

2024-2025 Vision Charter School Middle School Courses

ENGLISH, LANGUAGE, and LITERATURE

51001 English (Gr. 6-8)

Description: Each course builds upon the students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and mechanics of writing, and includes the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Various genres of literature are introduced and defined, with writing exercises often linked to reading selections.

SCIENCE

53000 General Science (*Gr. 6 Earth and Space Science*)

This course follows the new Idaho State Science Standards for Earth Science in middle school. Students will develop an understanding of a wide range of topics in Earth and Space Science that build upon science concepts from elementary school. It will be a balanced approach consisting of three dimensions: supporting content, science practices, and cross-cutting concepts. In particular, students will focus on the Earth as a whole system and the factors that influence it.

53000 General Science (*Gr. 7 Life Science*)

This course follows the new Idaho State Science Standards for Life Science in middle school. Students will be introduced to the characteristics of living things. Students study the diversity of life forms from viruses to mammals; learn human body systems, genetics, and ecological relationships. Critical thinking, problem solving, and hands-on inquiry skills are developed through observation, classification, data collection, cooperative learning experiences, and communication through the introduction of technical writing.

03159 Physical Science (*Gr. 8 Physical Science*)

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT Physical Science courses cover Structure and Properties of Matter, Chemical Reactions, Energy, Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions, and Waves.

**Students not receiving a C- or above will not receive HS credit and will instead have the course transcribed with MS credit 53000. This applies to both semesters. Parents may request that their child only receive MS credit by marking this on the syllabi when returning it OR emailing darlaharold@visioncsd.org.*

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HISTORY

54305 Social Studies (Gr. 6)

Social Studies courses enable students to study a group of related subjects addressing the elements and structures of human society that may include economics, geography, history, citizenship, and other social studies-related disciplines. Students will be exposed to history through historical fiction, non-fiction, and historical documents. Students improve their critical thinking skills as they determine the underlying assumptions and values within the reading selection, and as they understand how the work reflects society's problems and culture. Discussion involving speaking and listening is an integral part of the course and written compositions will be required.

04302 Integrated Humanities (Gr. 7 & 8)

The Interdisciplinary Humanities course connects history, social studies, art, literature, and world religions. This course will enable students to study a group of related subjects addressing the elements and structures of human society that may include economics, geography, history, citizenship, and other social studies-related disciplines. Students will be exposed to history through historical fiction, non-fiction, and historical documents. This course will encourage students to become life-long explorers who discover their connectedness to the records of lived experiences outside of their own individual social and cultural context. This course meets Social Studies standards and requirements.

MATHEMATICS

02006 Math 1 (Gr. 6) Prerequisite: Successful completion of 5th grade mathematics. Math 1 is the first of a sequence of three math courses that are designed to help students develop a deep understanding of the middle school math curriculum. Math 1 is a set of organized standards that covers specific focus areas such as expressions and equations, number system, ratios and proportional relationships, geometry and statistics.

02007 Math 2 (Gr. 7) Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math 1 with a C or higher. Students with scores lower than a C will also need to be enrolled in a math tutorial class. Math 2 is a set of organized standards that covers specific focus areas such as proportional relationships, rational numbers, expressions and equations, geometry, statistics and probability.

02008 Math 3 (Gr. 8) Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math 2 with a C or higher. Students with scores lower than a C will also need to be enrolled in a math tutorial class. Math 3 is taught using lots of graphing and algebra tiles. This course is aligned to the Idaho Standards for teaching the foundation from Algebra to middle school students.

02052 Algebra 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT (Teacher Recommendation only) Prerequisite: Success on an algebra readiness assessment required in addition to grades and assessments showing mastery of required content. Course includes the study of properties and operations of the real number system; evaluating rational algebraic expressions; solving and graphing first degree equations and inequalities; translating word problems into equations; operations with and factoring of polynomials; and solving simple quadratic equations. Review topics: ratio and proportion, operations with sets, simplifying radical expressions, operations with exponents, and solution of simple linear equations.

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

05149 Beginning Orchestra (Gr. 6-8)

Beginning Orchestra is a course where basic skills are taught on string instruments. The first building blocks for becoming a string musician are put in place.

05149 Beginning Band (Gr. 6-8)

Beginning Band is a course where basic skills are taught on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. The first building blocks for becoming a band musician are put in place.

05149 Intermediate Orchestra (Gr. 7-8) Prerequisite: Beginning orchestra.

Intermediate orchestra helps students continue to develop the skills they began learning in Beginning Orchestra. The instructor will work with the class to develop proper playing techniques and improve on intonation, tone quality, and musicality. Students will also learn new skills on their instruments in preparation for joining an orchestra in high school. Prerequisite- one year of orchestra instruction.

05149 Intermediate Band (Gr. 7-8) Prerequisite: Beginning band.

Intermediate band helps students continue to develop the skills they began learning in Beginning Band. The instructor will work with the class to develop proper playing techniques and improve on intonation, tone quality, and musicality. Students will also learn new skills on their instruments in preparation for joining a band in high school.

05149 MS Choir (Gr. 6-8)

Course provides the opportunity to sing a variety of styles for men's and/or women's voices, and is designed to develop vocal techniques and the ability to sing parts. The instructor will teach correct vocal technique, music reading skills, and ensemble performance techniques. There will be a small group element to the class.

00035 Creative Art - Comprehensive (Gr. 6-8) (1 semester class)

Course provides students with the knowledge and opportunity to explore an art form and to create individual works of art. Career opportunities in the art world may also be discussed and explored. This course covers the language, materials, and processes of a particular art form and the design elements and principles supporting a work of art. As students advance and become more adept, the instruction regarding the creative process becomes more refined, and students are encouraged to develop their own artistic styles. Although the focus of creative art courses is creation, the study of major artists, art movements, are also included.

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION

00051 Physical Education (Gr. 6-8) (1 semester or full year class)

Physical Education courses provide students with knowledge, experience, and an opportunity to develop skills in more than one of the following sports or activities: team sports, individual/dual sports, recreational sports, and fitness/conditioning activities.

00052 Health Education (Gr. 7-8) (1 semester class)

Topics covered within Health Education courses include personal health (nutrition, mental health and stress management, drug/alcohol abuse prevention, disease prevention, and first aid) and consumer health issues. The courses also include brief studies of environmental health and personal development.

**Students must take Health and PE at least once in middle school (6th-8th grade). Students who have conflicts in their schedule may request Guidance Counselor permission to take an independent PE course and a Middle School IDLA Health course. Darlaharrod@visioncsd.org

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

24052 Spanish and Art Fusion (Gr. 6-8) (1 semester class or optional full year)

This beginning Spanish Art fusion class is for students who have no or little experience with the Spanish language. The Spanish class is designed to develop communication skills in Spanish and to make comparisons and connections to Spanish-speaking cultures and art with the goal of encouraging understanding and acceptance of differences. Life in various Spanish-speaking countries will be examined. Students learn to express and understand, and be receptive to ideas on topics such as common conversational phrases, vocabulary using numbers, calendar and weather, descriptions and likes and dislikes. The art integration will involve creating pinatas, alfombras, Spanish artist studies, and seasonal cultural art. Students who are advanced may take this class but are requested to pay particular attention to verb and subject agreement to further their Spanish acquisition. This class may be taken multiple times and continues to challenge middle school students at their level.

24053 Spanish (Gr. 7-8) (Full Year Class)

This class will be taught at the High School Level for High School Credit as long as students earn a C- or better for each semester. Parents may request that the student only receive MS credit. Designed to introduce students to Spanish language and culture, Spanish I courses emphasize basic grammar and syntax, simple vocabulary, and the spoken accent so that students can read, write, speak, and understand the language at a basic level within predictable areas of need, using customary courtesies and conventions. Spanish culture is introduced through the art, literature, customs, and history of Spanish-speaking people. It is recommended that students take Spanish and Art Fusion prior to taking this class. This class will prepare students for taking Dual Credit Spanish in High School. This class completes the HS requirement for Humanities & Foreign Language requirement for Honors Diploma.

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES/ COURSES

20005 Exploratory (Home Skills, Art, Marketing, finance) (Gr. 7-8) (1 Semester class)

This course will include exploratory sessions in the areas of cooking, art, marketing, and finance.

20005 Exploratory (Passion Project) (Gr. 6-8) (1 Semester class)

The exploratory class is for students who are searching for their passion. Students will research their choice of activities and learn about them. They will create PSAs, perform Reader's theater, write and illustrate children's books, invent games of subjects they are interested in and share with their classmates.

20005 MS STREAM Exploratory (Gr 6-8) (1 sem class or optional full year, with instructor approval)

This class explores a variety of STREAM (science, technology, research, robotics, pre-engineering, art, and math) areas and future pathways. Students experience challenges and problem solving as the teacher provides exposure to a variety of STREAM areas. Students are provided opportunity to explore different areas more in depth with teacher guidance and oversight after mastery of basic skills.

04302 Literary Theater (Gr 6-8) (1 sem class or optional full year, with instructor approval)

This course a journey from literary comprehension to theater dramatization. This humanities elective will dive into a classic novel. The course will read, annotate, analyze and discuss the novel to achieve comprehension while corresponding with a student-level adaption of the play. The students will work with mainly two different forms of media: text and play script.

20005 Student Government (Gr 6-8)

This course focuses on developing strong and effective leadership skills, including public speaking. Students will participate in organizing events for middle school students to increase positive school culture and leadership skills throughout the middle school.

20005 College and Career Prep (Gr. 8) 1 semester required course for all 8th grade students.

Course prepares students for success in high school and college. Students will evaluate personal goals, priorities, aptitudes, and interests with the goal of helping them make informed decisions about colleges and careers. Students will explore multiple career pathways. Students will work with the Guidance Counselor to develop a four-year career pathway.

02002 Math Lab (Gr. 6-8)

Math Lab is a course that provides students with the assistance they need to successfully complete their Math coursework and develop any skills that may not be at grade level in the area of Math.

51001 English Lab (Gr. 6-8)

English Lab is a course that provides students with the assistance they need to successfully complete their English coursework and develop any skills that may not be at grade level in the area of English, Reading, Writing.

73007 Math/Reading Tutorial (6-8)

This course is specifically designed to assist students in meeting the goals outlined in their individual educational plans (IEP). Admission to this class is by teacher recommendation only.

73007 Teen Living (Gr. 6-8)

Teen Living class is designed around skill-oriented themes and designed to teach necessary social, personal, life, and self-concept skills. Students will learn and use skills to be able to meet grade level workplace readiness standards and/or their IEP goals and objectives in the areas of independent living, community, career, and post-secondary education.

22051 Tutoring Practicum/ Teacher Assistant (Gr. 6-8) (Only with teacher approval and signature)

Teachers Assistants provide support to the teacher in the classroom. Office Aide courses provide students with the opportunity to work in campus offices, developing skills related to clerical office work. Duties may include typing, filing, record-keeping, receiving visitors, answering the telephone, and duplicating, among others. These courses emphasize appropriate work attitudes, human relations, and proper office procedures.
Pass/Fail

20005 Advisory (Gr. 6-8)

School Orientation courses provide students with an introduction to the culture of their Vision Charter School so that they understand staff expectations and the school's structure and conventions. This course also emphasizes organizational skills, character development, and community building, and College and Career Prep. No grade/ No credit

20005 Study Hall (Gr. 6-8)

This course allows students to work independently on completing homework under the supervision of a staff member. No grade/No credit. Seventh period Study hall includes additional staff support.

20005 ELL LAB (Gr. 6-8)

This class is for all students who have English as their Second Language and would benefit from additional support with English Acquisition and support with their Core Classes.

IDLA COURSE OFFERINGS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FOR CREDIT RECOVERY AND ACCELERATION. Courses are also offered in the event of a schedule conflict. Please view course descriptions at <https://idla.org/courses/course-schedule/> **These courses have a fee of \$75 per class. In the event that the student passes the class with a C or better, the deposit is returned to the parent if the course is taken during the school year.

Advancement Requirements (6-8):

Vision Charter School report cards, in addition to EOCs and state assessments, are used to determine mastery of grade level material. Both are based on Idaho Core Standards. Students who have not shown mastery of grade level expectations in all core subject areas will not be eligible for promotion to the next grade. Core subject area classes include Math, Reading, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.

Students will not receive credit for a semester grade below a D-. Scores below a C do not meet the recommended level of mastery set by VCS. Students scoring below a C in any core class will be required to take remedial courses in lieu of other electives, summer school remediation, or tutoring participation as determined by the administrator. Failure to pass mandatory grade level core classes shall necessitate the failed semester(s) being retaken in the current grade even though the student may have been promoted to the next grade level.

Students who have earned credit but have not shown mastery of grade level material will be eligible for promotion in the event they attend 96% of summer school during scheduled summer school days with no make-up day options available and show mastery of the content. The \$75.00 fee assessed from IDLA for each course in question will be the responsibility of the parent.

Parents and students may appeal the decision of the staff for retention or mandatory summer school. The appeal will be made in writing within fifteen days of the notice for retention or mandatory summer school to be eligible for promotion. The written appeal must outline any evidence, argument, or extenuating circumstances impacting the student's academic progress throughout the year. The appeals committee will be made up of the administrator, two staff members, and two board members. The decision of the appeals board will be considered final. The parent and student may be requested to appear before the appeals board if determined necessary by the appeals board. *For all grades, promotion of all special education students is at the discretion of the IEP team.*