



Fayette Academy Academic Catalog

Middle School Course Descriptions Grades 6-8

Below is a list of courses offered at Fayette Academy. Each course is organized by the academic year students may take the course, lists the course instructor, and includes overview of the course content.

6th Grade Curriculum

English 6

Christy Aguanno

Course Description: The sixth grade English class is a fundamental requirement in which objectives will range from developing strong grammar mechanics to the mastery of various writing processes and composition. Students will demonstrate proficiency in sentence structure, fluency, and conventions through application. Students are expected to write in a variety of modes and genres, including, descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive, literary response, personal expression, and imaginative. Students will initially begin by organizing ideas into essays consisting of introductions, developing detailed paragraphs with appropriate transitions, and conclusions while simultaneously incorporating grammar skills. At the conclusion of the course, students will be required to write a research paper using primary and secondary sources.

Reading 6

Christy Aguanno

Course Description: This is a literature course that offers a variety of literary genres. Students are required to logically analyze both novels and short stories using analytical skills. They will recognize and differentiate literary elements (setting, plot, character, conflict, theme) within each story/novel. Students are required to apply content specific vocabulary within context to strengthen both comprehension and writing skills. Students will master concepts such as chronological order, cause-effect, comparison-contrast, and problem-solution. Assessment is reinforced through the use of Accelerated Reader, selection and vocabulary tests, projects, and essays.

Math 6

Teresa Clayton

Course Description: Saxon Math is the curriculum used for Sixth Grade Math. This text presents a series of daily lessons, each followed by a set of thirty problems. Each problem set reviews lessons that have been previously taught. Continual practice allows fundamental skills and concepts to be reviewed throughout the year. As a result, students achieve a deeper understanding and better retention of the material. This is an important bridge year, taking the student from the emphasis on calculation in elementary to a more "applications approach" in preparing them for higher levels of mathematical thinking. Tests are given after each of the five lessons taught.

Social Studies 6

Teresa Clayton

Course Description: In 6th Grade Social Studies, the focus is to expand students' understanding of history through the study of people and events before the era of European exploration and settlement. This study focuses not only on the significance of geography in the development of human history, but also on the everyday lives, problems, and accomplishments of the people and their roles in developing social, economic, and political structures of the major civilizations.

Science 6

Tammy Bowling

Course Description: Sixth grade science is a study of the ever-changing dynamic natural world surrounding us. Students will explore the interconnections among the sciences, develop scientific literacy, and use the scientific method of inquiry to gather information and solve problems. They will use these practices to study living things and ecosystems, Earth and its cycles, and matter and energy.

Geography 6

Tammy Bowling

Course Description: In 6th grade geography students will develop a working mind of the landforms, climates, ecosystems, regions, and time zones of the United States and the world. Students will use maps, pictures, documents, charts and globes to explore the people and places of the world and the diversity among us.

Band

Daniel Hinson

Course Description: 6th Grade Beginning Band is a yearlong course that consists of 6th grade students. Students will learn instrumental fundamentals and techniques for their assigned instrument. (Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, or Percussion.) Throughout the year, focus be on reading music, with emphasis in fingering and tone quality for any given instrument. By participating in instrumental music, students can also learn discipline, the value of practice, performance skills, and leadership. Study after study has shown that music enhances higher cognitive learning, allowing students to think creatively, and ultimately, excel in highly technical fields of study. Indeed, neurologists have discovered that playing a musical instrument simultaneously stimulates the audio, visual, & motor cortices of the brain more so than any other known activity. As a result, Fayette Academy is dedicated to exposing students to the world of instrumental music in order to provide a complete educational experience of the highest quality.

Technology 6

Haylee Montague

Course Description: This course is designed for students to develop and enhance touch skills for entering alphabetic, numeric, and symbolic information on a keyboard. Students compose and produce personal, educational, and professional documents.

Physical Education

Tammy Bowling

Course Description: In 6th grade P. E. students will be learning body weight exercises to improve overall health and self-esteem. They will also be improving cardiovascular health through running and other fun activities.

7th Grade Curriculum

English 7

Mary Vanderpool

Course Description: In 7th grade English, the focus is threefold: grammar, literature, and composition. Parts of speech, phrases, usage, and mechanics encompass the grammar while the emphasis in literature is mythology and short stories. Interspersed within the grammar and literature units are various writing assignments, focusing on different kinds of writing as well as the style and mechanics of writing.

Math 7**Ami Moffatt**

Course Description: This course will place a strong emphasis on the continued study of integers, order of operations, variables, expressions, and equations. Students will solve and graph equations and inequalities, write and solve proportions, and explore geometry, statistics, and graph concepts. Problem solving will be emphasized throughout the course.

Science 7**Hal Montague**

Course Description: Life science is an introduction of biology. The course covers the study of the six kingdoms and all the characteristics that identify each of those organisms. The course will introduce concepts of genetics, taxonomy, microbiology, human anatomy and physiology, invertebrates, and the metric system.

Social Studies 7**Peter Moffatt**

Course Description: World History and Geography: The Middle Ages to the Exploration of the Americas
Seventh grade students will explore the social, cultural, geographical, political, and technological changes that occurred after the fall of the Roman Empire and in Medieval Europe. Students will also study the period from the fifteenth to the eighteenth century, including the Islamic world, Africa, China, and Japan, but with a heavier emphasis on western civilization in Europe during the Renaissance and Reformation. Students will compare and contrast the history and geography of civilizations that were developing concurrently throughout these continents during medieval times. They will examine the growth in economic interactions among civilizations as well as the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. Students will learn about the resulting spread of Enlightenment philosophies and the examination of new concepts of reasoning toward religion, government, and science that continue to influence our world today. Students will analyze geography's influence on the development of these civilizations as they continue their study of world history and geography. Seventh grade students will end the year by examining the Meso-American and Andean civilizations, and the age of European explorations. Appropriate informational texts and primary sources will be used in order to deepen the understanding of how these civilizations influence the modern world.

Technology 7**Haylee Montague**

Course Description: Computer applications and programs is designed to teach students software applications that are necessary to succeed in a technological society. The applications covered include word processing, database, spreadsheet, and presentation.

Art 7**Mark Villinger**

Course Description: Middle School Art focuses on discovery and general artistic elements, allowing the student to create while learning the purposes of differing media. The entire year is project-based, allowing exploration of historical art periods and famous artists and art works within the concept of the project. Drawing pencil, colored pencils, markers, oil and chalk pastels, crayons, watercolor, cardboard, cut paper, and found objects are all used to develop both 2 and 3 dimensional pieces.

Physical Education**Josh Pardue**

Course Description: 7th grade physical education will include exercise and games to help students be active. It will include basketball, badminton, volleyball and other games to get students involved in physical activity. Students will be required to dress in FA PE uniforms purchased from school.

8th Grade Curriculum

English 8

Mary Vanderpool

Course Description: In 8th grade English, the focus is threefold: grammar, literature, and composition. The elements of grammar (parts of speech, phrases, clauses, usage, and mechanics) are linked closely to composition where students apply what they've learned. The main emphasis in literature is analysis, taught primarily through a wide selection of short stories. Writing assignments complement literature, as well. Students learn to read deeply and write deeply.

Pre-Algebra

Ami Moffatt

Course Description: This course will place a strong emphasis on the continued study of integers, order of operations, variables, expressions, and equations. Students will solve and graph equations and inequalities, write and solve proportions, and explore geometry, statistics, and graph concepts. Problem solving will be emphasized throughout the course.

Algebra I

Ami Moffatt

Course Description: Students continue to build upon the foundation of math skills previously learned to expand the students' ability in math. Problem solving skills and abstract thinking skills are emphasized to help the students master any problems they may encounter. Algebra I is the building block for the remaining high school math classes and college math classes. Basic math operations are reviewed using more complicated problems to help the students and the teacher identify any weaknesses the students may have with these operations. A high emphasis is placed on the students' ability to solve for an unknown number and on the students' ability to apply rules and properties to a given problem.

Physical Science

Hal Montague

Course Description: This course is an introduction to chemistry. We will study concepts involving the structure of the atoms, various chemical reactions, the periodic table, the gas laws, acid bases, and solutions. We will also review a brief history of the scientists who contributed knowledge to the evolution of science. The second semester will be an introduction to physics. The concepts studied in the course include energy and force and forces that act upon matter.

Social Studies 8

Peter Moffatt

Course Description: Eighth grade students will study the European exploration of North America, along with the geographic features that influenced early settlements and colonies. This course will emphasize the development and maturation of the British colonies, and the political, cultural, and economic influences that led to the American Revolution. The major events and outcomes to the American Revolution will be analyzed, along with the individuals that played influential roles in the development of the new nation. Students will follow the development of the United States and its government, continuing through the early nineteenth century. The impact of the expansion of the United States will be analyzed, including implications on domestic and foreign policy. Policies that affected the American Indians will also be studied. The events leading up to the Civil War will be examined, along with the individuals and events that were significant during the war. The history, people, government, and geography of Tennessee will be emphasized in order to illustrate the role our state has played in American history. Reconstruction and the development of the American West will conclude this course. Appropriate primary sources and information texts will be included in order to enhance understanding of the content.

Art 8

Mark Villinger & Greg Edmondson

Course Description: Middle School Art focuses on discovery and general artistic elements, allowing the student to create while learning the purposes of differing media. The entire year is project-based, allowing exploration of historical art periods and famous artists and art works within the concept of the project. Drawing pencil, colored pencils, markers, oil and chalk pastels, crayons, watercolor, cardboard, cut paper, and found objects are all used to develop both 2 and 3 dimensional pieces.

Physical Education 8

Rodney Patterson

Course Description: 8th Grade PE will include exercise and games to help students be active. It will include basketball, badminton, volleyball and other games to get students involved in physical activity. Students will be required to dress in FA PE uniforms purchased from school.

Spanish 8

Angelia Johnson

Course Description: This fun, interactive course for middle school students is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning and cultural learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should be engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored.

7th & 8th Elective Opportunities

Performing Arts

Becky Houston & Angelia Johnson

Pre-requisite: Audition required

Course Description: Performing Arts is a course that seeks to give students in grades 7 through 12 experience in the study and performance of vocal music, dance, theater, make-up and set design. This course includes instruction in proper vocal technique, dance skills and theatrical arts and requires a simple vocal and acting audition. All students in this class will be required to attend some after school practices and several performances (performances will be listed on the agreement). A few activities will necessitate some missed classes. Fees will be required for dance shoes and one competitive event. Students will need to provide exercise attire for school practice, clothing suitable for painting and make-up for performances. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to identify dramatic structure and choreography and will be well-versed in artistic design for the theater.

Middle School Band**Daniel Hinson****Pre-requisite: Audition Required**

Course Description: Middle School Band is a yearlong course that consists of 7th and 8th grade students that have had previous instruction on a wind instrument or percussion (Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion). Participating students will build upon instrumental fundamentals and techniques learned in 6th Grade Beginning Band. Throughout the year, focus will largely be on musical development on each student's instrument, with emphasis in tone quality, dynamics, articulation, and sight-reading. Students are required to participate in all scheduled concerts. Students will also have the optional opportunity to participate in honor bands in West Tennessee. Concerts at the end of the Fall Semester and Spring Semester count as the students' final exam.

PE Athletics**Jason Bryan, Josh Pardue, Kelly Moore****Pre-requisite: Tryouts required**

Course Description: These courses are designed to present athletic training from the Christian perspective that God is the Creator of the human body and that part of His Will for us is to train, develop, and maintain healthy bodies. These courses are also based upon developing six core areas of physical fitness: flexibility, muscular strength, muscular endurance, agility, speed, and cardiovascular endurance.

