An athletics fee is required for participation.

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 7th or 8th 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: APR, KDA, KMS

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: APR, KDA, 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.

American Sign Language 1C

Grade: 8

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: American Sign Language 1B or equivalent

Schools: KMS

American Sign Language 1C is a full-year course and a continuation of American Sign Language 1B. Students develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at the Novice High proficiency level by carrying out short spontaneous signed conversations both expressively and receptively with the help of facial expressions and body placement. Students exchange information on both very familiar and everyday topics using a variety of practiced or memorized signs, phrases, simple sentences and questions. Students will continue to build their knowledge on 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 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 numbers, colors, family, food and drinks, and celebrations. In addition, students explore the Chinese culture through Chinese legends, traditional holiday celebration, arts and crafts and food and snack tasting.

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.

Mandarin Chinese 1C Grade: 8 Duration: Year
Prerequisites: Mandarin Chinese 1A, 1B or equivalent Schools: KMS

Mandarin Chinese 1C is a full-year course and a continuation of Mandarin Chinese 1A and 1B. Students continue developing interpersonal, presentational and interpretive communication skills at a Novice Mid proficiency level by communicating on very familiar topics using a variety of words and phrases that have been practiced and learned on topics such as food and drinks, ordering food, weather and seasons as well as cultural aspects including Chinese cultural elements, festivals, holidays, clothing and appearance.

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 Spanish speaking countries.

Spanish 1A Grade: 7 Duration: Year
Prerequisites: none, Spanish Exploration at KMS Schools: ALL

Spanish 1A 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 sequence.

Spanish 1B Grade: 8 Duration: Year
Prerequisites: Spanish 1A or equivalent 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 1B is a yearlong course and a continuation of Spanish 1A. 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 sequence.