



HERITAGE OAK
Private Education

Middle School Program Guide 2025-2026

Following are the 2025-2026 Middle School course offerings listed by subject area. Further details of the courses are presented by the faculty; additional middle school program information is outlined in the HOPE Middle School Guide.





HERITAGE OAK *Private Education*

Dear Middle School Students and Parents,

Welcome to Heritage Oak Middle School! We are excited to welcome you to a community where learning, growth, and discovery go hand in hand. The middle school years are a time of tremendous development, both academically and personally. During these transformative years, students begin to shape their identities, build meaningful relationships, and grow into confident, capable young adults.

At Heritage Oak, our goal is to guide students through this important journey by offering a challenging and supportive academic program. Our dedicated team of teachers works collaboratively to design dynamic, cross-curricular learning experiences that foster curiosity and critical thinking. Core subjects such as mathematics, science, social studies, and language arts are thoughtfully integrated with technology and enriched by world language, visual and performing arts, and physical education.

We believe that equipping students with strong problem-solving skills, digital literacy, and a growth mindset is essential in today's world. Our Middle School Program of Study is designed to prepare students for the future by encouraging independence, creativity, and resilience.

As you prepare for the upcoming school year, we encourage you to review this guide carefully. Inside, you'll find important information about our academic offerings, policies, procedures, and what to expect during your middle school experience. This resource will help you feel confident and ready to take full advantage of everything our program has to offer.

We are proud of our vibrant middle school community and thrilled to have you as part of it. Here's to an amazing school year ahead!

Warm Regards,

Jennifer Tafolla

Middle School Principal

Middle School Goals for Learning

LEARNING TO LEARN

- Students make a commitment to create quality work and strive for excellence
- Students use a variety of learning strategies, personal skills, and time management skills to enhance their learning
- Students reflect on and evaluate their learning for the purpose of improvement

EXPAND AND INTEGRATE KNOWLEDGE

- Students connect knowledge and experiences from different subject areas
- Students use what they already know to acquire new knowledge, develop new skills, and expand understanding
- Students demonstrate integrated knowledge and skills in applying multidisciplinary approaches to solving problems or completing tasks

DEVELOP COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- Students communicate with clarity, purpose, and understanding of audience
- Students integrate the use of a variety of communication forms and use a wide range of communication skills
- Students recognize, analyze, and evaluate various forms of communication

DEVELOP THINKING AND REASONING SKILLS

- Students gather and use information effectively to gain new information and knowledge, classify and organize information, support inferences, and justify conclusions that are appropriate to context and audience
- Students utilize, evaluate, and refine the use of multiple strategies to solve a variety of types of problems
- Students generate new and creative ideas by taking considered risks in a variety of contexts.

DEVELOP INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

- Students work with others in a variety of situations to set and achieve goals
- Students manage and evaluate their behavior as group members
- Students deal with disagreement and conflict caused by a diversity of opinions and beliefs

DEVELOP PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Students take responsibility for personal actions and demonstrate honesty, fairness, and integrity
- Students respect themselves and others, and understand and appreciate the diversity and interdependence of all people
- Students demonstrate an understanding of and responsibility for global and environmental issues
- Students act as responsible citizens in the community, state and nation

From the National Study of School Evaluation

SCHEDULE

The eight-period block rotation schedule offers students a liberal arts sampling of courses in preparation for high school. Eighty minute class periods allow instruction to be delivered with a focus question to begin the class, delivery of the lesson, and review. Five minutes between each class gives students enough time to regularly use their lockers, a requirement in middle school. World Language, physical education/health, supplemental, SEL, and PLP classes will occur on a daily rotation, with 40 minute classes and a four minute passing period.

CURRICULUM

The Program of Study (included at the end of this guide) covers detailed course descriptions of the middle school curriculum. Further, teachers provide class agendas via Schoology that provide focus questions, class work, and homework. As such, all students can adhere to the course schedule at all times.

ASSESSMENT

In addition to ongoing assessments in the class via quizzes, tests, and daily assignments, student progress is measured through:

Project-based learning

Hands-on projects allow students to apply their learning, rather than merely memorize it. Middle school highlights such applications, as students use multiple intelligences and creative thinking to demonstrate their learning. Often, these projects are cross-curricular, making the learning even more meaningful to the students.

Exams

End of Unit, Semester, and Final exams are administered to assess individual student progress in a traditional setting. While the focus is not on test taking, these exams provide students practice needed for completing such tasks.

SHOWCASE CELEBRATIONS

Students learn by organizing, planning, and hosting several events and festivals to showcase their learning. These applications provide excellent cross-curricular opportunities and real audiences for students to share their knowledge. We are pleased to have our students participate in the HOPE Science Fair, OCDE Spelling Bee, Sage Hill Math Invitational, AMC8 Math Competition, and the end of the year HOUSE Academic Pentathlon.

CULTURE AND CHARACTER

Cotillion Classes

Originally a French form of dance, Cotillion is now known as training that children and young adults attend to learn manners and proper social behavior in the context of formal dance. Each year, starting in January and continuing until April, we provide these valuable classes. These classes specialize this year in ballroom dance, fine dining instruction, and public speaking. These classes are mandatory and will be graded. Students will apply the skills learned throughout the year during three formal on campus luncheons and two off-site cotillion events.

International Luncheon

On this day, we celebrate the diversity of our students. This very special event involves a multicultural potluck and an opportunity for students to dress up in attire that represents their families' native lands.

HOUSE MENTORING PROGRAM

All students are assigned to a house teacher, who also serves as a mentor. This relationship is for the students and for the parents. Homeroom teachers are the "go to" contact on campus for each student, overseeing general whereabouts and records. In addition to distributing important materials, house teachers also update students with announcements and dates for their calendars. Finally, house teachers meet with their students twice a week, which allows them to serve as mentors and coaches, guiding students through their middle school years.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Heritage Oak's community service program gives students the opportunity to experience personal growth and gratitude through their dedication to values that enhance our society. Students that participate may recognize the needs of the less fortunate, understand our environment, appreciate our history, and gain the kind of self-respect that can be earned only by giving. Students in 6th & 7th grade earning 40 or more hours of servitude in a school year will receive a special certificate.

Students in 8th grade earning 40 – 79 hours of servitude in a school year will receive a special certificate. 8th grade students earning 80 or more hours of servitude in a school year will receive a silver cord and be recognized at the 8th grade graduation ceremony.

All Middle School students are able to participate in two community service days during the school year that are arranged by HOPE. Students are encouraged to participate in additional self-motivated community service projects throughout the school year as well.

Middle School students will be exposed to a variety of service opportunities, thus preparing them for high school service requirements:

- Canned Food Drive – November
- OC Social Services Agency Toy Drive "Operation Santa Claus" – December
- King Day of Service - Working Wardrobes Clothing Drive – January
- Houses – Adopt a Charity (ongoing)

FIELD TRIPS

Throughout the year, middle school students experience learning hands-on via off-campus field trips. These trips serve to strengthen learning in all classes.

Sixth Grade

California Science Center

Our 6th grade students will explore the wonders of science beyond the classroom during an exciting field trip to the California Science Center! As part of our commitment to hands-on, inquiry-based learning, students will participate in an interactive experience that brings classroom science to life through engaging activities in physics, biology, chemistry, and earth science. These immersive programs are designed to support the Next Generation Science

Standards (NGSS) and offer students the chance to think like real scientists. From experimenting with forces and motion to exploring ecosystems and chemical reactions, students connected classroom concepts with real-world applications in a fun, meaningful way. The California Science Center's mission is to stimulate curiosity and inspire science learning through inclusive, memorable experiences, which perfectly aligns with our goals as science educators.

Bowers Museum: Ancient Arts of China

Students will witness the incredible evolution of Chinese art and culture from the Neo-lithic Era to the last dynasty! Students will learn the process, traditions, and importance of Chinese Scroll Painting. By applying techniques in calligraphy, brush painting, signature stamps, and even poetry, students will create an original work of art.

Walk Through the Ancient World

Welcome to *Walk Through the Ancient World™*! This program is designed to allow your students to actively participate in a rich retelling of ancient history. Through storytelling, games, and drama, history will come alive! Discover Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome through an imaginary tour of the ancient civilizations. Students portray historical people of the past, such as Julius Caesar, Cleopatra, and Socrates. Students broaden their understanding with maps, timelines, and games.

Seventh Grade

Medieval Times - Take a Field Trip to the 11th Century!

Imagine a history lesson presented by a King and his Noble Court set within the walls of an 11th century-style castle. Every detail is painstakingly recreated as your students take a personal journey back to the Middle Ages.

Step back in time and experience spectacular horsemanship, amazing swordplay, medieval games of skill and an authentic jousting tournament between six brave knights of the realm. As the tournament takes place, the castle's serfs and wenches serve your students a feast fit for a King.

The Holocaust Education Center of Orange County

The Holocaust Education Center of Orange County, home to over 700 artifacts from various Nazi concentration camps (compiled by renowned trailblazer and survivor Mel Mermelstein), is a destination point for middle and high school students & the greater Orange County community coming to learn about the history and lessons of the Holocaust. Students begin their journey back to the Holocaust with a short documentary about survivor Mel Mermelstein's life and creation of his artifact - made art exhibit. Students then begin a fully immersive docent-led tour of the exhibit while engaging in meaningful discussion and hands on interaction with authentic artifacts. Students leave with a greater historical understanding of the Holocaust and tolerance.

Eighth Grade

Energy in Motion Physics Program - Knott's Berry Farm

STEM comes to life at Knott's Berry Farm! The Energy in Motion tour breaks down the creative and mechanical engineering behind Knott's Berry Farm's various rides and attractions. Students will gain a greater understanding of the science behind roller coasters and they will have the opportunity to discuss subjects such as centrifugal force, mass, inertia, and more while they experience how each concept relates to the rides.

Revolutionary War Field Trip - Riley's Farm

Students will step back in time and experience life during the American Revolution at Riley's Farm. Through hands-on activities, historical reenactments, and interactive lessons, they'll learn about colonial life, revolutionary ideals, and the daily challenges faced by early American patriots. This immersive experience brings history to life in a memorable and engaging way.

HUSKY ADVENTURES - OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS

Designed to enhance the curriculum, these exciting trips transport students to unique situations, making learning come to life.

Sixth Grade - "AstroCamp Adventures!"

AstroCamp is located near Idyllwild, CA, in the San Jacinto Mountains. The camp provides creative and dynamic coursework in astronomy, physical science, space exploration and planetary sciences. Classes are designed to inspire students toward future success in both academic and personal pursuits.

Seventh grade – "PALI Institute, Here we Come!"

Three days and two nights at the PALI Institute, Outdoor Education Center. PALI Institute offers a unique outdoor education experience that combines science, leadership, and adventure in the San Bernardino Mountains. Through hands-on learning and team-building activities, students explore environmental science, develop confidence, and strengthen collaboration skills, all while enjoying the great outdoors in a safe, supportive setting.

Eighth grade – "Discovering Our Capitol and New York!"

Six days and five nights in Washington D.C. and New York. Students embark on School Tours finest tour program. Designed to enhance social studies curriculum, students will gain a deeper understanding of our history, the consequences of choices, and of their role in our continuing American story. Action packed days are accompanied by fun and educational evening activities. Students discover U.S. History and government in two of the most powerful cities in the world: Washington, D.C. and New York. Explore historic landmarks you've only read about in books or seen on T.V., such as the White House, United States Capitol, and Monticello. Students honor our country's heritage by visiting some of the nation's most remarkable sites and memorials, including Arlington National Cemetery; and the World War II, Jefferson, and Vietnam Veteran Memorials. Students also tour various universities and will see a play in New York.

RECOGNITIONS/CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments but challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service. Students with a GPA of 3.7 or higher after the first three quarters are invited to apply for membership. Their applications are then reviewed by the NJHS committee. Students who accept the invitation for membership are inducted into the local chapter at a ceremony held in May.

Character Education

Students will be utilizing the Making Caring Common's eight anchor attributes of the Impacter Pathway program as their social-emotional learning and character building. These lessons will be focusing on not only character traits but social skills, conflict resolution, and confidence building.

Each month, teachers nominate and vote for middle school students who demonstrate the qualities of great character that were featured for our Citizen of the Month award. Areas in which students can be nominated are focused on the Making Caring Common's eight anchor attributes: curiosity, perspective-taking, purpose, self-control, grit, growth mindset, compassion, and gratitude. The students are honored during the monthly house activity.

The most prestigious of the character awards is the Principal's Humanitarian award which is bestowed upon two 8th grade students who demonstrate positive examples of all eight anchor attributes on a regular basis, becoming the model Husky. At the end of the year, the two students chosen for this award are recognized at the 8th grade graduation ceremony.

H.O.P.E Card – Helping Others Pursue Excellence

The middle school teachers are committed to helping their students pursue excellence and always demonstrate good character. The "HOPE CARD" is a way to recognize the excellence and good character that our students display on a daily basis. HOPE CARDS are issued to students by teachers and staff members when they are caught exemplifying the following 8 anchor attributes of the Impacter Pathway program: curiosity, perspective-taking, purpose, self-control, grit, growth mindset, compassion, and gratitude. Students earning cards are honored and rewarded during each house event.

Kindness Crew

Members of the Kindness Crew inspire Kindness amongst students, staff & the community. Throughout the year, the crew will participate in multiple school events, such as the Welcome Back Celebration and The Great Kindness Challenge Week. Dedicated to spreading positivity around our campus, they plan fun moments like chalk walks with the younger huskies and give handmade flowers to staff members. To make connections outside of school, Kindness members create seasonal cards for local causes, including nursing homes and shelters for women and unhoused neighbors. The members also run fundraisers for organizations around our community and around the world. They decorate duffle bags for foster children and stuff them with comfort and hygiene products. They provide one year of education for young refugee girls in underdeveloped countries. During Mental Health Awareness Month, the crew helps to supply Amazon wish list items to the essentials closet in the Pediatric Mental Health Unit at CHOC

hospital. Participation in the Kindness Crew is such a fulfilling opportunity that leaves a lasting impact on both those who serve and those they help. Yay Kindness!

Getting Ready for High School

By grade students will focus on:

- 6th grade - study skills
- 7th grade - interview skills
- 8th grade - resumes, high school prep class (optional), on-site high school visits

Starting in September, we open our campus to the local private and public high schools by inviting them to come speak to our eighth-grade students about what it takes to be ready for the rigor of their programs. Within the classroom, students prepare for interviews, identifying their goals, and developing a resume and ultimately a "Student Professional Portfolio". The portfolio is designed to have the students enter high school prepared for the college/scholarship application process in future years. This process gives the students an opportunity to foster self-critique, reflection, and critical thinking skills.

Personal Learning Plans (PLP's)

The PLP will assist in measuring each child's rate of improvement. At the middle school level, our goal is for students to be involved in their learning and understanding their progress data. Students will gain knowledge of their academic goals, develop an ongoing portfolio of their progress, conduct student - parent conferences to discuss their progress, review the plan, and set new academic goals as appropriate. The PLP will consist of two parts: an academic improvement plan and an area of opportunity for growth plan.

- The academic improvement plan is designed to challenge the student in areas of identified need for growth, based on their individual CTP test results, and classroom performance as noted by his or her teachers.
- The area of opportunity will be personalized to your child's character development and digital citizenship. This could range anywhere from organizational skills, self-esteem, responsibility and leadership, to becoming more comfortable speaking in front of peers and improving the use of polite manners.

The outcome of your child's individual progress will be discussed in quarterly emails as well as at the formal conference in November. It is our job as a school to effectively understand all aspects of your child and to communicate effectively the progress being made in the daily classroom environment.

Digital Citizenship

As our culture and society have moved into a digital lifestyle, we recognize that our education must change and adjust as well. We have incorporated digital citizenship into our classrooms and have spotlighted it in our PLP sessions by introducing digital citizenship curriculum and activities monthly.

Honors Lists

Academic excellence and outstanding conduct are the goals of every Middle School student. At the end of each quarter, students will be honored for their academic effort and conduct with the following certificates:

Head of School Distinguished Honor Roll List

Achievement of 4.0 in all four grading periods for the year.

Principal's Honor Roll List

Achievement of 4.0 in both grading periods of the semester.

Gold Honors

Achievement marked by a grade point average of 3.75 to 4.0.

Blue Honors

Achievement marked by a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.74.

Valedictorian – Salutatorian - Third Honors

Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Third Honors are selected as the top three students in 8th grade who have been part of our middle school for all three years. These students would have the highest GPA over 6 semesters here at Heritage Oak and are recognized at the 8th grade graduation ceremony.

Associated Student Body (ASB)

2025-2026 Cabinet

President: Jingwei G.

Vice President: Leah H.

Secretary: Kiara S.

Treasurer: AJ G.

6th Grade Representatives: Aric G., Ishaan G. & Anthony L.

7th Grade Representatives: Luke B., Ryan B. & Ryan C.

8th Grade Representatives: Riyan R. & Tristyn S.

The Associated Student Body (ASB) at HOPE is responsible for creating a fun, exciting and unified student body through their lunch time activities, snacks once a month, Valentine Grams, and \$1 Free dress days. On behalf of the student body, we donate to charitable organizations through monetary, clothing, and toy items (American Lung Association, Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation, Working Wardrobes, Toy Drive for Operation Santa Claus). Funds raised throughout the school year are used to sponsor events such as the Harvest Festival, Welcome Back, school dances, and end of the year games. ASB is the platform for student leaders to become more involved and contribute to many school programs.

Parent Involvement**Principal's Roundtable**

Collaboration between home and school is what makes our school unique and helps ensure success with our children. Quarterly meetings are held to invite parents to meet with the Directors and give input into the middle school program at Heritage Oak.

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

If you have extra time and want to stay involved in your child's education, then Middle School has various opportunities throughout the school year for you to stay involved. Contact Mrs. Tafolla, Middle School Principal, if you are interested in volunteering.



Middle School Program of Study 2025-2026

LANGUAGE ARTS

6th grade

After focusing on the Art of Language and its development in fifth grade, sixth grade Language Arts delves into the art of literature via a genre study through independent and class readings. Students will immerse themselves in the reading of varying genres such as science fiction, mystery, non-fiction, fantasy, and realistic fiction. Students will work to improve their reading skills by utilizing strategies such as summarizing, inferencing, reflecting, and responding. During reading, students study the elements of literature in context and apply these skills to related writings, using learned organization and annotation skills. Through these writings, students focus on developing fluency in their writing, as well as continuing to learn proper structures in sentences, paragraphs, and essays. Writing conventions, parts of speech, vocabulary, grammar, and spelling are addressed as students transfer learned skills to their personal writing as they prepare for the future to discover their voice.

7th grade

Seventh grade English continues the journey started in sixth grade, as it serves to encourage the development of individual writing style and discovery of voice. This particular journey takes students through stories of the world, as they reflect on who they are and relate their personal experiences as a seventh grader growing up in society, thus enhancing and integrating the Social Studies curriculum. By studying various authors' styles, students gain an understanding of the tools writers use, and then apply such tools to their personal writing. Novels and short stories, all with a focus on creativity, allow students to study specific authors and their styles. In turn, students experiment with a multitude of writing genres, such as short stories, poetry, and descriptive essays. In addition, exploration of language devices grant students the opportunity to study: words at play, similes, metaphors, sensory words, and color words, encouraging students to collect words to energize their writing. Students are expected to learn and apply the

steps of the writing process as they understand audience and purpose, then make revisions and progress toward professional publication of their writing. Writing conventions are taught on an individual basis, with emphasis on word choice and style. Successful completion of this course produces a proficient and talented creative writer who has discovered their voice.

8th grade

Having discovered their writing voices, students in eighth grade English learn to take a stand as they develop their formal writing skills. Focusing on structure and format will give the students the expertise to transfer their writing voice to convincing, logical positions. This emphasis on structure correlates to other content areas, thus cementing student voice with research, facts, and content information. In addition, students read texts analytically to dissect the author's purpose and point of view. Units and texts focus on themes such as justice, fairness, propaganda, utopia, and equality, as lessons merge with the U. S. History curriculum. As students study structure, they learn what strategies complement their voice and use writer's tools such as transitions, effective word choice, proper essay format, and parenthetical notation. In turn, students gain the skills necessary to compose several writing samples, including persuasive essays, analytical essays, and research papers. Diverse writing lessons reinforce structure and allow students to create reasonable, well-supported arguments, rather than relying solely on opinion. In turn, students feel well versed and are able to deliver a professional presentation, in both written and verbal communications.

SOCIAL STUDIES

6th grade: The Ancient World

The sixth-grade social studies curriculum focuses on the geography, history, and cultures of the ancient world. After a brief unit on Early Humans and the Rise of Civilization, the students will learn about the extraordinary world of Ancient Egypt and the Near East. From there the students will journey to Asia for units on Ancient India and Ancient China. The year concludes with an exploration of the rise of Western civilization in Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome. Throughout the year students have the opportunity to explore the influence of geography, religion, systems of government, and writing on the development of ancient Empires. By experiencing and appreciating the goals, struggles, and decisions of past cultures, students begin to gain a deeper understanding of the world-changing issues facing societies today.

7th grade: The Medieval World and Beyond

The seventh grade curriculum is rich in fascinating history, geography, and culture, all of it having modern-day applications. The year begins with Christian Europe in the Middle Ages and then moves into the rise of Islam and its expansion to Europe and the Crusades that followed. China and Japan come into the curriculum as well, with fascinating units on Imperial China and Medieval Japan. The later part of the year covers European exploration and the Renaissance and Reformation that gave birth to that exploration. Latin America before and after European colonization is studied, as is the Enlightenment, and the Scientific Revolution.

8th grade: The United States Through Industrialism

In the eighth grade the United States is the focus of the curriculum. From the first Americans to the English colonies in North America, to the Revolutionary War and on to the Industrial Revolution, students encounter the main themes of American history: the development of democracy, Western Expansion, Slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, relations with Native Americans, Industrial Growth, and Political Reform.

SCIENCE

6th Grade Science- Course 1

In 6th grade science, students will dive into an exciting, hands-on year of discovery using Elevate Science Course 1, a curriculum that explores physical science, earth science, and life science. Our class follows the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) with a student-centered approach that blends digital learning, interactive labs, and real-world problem solving. Throughout the year, students will: Connect and engage with big scientific ideas through curiosity-driven questions. Investigate and explore key concepts with phenomena-based activities and labs. Synthesize and explain their learning through hands-on experiments, models, and digital tools. Elaborate, demonstrate, and evaluate their understanding with STEM challenges, coding, and engineering innovation tasks. A few of the engaging topics we will dive into include: Introduction to Earth's Systems, Weather in the Atmosphere, Minerals and Rocks, Plate Tectonics, and Earth's Surface Systems. We'll use our interactive workbook and digital resources to support learning and develop critical thinking. By the end of the year, students will not only understand how the world works, but also how to think like a scientist.

7th Grade Science- Course 2

Savaas Realize Science Course 2 is a yearlong middle school curriculum that deepens students' understanding of core scientific disciplines, including physical science, life science, and earth and space science. Building on concepts introduced in Course 1, this course emphasizes more complex scientific principles such as chemical reactions, energy transfer, cell structure and function, and Earth's dynamic systems. Students will develop their analytical and investigative skills through a blend of traditional paper-and-pencil assessments, collaborative labs that promote experimentation and discussion, and hands-on projects that connect classroom learning to real-world scientific challenges. Some of the activities include dissections, collaborative presentations, book readings, and anatomical drawings. This comprehensive approach ensures that students not only grasp scientific content but also develop the critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for future scientific learning.

8th Grade Science - Course 3

Savaas Realize Science Course 3 is a comprehensive, yearlong curriculum designed to prepare middle school students for high school-level science by exploring advanced topics across physical science, life science, and Earth and space science. This course focuses on deepening students' understanding of concepts such as genetics and heredity, chemical properties and reactions, energy in ecosystems, and the history of Earth and the universe. Throughout the year, students will engage in a variety of learning methods, including traditional paper-and-pencil assessments to evaluate individual comprehension, collaborative labs that encourage scientific inquiry and peer interaction, and hands-on projects that apply scientific principles to real-world situations. This well-rounded instructional approach supports the development of scientific literacy, critical thinking, and practical problem-solving skills essential for success in future science courses.

MATHEMATICS

Pre-Algebra

Glencoe Pre-Algebra focuses on introductory algebra topics. It is designed to facilitate the transition from the concrete concepts of arithmetic to the abstract concepts of algebra. Students will also continue to study a broad range of mathematical topics such as expressions and equations, multi-step equations and inequalities, ratios, proportions, similar figures, linear and nonlinear functions, and two and three dimensional space, which will build their skills

needed for algebra. They will use real world situations and problems to challenge their critical thinking skills, further their mathematical understanding, and develop the ability to explain and justify answers to others.

Algebra I

enVision Algebra 1 transitions from arithmetic operations in pre-algebra to the application of properties of numbers and equality to carry out operations within different functions, all with the goal of applying mathematics to describe and model real-life situations. The textbook will challenge students with problem-solving and offer visual and interactive learning lessons to solidify abstract ideas. Topics covered include: equations, inequalities, linear and nonlinear functions, exponents, polynomials, quadratic functions and radical functions.

Geometry

HMH Into Geometry offers students many opportunities to explore geometric situations, develop conjectures and prove their conjectures using a variety of methods. The HMH geometry textbook encourages students to communicate their geometric reasoning using standard two-column proofs as well as paragraph proofs, flow proofs and coordinate proofs. Topics covered include: angles, proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles, polygons, quadrilaterals, transformations, ratios and proportions, Pythagorean theorem, circles, perimeter, area, circumference, solids, surface area and volume.

WORLD LANGUAGE

6th Grade Spanish

This course is designed to introduce students to the grammar concepts and vocabulary needed to speak, and write in Spanish. Students will build on concepts learned in Elementary Spanish while reviewing greetings, conversation and numbers in Spanish. Spanish speaking countries and culture lessons will be incorporated into each unit of the curriculum. Videos, listening activities and internet activities will keep students active in learning Spanish grammar and vocabulary from the text. By the end of the year students will feel comfortable translating, writing and holding basic conversations in Spanish. Class time will be used to read a Spanish novel, practice vocabulary, learn new grammar concepts, and develop written projects to utilize skills learned.

7th Grade Spanish

This course is designed for students to continue learning Spanish through a variety of instructional methods. Students will continue to improve grammar concepts and vocabulary. Students will build on concepts learned in previous years and practice dialogues and skits in order to reinforce their Spanish. Videos, listening activities and internet activities will keep students active in learning Spanish grammar and vocabulary from the text. By the end of the year students will feel comfortable translating, writing and holding basic conversations in Spanish. Class time will be used to read a graphic novel, practice vocabulary, learn new grammar concepts, and develop projects utilizing technology. By the end of the year students can present themselves orally and engage in basic everyday discussion.

8th Grade Spanish

This course is designed to give students a comprehensive introduction to the Spanish language and varied cultures of the Hispanic world. Through instruction in the four major linguistic competencies (speaking, listening, reading, and writing), students will gain the skills necessary to express themselves in a variety of everyday situations. Emphasis is on vocabulary acquisition and using language in context to convey meaning, grammar fundamentals supporting effective

communication, and the appreciation of other cultures. Class time will be used for comprehensive reviews, everyday conversational skills, and reading a Spanish novel. By the end of the year students can write and say a short paragraph presenting themselves, create a graphic novel in Spanish and express themselves in Spanish using multimedia presentations. Students that have attended Spanish class since 6th grade will have completed a Spanish Level 1 High School course and will be ready to pursue Spanish 2 in High School.

6th Grade French

The primary objectives of the French language program in Grade 6 are to help students to develop their proficiency in the French language through the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and to instill in students an understanding and appreciation for the French language and culture around the world. The course is an integration of video, audio, and text activities leading to the complete language development. It is designed to accommodate all students by appealing to a variety of learning styles. Class time is used for beginning conversational French, language acquisition, starting homework and project based learning activities. By the end of the year students can present themselves, engage in basic everyday discussions, listen to basic everyday conversations, explain francophone holidays, and do simple translations.

7th Grade French

The primary objectives of the French language program in Grade 7 are to help students to improve their proficiency in the French language through the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and to instill in students a better understanding and appreciation for the French language and culture around the world. The course is an integration of video, audio, and text activities leading to the complete language development. It is designed to accommodate all students by appealing to a variety of learning styles. Class time is used to build stronger conversational skills, expand everyday vocabulary, learn more complex grammar structures, and students will be working on more project-based assessments. By the end of the year students will have completed a French Level 1 High School course. They can make cross cultural comparisons and discuss the French Medieval Era as they cover it in parallel with their Social Studies program. By the end of the year students can describe personal preferences, make deeper comparisons and take better notes to solidify their language acquisition skills.

8th Grade French

The primary objectives of the French language program in Grade 8 are to help students continue to build up their proficiency in the French language. By interweaving language, culture, and current events, the course seeks to broaden students' communication skills and deepen their appreciation of other cultures. Class time will be used for comprehensive reviews, everyday conversational skills, reading authentic current content, reading a French novel, exploring more of the French-speaking world, and its cuisine. They will be able to discuss French and U.S. History as they cover it in parallel with their Social Studies program. By the end of the year students can write and say a short paragraph presenting themselves, create a graphic novel in French, and express themselves in French using multimedia presentations. Students that have attended French class since 6th grade will have completed a French Level 1 High School course and will be ready to pursue French 2 in High School.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

This course is designed to allow middle school students to dive deeper into their social emotional learning through the *Impacter Pathways* program. By embedding Making Caring

Common's eight anchor attributes, Curiosity, Perspective-Taking, Purpose, Self-Control, Grit, Growth-Mindset, Compassion, and Gratitude, within the Impacter Cycle, students are provided a pathway for developing the foundational emotional skills that can serve them in classroom settings and beyond.

Students will also use *HealthSmart*, a health program designed to impart key health concepts, and practice critical health skills that will help children and teens achieve healthy behavior outcomes across all health content areas.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Middle School P.E.

This course develops a positive self-image and encourages each child to set attainable goals within the standards of the physical fitness program. The Heritage Oak health and fitness program encourages students to become life-long participants in wholesome recreational activities that will help increase their physical fitness. The curriculum will begin with the introduction of basic skills, team sports, and further concepts that will enhance and promote the importance of health-related physical fitness. The sixth, seventh and eighth-grade competency increases through a wide range of physical activity. Students at these ages will be able to set physical fitness goals independently related to muscle strength, muscle endurance, aerobic capacity, flexibility and body composition. In order to set these goals, we incorporate physical fitness testing quarterly to provide accurate data to assess their progress. The fitness tests include sit and reach, push-ups, sit-ups, pacer test, and mile run, and are excellent tools for evaluating the students' muscular strength, endurance, flexibility, and cardiovascular fitness. The rationale behind the testing is not just an assessment tool, but as an opportunity for students to establish and meet personal goals throughout the year. We will challenge and engage your children with a wide range of activities that promote fitness and wellness, while upholding the California State Physical Education Standards.

SUPPLEMENTAL CLASSES

Middle School Public Speaking & Debate

This course is designed to develop and foster the skills necessary for public speaking through research, teamwork, and current events. During this course, students will learn to develop and improve communication skills that will help in school and at work, improve relationships with family and friends, and deal with challenges. Students attend the Public Speaking & Debate class three 2-3 class periods each week and will be involved in researching topics, giving individual speeches, debating interesting and current topics, developing effective speaking, listening, and research skills. 8th Grade students will participate in the Heritage Oak Holiday Shows as emcees and curtain acts; 6th and 7th grade students will have a summative assignment attending and evaluating one of the evening events..

Concert Band/Wind Ensemble

This is a performance-oriented class geared towards students that demonstrate a strong mastery of the fundamentals of tone quality, rhythm and listening skills. As the premier concert band of HOPE, students are expected to achieve a high level of success and have additional responsibilities beyond the classroom. Concert Band and Wind Ensemble place an emphasis on the refinement of fundamentals of performance, both individually and as a group, and development of discriminating listening skills. The program strives to produce intelligent consumers of music with an appreciation of the arts as a form of communication and

self-expression. This is a year-long course with 4 performances (Holiday Show, Spring Concert, Worldstrides Competition, and End of Year Music Finale).

String Chamber Orchestra

This course is designed for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who participated in the 5th/6th grade orchestra class at Heritage Oak. Students will have the continuous opportunity to perform as well as developing strong leadership skills while learning music theory, history and ensemble performance. This is a year-long course with 4 performances (Holiday Show, Spring Concert, Worldstrides Competition, and End of Year Music Finale).

6th Grade Theatre

This course is an introduction to Theatre with focus primarily in the musical aspect, as an art form; emphasizing on understanding the nature of drama and its place in culture, the history and theory of theatre and the production process. Students will not only learn how to act and sing, but they will also have the chance to learn about stage lighting, prop design, scene design, and sound.

7th Grade Theatre

This course is an intermediate expansion to Musical Theatre that incorporates history, presentation, improvisation, developing further musical ability, and technical theatre production. Students will learn to use their voice and body expressively while communicating in a dramatic form.

8th Grade Theatre

This course is an advanced exploration of Musical Theatre that incorporates theatre history, peer presentation, improvisation, music ability, technical theatre production, and allows for students to be mentors to 7th grade theatre students. They will further advance in their voice and body expressively while communicating in a dramatic form.

ADDITIONAL CLASSES

Electives

The Middle School elective's program is an important component of Heritage Oak curriculum. The elective program encourages our students to pursue interests and passions beyond the core curriculum. Elective courses are curriculum-linked to enrich the school's academic program according to Heritage Oak's educational philosophy and mission.

The elective's schedule is based on the semester system. Students enroll in one elective per semester. Each class will meet twice per week for 35 minutes during the eighth period of the day. Each semester contains various courses to provide a broad enrichment experience.

ASB and Kindness Crew electives are a full-year option; other electives have the opportunity to change at the new semester.

OPTIONAL Husky Debate Team (Competitive Course)

The Husky Debate team is a member of the Orange County Debate League. Participation on the competitive team requires a one-year commitment and is open to anyone with prior or current MSPDP or HOPE debate class experience. The Husky Debate Team is not required, but strongly suggested to anyone who does not have prior engagements after school and on weekends. There are approximately five (5) tournaments throughout the year that students will be required

to attend, held on Saturdays, starting in the late Fall and ending in Mid-May. Students will be required to attend after school practices in preparation for tournaments weekly.