



**SANTA FE PREPARATORY SCHOOL
MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS
2010-11**

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM.....1

ENGLISH2
• English (7) • English (8)

HISTORY2
• Social Studies – New Mexico History (7) • Social Studies – Global Studies (8)

SCIENCE.....2
• Life Science (7) • Earth Science (8)

MATHEMATICS3
• Essentials of Mathematics • Pre-Algebra • Algebra I

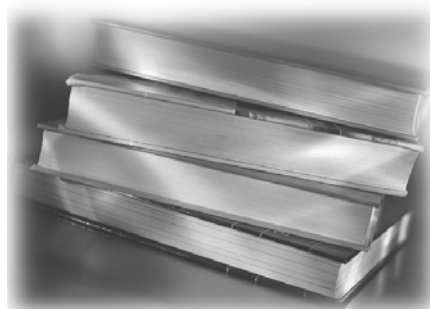
LANGUAGE3
• Latin I (7) • Spanish I (8)

COMPUTER SCIENCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY3
• Middle School Computer (7)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION4
• Physical Education (7) (8) • MS Sports (7) (8) • Life Skills (8) • Athletics (8)

COMMUNITY SERVICE5

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES 5-6
• Project G.U.T.S • Art • Ceramics • Digital Photography • Photography
• Acting • Intro. to Musical Theater • Middle School Musical • Instrumental Music
• So You Wanna Be a Rock Star?



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS 2010 – 2011

SANTA FE PREPARATORY SCHOOL - Middle School Curriculum

The standard course load consists of five academic courses, Computer Science & Information Technology, P.E., and an elective. Middle School students take the following courses:

Course	Minimum Requirements
English	2 Years
Social Studies	2 Years
Science	2 Years
Mathematics	2 Years
Language	2 Years
Computer Science & Information Technology	1 Semester (7 th grade)
Physical Education/Athletics	2 Years
Community Service	Participation each year

ENGLISH

English 7

English 7 is devoted to studying literature of the Southwest. Our readings include *Rio Grande Stories*; *Looking for Lost Bird*; *People of Darkness*; *The Way to Rainy Mountain*; *Bless Me, Ultima*; and selected poetry by local and regional Latino, American Indian, and Anglo authors. Shakespeare is a part of the English curriculum at every grade level; in English 7 we read *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In addition, students are provided opportunities for intensive work in writing nonfiction, fiction, and poetry. Grammar, spelling, and vocabulary are also central components of this course.

English 8

The cornerstone of English 8 is the book *Sophie's World*, an internationally acclaimed novel in which a young girl discovers Western philosophy and considers some of the great questions of life. Complementary readings include the *Iliad*, selected dialogues of Plato, *Macbeth*, Bradbury's *Illustrated Man*, and others. The goals of this course are to help students read critically with an emphasis on abstracting ideas from literature and to apply these to their lives; to articulate thoughts in seminar-type discussions and group presentations; and to develop critical and creative writing skills.

HISTORY

Social Studies – New Mexico History (7)

The New Mexico History course brings to life the colorful events and people who have shaped our state. The course begins with the earliest native peoples and continues with an exploration of post-Columbian Native Americans, Spanish explorers, indigenous Hispanic culture, Indian reservation policy, and the current state of the state. Students in the course will gain a sense of the variety of New Mexican traditions and cultures through debating, reading, performing, taking field trips, and developing hands-on projects.

Social Studies – Global Studies (8)

Global Studies is the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities, drawing upon such disciplines as anthropology, economics, political science, history, natural sciences, religion, philosophy, and literature, with a special emphasis on geography and current issues. The purpose of Global Studies is twofold: first, it is designed to prepare students for the academic rigors of the Upper School, specifically critical thinking, researching, and writing skills. Second, it is intended to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the common good as citizens of a diverse and interdependent world.

SCIENCE

Life Science (7)

Life Science familiarizes students with the fundamental concepts of biology and ecology. Coursework relies heavily upon laboratories and hands-on activities. In addition to a foundation in the subject matter, the teaching style emphasizes problem solving and scientific reasoning as well as providing significant introductions to a variety of study skills necessary for success at the high school level.

Earth Science (8)

Earth Science is an introductory level course where the student will have the opportunity to explore the topics of astronomy, geology, hydrology and meteorology. Emphasis will be placed on the interaction between these systems and our impact on this fragile balance. Basic chemistry, physics, math and technology will be incorporated through practical applications.

MATHEMATICS

Essentials of Mathematics

This course emphasizes the development of core math skills necessary for success throughout the Prep math and science curricula. While strengthening computation and problem solving abilities, it lays the foundation for algebraic thinking. Key topics include: adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals, fractions, mixed numbers and integers, order of operations, basic concepts of geometry, solving one and two step equations, ratios and percents.

Pre-Algebra

This course explores more advanced computation and word problems while pushing ahead to solve harder algebraic equations. Key topics include: distributive property, variables and variable equations, solving multi-step equations and inequalities, factors, rules of exponents, percents, fractions, square roots, basic linear functions, area and volume.

Algebra I

This class is a comprehensive study of elementary algebra. Key topics include: integer exponents, absolute value, scientific notation, solving linear and quadratic equations, graphing linear equations, the quadratic formula, operations with radicals, solving multi-variable equations, polynomial equations, and functions.

LANGUAGE

Latin I (7)

Latin I introduces students to the grammar and vocabulary of classical Latin through readings, exercises, and quizzes, preparing them for modern language study and further exploration of classical civilization.

Spanish I (8)

The goal of Spanish I is to build vocabulary and initiate students in the four basic skills of language acquisition: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The instructors speak Spanish most of the time and facilitate the comprehension of students' spoken language with the use of gestures, photos and pictures.

COMPUTER SCIENCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Middle School Computer (7)

At Prep, as in the larger world, computer use continues to grow. This course introduces students to many of the important aspects of contemporary computing. Students spend most of their time engaged in hands-on projects. Very little paper is used in the course: almost all information-exchange, including quizzes, is electronic. The major content areas include: using Prep's computer network and e-mail; fundamentals of how a computer works; touch typing; word processing using Word; numerical spreadsheets using Excel; giving presentations using PowerPoint; and computer ethics and safety. The skills learned in this course should be of immediate benefit to students as they start their Prep careers and should continue to be useful throughout their lives.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education (7) (8)

The Middle School years will be devoted to developing Prep athletes. All Middle School students participate in P.E. every day. Emphasis is on cross-training and injury prevention. Students will learn the basics of many different sports. They also participate in several intramural tournaments over the course of the year.

Middle School Sports (7)(8)

In addition to the required P.E. classes, there are opportunities for seventh and eighth grade students in good academic standing to play on middle school level interscholastic athletic teams. Sign-up for these teams occurs during school at the beginning of each season. The specific sports available may depend upon interest. Sports likely to be offered include:

Cross Country (coed)
Tennis (coed)
Volleyball (girls)
Soccer (boys and girls)
Basketball (boys and girls)
Dance (coed)
Lacrosse (boys and girls)
Fencing (coed)

Life Skills (8)

This is an 8th grade class being taught as part of the P.E. program. Students are divided into gender specific groups and rotate every quarter to a different topic. The topics covered are Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco Awareness, Social and Emotional Development, Human Relations & Sexuality, and Media Literacy. We have also enlisted the help of a group called Impact Personal Safety, who will be doing a three-hour workshop on peer pressure, bullying, and the use of verbal and physical tools (non-violent) to avoid dangerous situations.

Athletics (8)

In addition to the required P.E. classes, eighth grade students are eligible to participate on interscholastic athletic teams. Participation in a varsity/junior varsity program requires a full commitment to the team for the entire season and can be very demanding. Participation will be allowed with the assumption that students maintain their academic standing, and this privilege can be removed at the discretion of the Administration at any time. Priority is given to 9-12 grade students so space may be limited and possibly unavailable but signing up will allow us to reserve any available space. Tennis is the only sport that requires permission by the athletic department prior to enrollment. Interscholastic sports activities offered include the following:

Fall Sports

Boys Soccer
Girls Soccer
Girls Volleyball
Girls Cross Country
Boys Cross Country
Coed Fencing

Winter Sports

Girls Basketball
Boys Basketball
Girls Swimming/Diving
Boys Swimming/Diving
Dance Team

Spring Sports

Girls Tennis
Boys Tennis
Girls Track and Field
Boys Track and Field
Boys Lacrosse
Girls Lacrosse

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Seventh Grade TAP introduces students to community service and the experience that helping others is both fun and rewarding. Some of the projects tackled by seventh graders: learning about garbage and landfills, then handling campus recycling; learning about hunger in the world, then contributing to the Trick or Treat for UNICEF program; learning about HIV/AIDS, then assisting in the AID and Comfort Gala. The underlying philosophy of 7th grade TAP is that regardless of the size or tragedy of any disaster or need, a single person can make a significant contribution.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

Project G.U.T.S.: Introduction to Computational Science

Not to be confused with intestines, this course is connected with the popular Project G.U.T.S. - Growing Up Thinking Scientifically – which is hosted by the Santa Fe Institute. Facilitators from SFI will visit the class regularly. Students will learn to construct amazing interactive 3D computer models of artificial worlds using systems thinking and modeling through the use of StarLogo TNG. Students will also learn computer programming using an extensive blocks language. The course will explore how to characterize dynamical systems and systems behaviors. These behaviors include *equilibrium, stability, feedback, and chaos*. The course will study computational model building as used in science, mathematics, business, and engineering. Students will learn a sense of whether a model actually tests a hypothesis or merely echoes your own assumptions of how a system ought to behave.

Offered: Spring Semester

VISUAL ARTS

Art

This course provides a sampling of media including drawing, water color, ceramics, graphics, set painting for the spring play, etc. Each of these projects lasts 2-3 weeks. While the accomplished artist will feel challenged, the less confident student will discover that he or she is able to succeed as well. Emphasis is on exploration and fun.

Offered: fall semester

Ceramics

This course is an introduction to clay as an expressive medium. Students learn basic slab, coil, and wheel throwing techniques, and are encouraged to make interesting and original forms. Emphasis is on skill development and fun.

Offered: fall semester; spring semester

Digital Photography

The once challenging areas of photo processing and printing are quickly performed with the click of a mouse. To become truly proficient, however, it is important to understand the basic principles of color and design and develop an “eye” for selecting just the right image to use. We will explore the world of digital photography, from camera to computer to print. Students will use the latest programs to edit and manipulate their digital photographs. An interest in a new medium and a digital camera are essentials for this course.

Offered: fall semester

Photography

In this course, students acquire fundamental skills in many aspects of black and white photography. The course offers practical experience in camera use, film processing, and darkroom printing. Through a variety of projects, students are encouraged to refine their skills. Each student needs a working camera. Point and shoot cameras are fine.

Offered: spring semester

PERFORMING ARTS

Acting

Do you want to be more expressive, create and perform interesting characters, improvise comedy sketches and learn how to act? This course teaches the basic elements of acting through theatre games, technique, improvisation exercises, and monologue and scene study. Students will learn how to warm up vocally and physically, perform comedic and dramatic material and learn group dynamic skills that emphasize the importance of working together as an ensemble.

Offered: fall semester

Intro. to Musical Theater

Do you like to sing or have always wanted to learn to sing on stage? This class is for all level of students who want to experience the excitement of musical theater. You will learn vocal technique and instruction for singing solo and in a group. You will also learn warm up techniques, voice projection, learning to become a character while singing through theater games, auditioning, stage presence, and the evolution of musical theater. All students will perform in a fun musical showcase at the end of the semester.

Offered: fall semester

Middle School Musical

Be part of the fun and excitement of putting on a musical! The entire process will be covered from auditioning, character analysis, learning stage directions, theater discipline, costumes, sets, movement, learning songs, working as an ensemble and staging to present the musical. Everyone will be in the show at the end of the semester, but there are no specific parts guaranteed.

Offered: spring semester

Instrumental Music

Here's your chance to continue playing the instrument you started in elementary school. We will explore musical works from the classics to contemporary. Emphasis will be placed on the basics of music theory, sight-reading and musical interpretation. The class will perform at Arts Night and potentially other school functions. MS Instrumental Music will be offered in the first semester.

Offered: fall semester

So You Wanna Be A Rock Star?

Start your own garage band by learning the basics of guitar, bass, piano and drums.

No experience required! Just a serious attitude towards learning how to make music and perform it. We'll also work on writing our own tunes and some basics of home recording.

Offered: spring semester