



**THE VILLAGE
SCHOOL 2017-2018**

**Middle School
Course of Study**

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THE VILLAGE SCHOOL – MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY

General Academic Information – Curriculum

The middle year's curriculum at The Village School is composed of opportunities in the classroom and through a vast array of extracurricular activities. The instructors provide differentiation in each subject area that guides student engagement at different levels. Our comprehensive approach combines an integrated curriculum and creative teaching techniques with rich, extracurricular activities in the form of clubs, sports and performance opportunities.

Language Arts

Our program focus in Language Arts is for students to be life-long readers and writers. Students spend time studying novels, short stories, articles, and other writings related to content areas as well as exploring current trends in literature. Grammar and vocabulary are developed in preparation for high school and the standardized assessments for college entrance. Mastery of the five-paragraph essay format is the groundwork which is utilized, throughout the middle years, to expand and build student writing skills. This format is adapted while exploring the expository, narrative and persuasive writing modes.

Mathematics

Beginning in 5th grade, students continue to build their mathematics foundation and apply this knowledge to real-world math problems. They use the Go Math! textbook and online components as resources. By 8th grade, students may have the opportunity to take Algebra 1 at the high school level for credit.

Social Studies

The middle school history program is presented as a four year, chronological study of American and World History. Unique to our program are the timeline portfolios that students create to represent historical events in both American and World History. Student work and creative cues are added for each unit of study so that student timelines become an individualized, evolving, work-in-progress throughout the middle school years. Additionally, our school-wide STEAM philosophy is centered around the social studies curriculum, which facilitates holistic learning through the integration of all content areas and helps to maximize connections for our students.

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Science

Students in 5th grade continue their scientific exploration through the three different science domains. Beginning in 6th grade, students focus on Earth Space Science, while 7th grade students concentrate on Life Science and 8th grade students focus on Physical Science.

Modern and Classical Languages

Students are exposed to Spanish through 5th grade and can elect to continue Spanish in 6th and/or 7th grade. In 8th grade, students may select Latin 1, Spanish 1 or French 1 for high school credit or opt out of taking a language course all together.

Performing & Visual Arts

Students can elect to take courses in the arts. They have the option of visual art, digital photography, band, orchestra, chorale, steel drums or drama.

Physical Education

Students can elect a P.E. course and/or participate in competitive after-school sports.

Electives

Students select electives as desired to give them an opportunity to experience different subjects throughout the middle years.

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Academic Policies and Procedures

Students are grouped to give each individual the pace of learning that is challenging but not stressful. Groups are not static. Placement is evaluated on an ongoing basis and can change if performance indicates that coursework is too demanding or insufficiently challenging.

Course Descriptions

Course descriptions, separated by department, are given on the following pages.

Language Arts

The Middle School Language Arts curriculum encompasses grammar, vocabulary development, formal writing and literature study. Grammar skills encompass learning the parts of speech and components of strong sentences, with additional focus on syntax within various types of sentence structure. Vocabulary is taught through Greek and Latin roots along with practice using vocabulary in multiple ways. Literary concepts such as theme, conflict, foreshadowing and metaphor are taught and analyzed, and provide a foundation for analytical writing. Expository writing is an essential skill designed to encourage organization, evaluative and critical-thinking skills.

Language Arts

5th grade

5th grade develops the foundation of the 5-paragraph essay with cross-curricular connections through literature and social studies content. They learn the elements for expository and persuasive formats and focus on grammar and Greek and Latin vocabulary development. There are also projects and STEAM units that culminate each quarter with engaging experiences for students.

Language Arts

6th grade

6th grade continues to practice the 5-paragraph essay, building on the skills learned in 5th grade. Students write a variety of essays—narrative, expository, persuasive, and responses to literature. 6th grade students study grammar in the context of their writing, and continue to learn Greek and Latin roots in their vocabulary study. Literature includes historical fiction that mirrors social studies topics, and STEAM projects focus on this connection between Language Arts and Social Studies.

Language Arts

7th grade

7th grade begins the year with refining all basic writing skills and formats. Students then build their skill set to include poetic analysis, cause and effect, compare and contrast, and vignette writing formats. Students create a grammar based interactive notebook which includes writing activities to bridge the gap between learning grammar in isolation and actively using it in written pieces. While literature is grounded in historical fiction to connect to social studies topics, there is an emphasis on exploring contemporary pieces that connect to their modern lives. Reading non-fiction is another emphasis in the seventh grade curriculum. STEAM unit projects are highly integrated across all core curriculums, and draw in several electives as well, thus exemplifying global learning.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL – MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY

Language Arts

8th grade

8th grade at The Village School continues the concepts from 7th grade with accelerated depth and pace. The social studies influence is based on world history which leads the learning, both reading and writing, to a global focus. Students begin to see themselves as lifelong learners with inquisitive minds and valid opinions. Essays are based on responses to literature, free choice topics and topics within the social studies curriculum. Research writing and rhetoric, with works cited as well as annotated bibliography, are an additional focus as students prepare for the rigors of high school. Literature varies from traditional texts and novels to poetry and speeches. At this level, STEAM unit projects are advanced and often presented independently.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL – MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY

Social Studies

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Social Studies

5th grade: Early America through the Revolutionary War

Students start off the year with a unit on the ancient civilizations of the Inca, Maya and Aztec. This unit includes a hands-on STEAM project where students make a replica of one of the ancient history sites and how they integrated an irrigation system. They continue, chronologically through American history, by learning about the Native American regions and conduct a research project on a specific tribe, highlighting the amazing engineering and resourcefulness of their tribe. The students then learn about the Age of Exploration and discover how the technology and innovations helped shape the discovery of the New World. 5th grade continues through the history of our nation by using creative hands-on investigations about the early colonies of Roanoke, Jamestown and Plymouth. This lays the foundation for students learning about the colonial regions and thirteen colonies. Students finish the year by learning about the causes of the Revolutionary War, significant events of the war and participate in a class simulation experiencing life as a loyalist or patriot.

Social Studies

6th grade: Formation of American Government through Civil War

Our 6th grade students start off the year by recapping the important government documents laid out by our founding fathers. They continue into the era of Westward Expansion by learning about the War of 1812 and the great idea of Manifest Destiny that helped shape our nation. Students participate in a hands-on research STEAM activity where they create a scale replica of one of the major modes of transportation for this time period. Students also experience a local element of Westward Expansion by meeting a guest speaker and having traditional western grub for lunch. Students continue, chronologically, learning about the changes in our industry and the first wave of immigration. Students then begin learning about the rising tensions that would give way to the Civil War and impact on the United States. This unit has a culminating simulation where each student is able to represent a state within the union or confederacy and make choices/decisions based on their needs. This live simulation allows students to experience some of the effects states felt during the war, the manner in which the war came to an end, and ultimately how our nation needed to rebuild. The Reconstruction Era completes the year.

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Social Studies

7th grade: Second Wave of Immigration through Modern American Decades

7th grade begins with a study of the landmark cases of the Supreme Court and continues with the changes in origins of immigration, Ellis Island and the need for cheap labor to fuel the Industrial Revolution taking off in America. Students host an interactive New York tenement reenactment that is the prompt for a writing piece about the sights and smells of tenement life. The Gilded Age unit focuses on technological changes in building, infrastructure and on the robber barons that created the massive changes taking place in our society. This is a full STEAM unit with students building models of the great structures of New York City. Women's suffrage, African American leaders of reform, child labor and factory safety laws continue this unit study. WWI is the following study of new technologies of war, societal changes and the Treaty of Versailles. The roaring 20s and the economic trends that caused the stock market crash of 1929 bring students closer to "modern America". Students participate in the Stock Market game, an interactive game, buying, selling and maintaining a portfolio. A "crash" party demonstrates the wide gap between the wealthy and the poor during the Great Depression. WWII is a comprehensive unit from the Holocaust to the home front, from the European to the Pacific fronts; students emerge with a very solid understanding of this war and its subsequent effects on modern American life and the Cold War. Lastly, the study of political, economic and social changes from 1950-2000 complete the year.

Social Studies

8th grade: Pre-history through Victorian Era

Students begin the year with the study of the great river civilizations of Mesopotamia, India, China and Egypt. We continue on to Persia, Phoenicia and then Greece and Rome. All of these civilizations are studied through the filter of great engineering feats, as well as through their geographic, economic, cultural and political influences. This study is concluded with an Ancient Artifact Academy, using the engineering design plan, they create their own scale drawing, research paper and build a model. We host younger students, parents and make our "Academy" a perfect STEAM showcase. Once the students experience the fall of Rome, the Dark Ages follow and then lead into the Middle Ages. This a comprehensive unit with students conducting research on a variety of topics from feudalism to the Norman Conquest, The Church and the Crusades, castles and cathedrals, the Bible to the Magna Carta, the Silk Road and the origins of global trade. This unit allows students a variety of skills as they prepare for a Medieval Faire. Every student does research and portrays an actual person from this era and they are able to choose according to their own personal areas of strength. Following this is an art intensive unit with the Renaissance, focusing on da Vinci in both science and art, to make connections to this time period. The Age of Discovery is a unit to see the global connections of trade, imperialism and ultimately, America's role on the world stage. During the Age of Enlightenment students learn the foundation of American political philosophy and are captivated by the French Revolution. We conclude our year with a survey of the Victorian era and the great changes of the Industrial Revolution.

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Mathematics

Beginning in 5th grade, students continue to build their mathematics foundation and apply this knowledge to real-world math problems. They use the Go Math! textbook and online components as resources. By 8th grade, students may have the opportunity to take Algebra 1 at the high school level for credit.

Mathematics

5th grade

This math course emphasizes three critical areas. First, students will develop fluency with addition and subtraction of fraction and create an understanding of the multiplication and division process of fractions. Next, they will extend division to 2-digit divisors while integrating decimal fractions into the place value system and continue the understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths, and fluency with whole number and decimal operations. Students will also develop an understanding of geometry and measurement.

Mathematics

6th grade

The 6th grade course emphasizes four critical areas of development. Students will connect ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division as well as use concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems. Student will also complete the understating of division of fractions while extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers. Students will write, interpret, and use expressions and equations and finally, develop an understanding of statistical thinking.

Mathematics

7th grade

Students in 7th grade will begin with the number system, learning to add, subtract, multiply and divide integers and rational numbers. Students will also learn how to calculate unit rates, identify proportional numbers, find percent of increase and decrease, and apply percent in real world situations. Students learn to write and solve one and two-step equations and inequalities and finally, model and create geometric drawings and calculate circumference, area, surface area and volume of composite figures.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL – MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY

Mathematics: Pre-Algebra Honors

7th grade

This math course begins with the four critical areas of development associated with the 7th grade curriculum, and expands into six additional areas to help prepare students for Algebra. Here, students will explore statistics by analyzing and comparing various displays of data and by making inferences from random samples and populations. Students learn principles of probability and how to make predictions. They will broaden their understanding of the number system as they work with exponents and use scientific notation. Students will investigate proportional and non-proportional relationships, graph them and solve linear equations. In the last two units, students explore the realm of Transformational Geometry and gain an understanding of Measurement Geometry, as they investigate angle relationships in parallel lines and triangles, and calculate volume of cylinders, cones and spheres.

Mathematics: Pre-Algebra

8th grade

The 8th grade math course is comprised of six different units. The first unit focuses on the number system of real numbers, rational and irrational numbers, and affords opportunities to work with exponents and scientific notation. In Unit 2, students will delve into proportional and non-proportional relationships and functions, learning how to write linear equations and functions based on real-world situations. In the third unit, students will learn multiple ways to solve linear equations and systems of linear equations. The fourth unit exposes students to Transformational Geometry, where they investigate concepts of transformations and congruence, as well as transformations and similarity. In Unit 5, they will enter the realm of Measurement Geometry, analyzing angle relationships in various applications, the Pythagorean Theorem and volume. Finally, in the last unit, students explore statistics, making predictions and interpreting scatter plots and two-way tables.

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Algebra Readiness

8th grade

This math course serves as a bridge from previous math courses to Algebra 1. Students review concepts including, but not limited to, rational numbers, decimals, mixed numbers, prime numbers, number systems, operations with negative numbers, percent, powers, and basic geometry. Basic algebra concepts are enhanced, such as naming a variable, expressing real-life applications with algebraic expressions, substituting numbers for variables, and solving basic equations. More difficult equations, involving the distributive property and combining like terms, are solved. More algebra concepts are introduced, such as absolute value, slopes of lines, equations of lines and graphs of lines.

Algebra 1

(1 year/1.0 unit of high school credit)

This is a one-year course with some discussion of theory and application beyond basic manipulative skills. Topics include simplifying expressions, solving and graphing equations and inequalities, factoring polynomials, simplifying rational expressions, solving systems of equations and simplifying radicals. The course concludes with the quadratic formula. Students will learn how to use a TI-84+ graphing calculator.

Prerequisite: Above average grade (determined by instructor) on the placement exam and recommendation from 7th grade math instructor along with a final grade of A, A- or B+

Algebra 1 Honors

(1 year/1.0 unit of high school credit)

This is a one-year course with some discussion of theory and application beyond basic manipulative skills. Algebra 1 Honors involves an in-depth exploration of algebraic concepts, through additional word problems and mathematical labs. Concepts covered in this course include simplifying expressions, solving and graphing equations and inequalities, factoring polynomials, simplifying rational expressions, solving systems of equations simplifying radicals and solving quadratic equations. Students will use a TI-84+ graphing calculator to complete hands on mathematical laboratory experiments. The Honors course concludes with an introduction to Algebra II concepts.

Prerequisite: Above average grade (determined by the instructor) on the placement exam and recommendation from 7th grade math instructor along with a final grade of A, A-, or B+

Modern and Classical Languages

Students develop all of the basic skills, which include listening, speaking, reading and writing. For the modern languages, emphasis is placed on a communicative approach while reading and writing are the focal points in Latin.

5th Grade: Spanish

This program's emphasis is on communication by integrating the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing through music, rhythm, and movement. Students in this program are also able to compare other cultures from Spanish - speaking countries to their own. Prior knowledge of the language is not required. Grades are based on participation, effort, and projects giving students the opportunity to evaluate what they have learned. Students have the opportunity to expand their interest, implement their knowledge, and enrich their understanding and respect for other cultures through field trips. Cooking and tasting experiences are provided to develop familiarization with Hispanic cuisine.

Level 1 MS Spanish

This curriculum will take your child on a tour of the Spanish-speaking world with engaging resources that balance communication, grammar, cultural instruction, and motivation that inspire learning. Each lesson carefully leads the students from structured practice to open-ended communication. This program has a simple format that allows learners to achieve success and be well prepared for future courses in Spanish. Students have the opportunity to expand their interest, implement their knowledge, and enrich their understanding and respect for other cultures through field trips. Cooking and tasting experiences are provided to develop familiarization with Hispanic cuisine. Rising 6th and 7th graders (with no basic knowledge of the language) are eligible to take this course.

Level 2 MS Spanish

We offer this class to rising 7th graders with required prior knowledge of the language. This program enables your child to progress toward proficiency with clear goals, and combines rich cultural lessons with carefully sequenced language instruction. Students have the opportunity to expand their interest, implement their knowledge, and enrich their understanding and respect for other cultures through field trips. In class, your child will have many opportunities to experience the world of tasty flavors of Hispanic cuisine through sampling, and even cooking.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL – MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY

Spanish 1 **(1 year/1.0 unit)**

Students with little or no previous exposure to Spanish are introduced to the basic elements of the language and to the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. Emphasis is on basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The ability to communicate in simple written and spoken Spanish is promoted through a variety of materials and activities.

Prerequisite: None

MS Intro to French

This fun, interactive course for middle school students is an introduction to French by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural and travel guide presentations. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices and perspectives of various French-speaking countries.

French 1 **(1 year/1.0 unit)**

Students with little or no previous exposure to French are introduced to the basic elements of the language and to the culture of the French-speaking world. Emphasis is on basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The ability to communicate in simple written and spoken French is promoted through a variety of materials and activities.

Prerequisite: None

Intro to Latin

This course seeks to prepare students for Level I Latin, which they may take in middle school and high school. Students will focus on the acquisition of vocabulary, exposure to the basic rules of grammar and linguistics, and a survey of ancient Roman culture and mythology.

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Latin 1

(1 year/1.0 unit)

The major objective of the course is to develop the ability to read and comprehend continuous Latin. In order to do that, students will need to know and understand the vocabulary, forms, functions and syntax of the language. Another objective is to know the words in Latin from which English, Spanish, French and Italian words are derived and how their spellings and meanings evolved. In addition, students will learn about Roman and Greek history and mythology and gain command of Latin expressions and mottoes that are current in modern English.

Prerequisite: None

Physical Education

The physical education program offers opportunities for students to participate in a wide range of physical activities, learn the fundamentals of team and individual sports, learn personal fitness skills, and develop healthy lifetime habits and interests.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL – MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY

Science

Our goal in middle school is to engage students and share our passion for science in a nurturing environment that guides them to realize that learning can be exciting. Teachers share knowledge from all core classes so students can understand how science weaves throughout their everyday lives. They also provide real-world projects and opportunities to work on complex science texts that prepare our students for deeper understanding of topics in Earth Space, Life and Physical Sciences, as well as, Engineering. Experiments allow students to use the scientific method and learn the process of writing a proper lab report. Students build a strong foundation for science and are well prepared to enter high school to tackle the curriculum at the next level.

Science

5th grade

This year the foundations for Earth Space, Life, and Physical Science are established in order to prepare students for future years. Several units covered include: constellations, potential/kinetic energy, seasons, solids/liquids/gasses, elements, and plant growth. There are many exciting labs for each unit such as: making root beer floats during the solids/liquids/gasses unit, constructing gumdrop molecules during the unit on matter, and creating clay models for the landforms unit. All labs are conducted following the scientific method.

Earth Space Science

6th grade

Earth/Space Science is designed to teach students to interpret and understand the world around them. In order to do so, students will investigate and study the interactions between the four major Earth's spheres, including the geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere in order to explain Earth's formation, processes, history, landscapes, and the how and why Earth changes over time. Students learn about mapping Earth's surface, fossils, minerals, rocks, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, geologic time, and meteorology. As students move into the second semester they will learn about the solar system and universe. Some topics covered will be the moons effect on Earth, the sun, formation and scaling of our solar system, stars and galaxies, the big bang theory, and space exploration. Students will participate in laboratory exercises, small group activities, web based investigations, class discussions, projects, and research.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL – MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY

Life Science

7th grade

Life Science is an introductory level course designed to enable students to explore basic biological concepts in a laboratory setting. Students begin the year with a unit on ecology that relates the interdependence of living with each other and the environment. Students continue their study of living organisms through investigations into cell structure, biochemical make-up, adaptations and genetics. As students move into the second semester, the focus is on the diversity of life. They will classify the many different species of living organisms into kingdoms and other classification categories. Students will investigate each of the kingdoms in depth throughout the remainder of the year.

Physical Science

8th grade

Physical Science is an introductory level course into the worlds of Chemistry and Physics. Students begin the year with the scientific theory and move into Chemistry to explore its basic principles. Students discuss the atomic theory and the atomic structure. They learn the basics of the periodic table and the ins-and-outs of chemical reactions. The second half of the course is an intro into Physics. Students will discover Newton's laws and will have a chance to build trebuchets for our medieval festival we have in collaboration with the Social Studies department. Along with this, students will learn the basics of electricity and magnetism. The goal of the Physical Science curriculum is to prepare students for the concepts and rigor they will encounter at the high school level.

Elective classes

MI Robotics: 5th grade

This class will cover all the fundamental principles of designing, building and programming a mobile robot. Students will use the newest Lego EV-3 Mindstorms Robotics system and the EV-3 Mindstorms programming language. Students will learn about input sensors and how to use them to allow a robot to run in autonomous mode. We will also cover every aspect of the F.I.R.S.T. Lego League project in preparation for the competition in Advanced Robotics.

Robotics

Robotics is a class for students who like to tinker with technology but are not interested in the competitive side of robotics. Students will have the opportunity to build a wide variety of robots and learn the basics of programming. There will be challenging activities designed to encourage students to be creative. They will use the ©Lego NXT Mindstorms Robotics system and the programming environment.

Robotics Competition Team (requires faculty approval)

The main focus of this course is the F.I.R.S.T. (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics competition. The team will design, build, and program a robot for this competition. The students and parents in this class must be committed to attending tournaments and giving whatever is needed to be on this competitive team.

Structures

This is a course with hands-on learning about the design of building and architecture. Students will build many structures such as a tower, bridges, skyscrapers, amusement park rides, and a cantilever. Types of bridges and sound construction are investigated as well as a study of the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The work is done in teams and individually.

Engineering

In this course, students will explore engineering and the design process. Students will create a solution for a problem. They will develop a design brief, build a model and promote their solution. A brief introduction to different types of engineering will be explored.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL – MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY

Technology: 5th grade

The Technology class is an exploratory course in middle school designed to introduce 5th graders to a 1-to-1 school environment using Chromebooks and Google Apps for Education. Students will be in a hands-on course that walks them through how Chromebooks work and more importantly what technology tool skill development they will need to be highly successful at the middle and upper school levels.

Code & App Design

This course is aimed at providing students with an understanding of the role computation can play in solving problems. It also aims to help students feel justifiably confident of their ability to write small programs that allow them to accomplish useful goals.

Digital Literacy

Digital Literacy is designed as a hands-on classroom experience where students will not only learn and utilize the latest forms of cloud resources and social media, but also navigate the moral, ethical and practical uses of that technology. We will question, explore, and discover how the technology we interact with everyday works, how and when to use it and the ways in which it can be detrimental as well as beneficial.

Video Magazine

Students will explore the amazing possibilities in video production and photography to learn the process of creating a quality video magazine. This is a hands-on course designed to teach students the many facets of creating fun content in video productions. Lights, camera, action!

Business & Marketing

This course will allow students the opportunity to plan, produce and market an original business idea and present before a Shark Tank committee.

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Author & Genre Studies

This class will encourage students to develop a greater love of reading and help them learn literary terms and devices within the context of reading a novel. Students will be expected to read their chosen selections, **outside of class**, discuss their selections in groups or in front of the class and write short paragraphs on a regular basis.

Geography

This course will explore global connections, and then take a scholarly tour of the world, with stop offs in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Asia and the Americas. Along the way, systematic investigations of major human geography themes such as population dynamics and migration, agricultural change, human-environment interactions, health and disease, economic change and development, urbanization, and cultural shifts will be discussed.

Hands-on History (will complete a project but not required to compete)

National History Day is a year-long academic program focused on historical research for 6th-12th grade students. This is a prestigious, academic competition with judging at the county, state and national levels. Through research, writing and interviewing, students will produce a documentary, a dramatization, a research paper, an exhibit or a website. More information may be found at www.NHD.org. In addition, we will have History's Mysteries, field trips, games and historical food days. **As this is a national competition, travel and supply expenses must be covered by parents.**

Odyssey of the Mind Competition Team

OM is a creative problem solving organization that offers competitions to students from K-college. Spontaneous verbal challenges and hands-on problem solving will be mixed with students developing solutions to a large-scale problem. The students will need to create, build, write and perform their solutions at a Regional Competition in March. **This class will also require afterschool commitment.** Parent involvement, as a volunteer or judge, will also be necessary for the competition. For more information: http://www.odysseyofthemind.com/learn_more.php

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Scholar Bowl Competition Team

Students prepare for the Collier County Scholar Bowl competition held in the spring. The team will have weekly practices and participate in four practice matches between November and March. The topics covered by the competition include language arts, science, math, social studies, current events, and fine arts. Students will have the opportunity to display their academic strengths as a member of a team competing against other middle school students from around the county.

Debate

Students will learn to research, reference, and document their sources on a variety of current events. They will also learn how to verify the information gathered for authenticity. Once information is gathered students will use the research to develop a point of view from an affirmative and negative perspective. They will use facts from their research to prove their points as they debate the different issues from each perspective.

Marine Science/Environmental Science (semester of each)

***Marine Science** is a course that will focus on different marine environments such as estuaries, tide pools, reefs, vents and the oceanic zone. Topics covered in this course include chemical, physical, and biological parameters of these marine environments. Emphasis will also be placed on the ecological relationships between marine organisms and their particular habitats.

***Environmental Science** is a class that gives students an opportunity to expand their studies of various environmental science topics. The students will learn how the natural world works, how we as humans interact with the environment, how we affect the environment and also how we can find ways to deal with these effects.

Visual and Performing Arts

It is important that students continue to experience and explore the artistic aspects of life in middle school, to complement their academic experiences. There is a required music experience in 5th grade. In 6th grade students may also select from a variety of electives to complete their requirement in the fine arts. Middle school students may also choose to broaden their knowledge in a current area of interest or explore and develop new passions with multiple fine arts choices if the schedule allows.

Elective Classes

Beginning Band

Beginning Band is a fun class that will challenge you to learn to play a musical instrument. The instruments offered are flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, and drums.

Advanced Band

Advanced Band is for students that have completed Beginning Band and want to continue with the instrument they first learned to play. The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous year that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests, honor bands, and private lessons.

Orchestra

The string orchestra program welcomes students who like the sound of stringed instruments and would like to learn how to play different styles of music from Bach to Coldplay. In this fast-paced program we emphasize musicianship, problem-solving, teamwork, and above all having a great time making music together. Students will explore beginner to advanced techniques with individual, hands-on attention in a supportive atmosphere. You may also find some of our strings students participating in the annual Collier County Solo and Ensemble Festival and in the Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

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Chorale

Chorale is the Village School's premier vocal ensemble with students ranging from 5th - 8th grade. In this class students will be taught fantastic vocal technique, sing a variety of quality choral literature, and perform throughout the year in various venues. All students are welcome to join chorale! If you love to sing, this is the class for you!

Steel Drums: 6th - 8th grade only

In this class students will learn the art of playing steel drums straight from the Caribbean. Students will have the opportunity to play multiple pans including leads, double seconds, cellos, and the infamous "bass pans." Students will learn to read music notation and will be taught how to play different pans along with traditional Caribbean percussion instruments. This class will perform during the school year in various venues and the only prerequisite is you have to be willing to have a great time!

Drama

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be on stage, or to be somebody else for a day? Or even wondered what it takes to be behind the scenes in a Broadway show? 'Drama' will give you a comprehensive understanding of acting for both the stage and screen, as well as some elements of musical theater. Ever thought about becoming a comic? We'll cover that too, and learn about what makes a great improviser. This class will also include aspects of the Theater Arts such as stage management, costuming, lighting design and more!

Art: 5th grade

The 5th grade art class will let students explore the world of creative design. Students will work in partnership with the facilitator to explore their artistic passions while learning concepts and skills. The students will have the opportunity to work with media such as painting, printmaking, drawing, ceramics, digital media and more!

Art: Mixed Media

This class is designed to provide experiences in a broad range of media, subject matter and techniques. Students create drawings, paintings, and collages while focusing on different concepts and skills. Students are encouraged to develop their own personal style and to refine their craftsmanship.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL – MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY

Art: Digital Photography 8th Grade

This course is an introductory course designed for students who wish to acquire basic camera and editing skills. Students will gain experiences with a DSLR camera to develop a body of work in photography.

Photo & Film

This course is an introduction to the aesthetic and techniques of photography and basic filmmaking. Topics include camera and lens operation, memory cards, file formats, creativity, image editing software and output.

*Course requires a digital camera with video option.