



Creating Global Citizens

MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE CATALOG
2023-2024

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Norton Science & Language Academy(NSLA) exists to prepare students for post-secondary success through a relevant, rigorous college preparatory education. Promotion to the next grade level / Repeat course procedure: NSLA feels strongly that students should take ownership of their course work. The following will serve as the guideline for repeating courses and/or a particular middle school grade level: If one core academic (English, Science, History, Math) is failed in a semester of the school year, the student will not receive credit for that semester of coursework, and may be required to attend summer school . If two or more core classes (English, Science, History, and Math) are failed in a semester, the student may be required to repeat the school year in the grade in which the courses were failed. Math courses are sequential and integrated in nature. If a student fails one or two semesters of a middle school math course, they may be required to repeat that course and/or attend a support class the following year. Students may be required to give up their elective class to repeat the course. Core academic classes (English, Math, Science, and History) will have a grading scale of A, B, C and F. There are no grades of D in the grading structure. Retention will be considered on an individual basis after thorough dialogue with parents, teachers, and administrators to determine the most appropriate course of action. Students who finish 8th grade, failing 2 or more core classes, will not be eligible to participate in the Middle School Celebration activities.

This Catalog of Classes gives descriptions of all courses, which may be offered at Norton Science & Language Academy. Although listed in the Catalog of Classes, some courses may not be offered if there is not sufficient demand.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

PHILOSOPHY

It is important for every student to graduate from high school with communication skills which enable the student to write and speak clearly and concisely. Further, it is important for every student to have a greater appreciation of literature through improved reading skills. With these skills and appreciation, a student may realize a greater capacity for success.

GOALS

Members of the English/Spanish Language Arts Department strive to assist students to improve their ability to use written language correctly and to improve their academic success through better reading skills. Also, students will improve their ability to think critically and to speak clearly, and they will increase their knowledge and appreciation of literary works

COURSE OFFERINGS

English Language Arts – Grade 6

English Language Arts – Grade 7

English Language Arts – Grade 8

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

16160 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS		
Grade Level: 6	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: None		
Course Description: Course components include the study of rich and varied literary and informational text; writing in the genres of argumentative, informative/explanatory, narrative, and summaries of reading materials; instruction in language arts skills and strategies. Students will work independently, as well as collaboratively, to learn how to understand what they read and evaluate an author's assumptions and claims. Students will conduct research that will require the analysis of resources and accurate interpretation of literary and informational text. They will use technology and digital media strategically to enhance their reading, writing, speaking, listening and language use.		

16170 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS		
Grade Level: 7	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: Successful completion of 6th Grade English Language Arts		
Course Description: Students will read books on historical themes as well as classic and contemporary works. Emphasis will be on improving reading and writing skills. Writing will be literature and information based and will include essays and literature responses. Common Core standards-based learning to include vocabulary and grammar will be applied.		

16180 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS		
Grade Level: 8	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: Successful completion of 8th Grade English Language Arts		
Course Description: Students will read books on historical themes as well as classic and contemporary works. Emphasis will be on improving reading skills. Writing will be literature based and will include essays and literature responses based on the State Standards for Grade 8 Language Arts.		

WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

PHILOSOPHY

The world is rapidly changing, especially in terms of technology, communication, politics and culture. Clearly, language is the connection that better enables us to identify, express, tolerate cultures, and share our ideas and self with each other. At Norton Science & Language Academy , the study of a second language allows students to successfully compete in an ever-changing world. The California State College system, and the University of California system recommends three years of the same language.

GOALS

The study of a second language allows students the opportunity to prepare themselves to successfully compete in today’s world. We will assist your son or daughter to accomplish the following goals:

Develop an understanding and appreciation (oral, written comprehension, listening) of the second language. Various forms of technology will be employed including CD ROM language programs, the Internet, tapes, E-mail contacts and multimedia to refine these skills.

Encourage insight and appreciation of the second language as well as an understanding of the history, culture and people of that land.

Prepare your child to be successful in a dynamic world of the 21st century where communication, acceptance, and tolerance of others are necessary for success and a peaceful co-existence.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Spanish Language Arts – Grade 6

Spanish Language Arts – Grade 7

Spanish Language Arts – Grade 8

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

16165 SPANISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6		
Grade Level: 6	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: None		
<p>Course Description: In this course, students will embark on a journey to enhance their Spanish language skills while exploring various aspects of literature, communication, and cultural understanding. Through engaging activities, discussions, and projects, students will develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening abilities in Spanish. This course aims to foster a deeper appreciation for the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures while building the foundational skills needed for successful communication in both spoken and written forms.</p>		

16175 SPANISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7		
Grade Level: 7	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: None		
<p>Course Description: In this immersive course, students will continue to expand their proficiency in the Spanish language while delving deeper into literature, communication skills, and cultural exploration. Read, analyze, and interpret a variety of age-appropriate literary texts in Spanish, including short stories, novels, poems, and informational materials. Express themselves effectively in writing through narrative, expository, and persuasive compositions in Spanish.</p>		

16185 SPANISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8		
Grade Level: 8	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: None		
<p>Course Description: Students will further refine their Spanish language skills while immersing themselves in an array of literary works, complex communication tasks, and in-depth cultural exploration. Through interactive lessons, thought-provoking discussions, and creative projects, students will elevate their reading, writing, speaking, and listening abilities in Spanish. This course aims to foster advanced language proficiency, critical thinking, cultural empathy, and a lifelong passion for the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures.</p>		

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

PHILOSOPHY

We believe in creating learning environments where students practice and acquire the knowledge of mathematics. We believe that students should be able to proficiently apply a range of numerical, algebraic, geometric, and statistical concepts and the skills to formulate, analyze, and solve real world problems. The learning environment will facilitate inquiry, use of technology and the exploration of real world phenomena. It will support continuous development of mathematical skills and the appreciation of mathematics as a discipline. Our mathematics program seeks to graduate students who will possess a sense of numbers, data analysis, spatial relationships, symbolic representations, and the ability to communicate mathematics with others.

GOALS

1. To help the student perform and master mathematical skills and algebraic processes. 2. To encourage students to seek precise solutions and use logical thinking. 3. To help students develop problem solving strategies and critical thinking skills.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Math 6

Math 7

Math 8

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

16260 MATH 6		
Grade Level: 6	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: None		
Course Description: Through the use of real world situations, manipulatives, graphs and diagrams students will make connections to concepts and be able to answer why algorithms work. Students will be active participants in the learning process by expressing their knowledge and ideas through numerical expression, verbal response as well as in written sentence form. Prime Factorization, Fractions, Decimals, Ratios, Algebraic Expression and Geometric Concepts will be introduced in this course		

16270 MATH 7		
Grade Level: 7	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites:: None		
Course Description: Math 7 will address the Grade 7 Common Core State Standards. Students will analyze proportional relationships to solve problems; work with rational numbers; operations; generate equivalent expressions through the use of mathematical properties; along with integers; the properties of distributing and factoring algebraic expressions. Students will also be introduced to working with problems involving area; surface area; volume; and studying random sampling with probability models. Students will focus on real-world and mathematical applications.		

16280 MATH 8		
Grade Level: 8	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites:: None		
Course Description: Math 8 will address the Grade 8 Common Core State Standards. Students will study the number system focusing on rational numbers, expressions and equations including linear equations and systems, properties of exponents and radicals, the evaluation and modeling of functions, geometric concepts including shapes, transformations, and the Pythagorean Theorem, and investigations of bivariate data. Students will perform a variety of activities focusing on quantitative reasoning, structure, precision, and expressing mathematical concepts.		

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

PHILOSOPHY

Science is an important part of education in the life of each of our students. We encourage parents and students to keep in mind that studying science is not merely an excellent way to prepare for a career, but also represents an opportunity to gain a better understanding and a fuller appreciation of the world in which we live. Such knowledge protects us from being misled and allows us to make informed decisions. Informed decision-making must surely be one of the most vital responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society.

As important as science is, it is often misunderstood and misused in our society and by society. In society today there are many theories that have largely been accepted by the general public as scientific fact, when in actuality, they are attempts to explain nature, the past, present natural phenomenon, possible future events; models that help scientists explain laws, facts, and observations in order to make useful predictions about the natural world. At NSLA we encourage students to carefully practice the art of scientific inquiry as they internalize the body of knowledge that science has provided them in the hope that it will provide useful guidance throughout their lives.

GOALS

In each course, the Science Department provides:

1. A stimulating rigorous and thought provoking curriculum
2. Investigations, laboratory experiences, outdoor activities and inquiry based projects that emphasize the development of science-based skills (procedural knowledge), working within and among the greater community of scientists (i.e. with Mojave Water Agency, California Turtle and Tortoise Club, National Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, NASA, JPL, BLM), critical thinking, and the scientific method
3. Encouragement to consider education as a lifelong experience
4. A scientific knowledge base (declarative knowledge) that will lead to successful career choices
5. Reasons to respect the balance between humanity and the natural environment
6. Opportunities to use a variety of technologies related to science.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Science 6

Science 7

Science 8

Space Scientist

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

16360 SCIENCE 6		
Grade Level: 9	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Middle School Science		
Course Description:: This is a lab-based course that students will take in their first year of middle school science. Through hands-on inquiry, experimentation and engineering practices, students will be immersed in the topic areas of Physics, Chemistry and Earth Science. Students will ask scientific questions, create and use models, and design their own investigations. Students will also get experience analyzing and interpreting data, formulating solutions to real-world problems and using evidence to argue their findings. We will question, research, discover and grow this year as scientists.		

16370 SCIENCE 7		
Grade Level: 7	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites:		
<p>Course Description: The seventh-grade middle school science course is based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and introduces students to concepts in life science, proper scientific practices, and engineering design. Emphasis is placed on collaborative work groups, proper data collection, analysis, and interpretation, and planning and carrying out investigations. Students will learn about the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organisms' structures and processes including cellular respiration and photosynthesis; • ecosystems' interactions and dynamics; • the role of water in biodiversity and biomes; • human activities in the natural world; • cellular biology, including mitosis and meiosis, genetics and genetic variations; and natural selection. <p>Students will also participate in comparative anatomy and physiology in dissections of squid, cows' eyes, and frogs.</p>		

16380 SCIENCE 8		
Grade Level: 8	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: None		
<p>Course Description: The 8th grade middle school science course is based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and introduces students to concepts in space science, earth science, proper science practices, and engineering design. An emphasis is put on group collaboration, proper recording of information, graphing of results, and factors that lead to variation in science. Students will learn about the basic structure of the universe, stars, the Sun's solar system and Earth's place within that system, as well as the history of Earth from a planetary perspective. Utilizing the development of models, they will describe and classify the role of gravity, cyclic patterns and cycles, scale properties and formation theories within our solar system and universe. They will construct an explanation of evidence for how geoscience processes have changed Earth's surface at varying times and spatial scales. Students will incorporate technology and instrumentation, such as force probes and Earth imaging software, to research how historical and modern technology have contributed to our understanding of the universe. Students will participate in GAVRT missions such as SETI, to attempt to discover intelligent life in outer space, and Black Hole Patrol, to analyze quasars and their radio variability. Students will implement engineering techniques, learn to define criteria and constraints of a design problem, evaluate, analyze, and test competing designs to develop models.</p>		

16390 SPACE SCIENTIST		
Grade Level: 6, 7, 8	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: Students with general familiarity with computers, including basic applications, web browsing.		
<p>Course Description: This is a year-long elective course. This course will explore topics in Astronomy and Space Exploration. Requirements include the development of an Astronomer's Journal, researching current events in Astronomy and Space Exploration of a project of individual interest. In addition, Public Viewings and observations of the night sky will be required which may be in the late evening or early morning hours. An emphasis of this course is becoming proficient in operation of radio telescopes and active participation in GAVRT projects that support NASA/JPL missions.</p>		

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

PHILOSOPHY

Helping students understand their relationship to the world, nation, and local community is the primary concern of the Social Science Department. Courses in history and government are designed to broaden the individual's awareness of how various human social systems have developed and presently function.

GOALS

Students will develop a better understanding of:

1. Their obligation to the world, nation, and local societies to which they belong.
2. The interrelationships that exist between all peoples in the world – and the necessity that exists for cooperation between all peoples;
3. How our country has developed into a world leader and the obligations that go along with that status.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Social Studies English/Spanish 6

Social Studies English/Spanish 7

Social Studies English/Spanish 8

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

16460/16463 SOCIAL STUDIES ENGLISH/SPANISH 6		
Grade Level: 6	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: None		
Course Description: Students will be actively engaged in learning about early mankind. This includes the growth of early civilizations such as the Mesopotamians, Assyrians, Phoenicians, Egyptians, Greeks, and the Romans. Locate the four river civilizations. Know the difference between Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. Study the early Chinese and Indian civilizations. There will be research projects, hands-on activities, and historical novel reading implemented into the instruction.		

16470/16473 SOCIAL STUDIES ENGLISH/SPANISH 7		
Grade Level: 7	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: None		
Course Description: Students will study the social, cultural, geographical, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas in the years AD 500 – 1789. They will examine the growing economic interaction among civilizations as well as the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. Students will learn about the growth of Enlightenment philosophy and assess the rise of democratic ideas that influence the world today.		

16480/16483 SOCIAL STUDIES ENGLISH/SPANISH 8		
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Grade Level: 8	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: None		
Course Description: Students will study the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up to the Rise of Industrialism. Students will understand the development of America's democratic institutions, particularly the shaping of the Constitution. Students will trace the development of American politics, society, culture and economy and relate them to the emergence of regional differences, and the U.S. Civil War. Students will study the rise of industry in the U.S..		

ELECTIVES

16814 ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY (ASB)		
Grade Level: 6,7,8	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: By Application		
<p>Course Description: The Student Leadership Class is required for all elected or appointed student officers as outlined in the Associated Student Body's Constitution. It affords practical experience in democratic leadership through management of student government. It provides opportunities to study the meaning and techniques of parliamentary procedures, state law, school finance (problems of income and expenditures), group processes, the objectives of the American Education system, the principles of human behavior, and the many challenges of school administration. Furthermore, it affords student leaders opportunities to develop and practice speaking and writing skills; to improve in peer relationships; to work with peers of diverse backgrounds and attitudes; to recognize the necessity of courtesy, poise, and appearance; to share responsibilities with adults; and, to develop a further appreciation for law and order. Student leadership class provides for self-evaluation and for evaluation of individual and group activities.</p>		

HOMEROOM		
Grade Level: 6,7,8	Course Length: Year	Credits: 2.5 per semester
Prerequisites: None		
<p>Course Description: This course is designed to promote teacher/student interaction regarding grades, progress toward graduation, post high school plans etc. This instructional time may also be used for remediation and/or enrichment purposes at the discretion of the school instructional staff. At the middle and high school levels (Grades 6-12), English learners are assessed to determine their levels of English language proficiency and placed in an ELD homeroom course designed to help them develop grade level academic language. Students are provided with scaffolded instruction focused on increasing academic language proficiency according to the state-adopted ELD standards. Social emotional learning will be included during this instructional time.</p>		

165261 AVID		
Grade Level: 6, 7, 8	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: None		
<p>Course Description: The AVID class is a comprehensive academic program designed to empower students with the skills and mindset needed to excel in their studies and beyond. AVID focuses on fostering critical thinking, organization, and effective communication while nurturing a culture of collaboration and growth. Through interactive lessons, hands-on activities, and reflective practices, students learn to navigate challenging coursework, set and achieve goals, and develop strong study habits. AVID also emphasizes college and career readiness, guiding students to explore future opportunities and map out a path to success. This course creates a supportive and inclusive learning community where students are equipped with the tools to thrive academically, socially, and personally.</p>		

16266 MATH SUCCESS

Grade Level: 6, 7, 8

Course Length: Year

Credits: 5 per semester

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: The Math Success class is designed to provide targeted assistance to students who require additional guidance and reinforcement in their math skills. Through personalized instruction, interactive activities, and focused practice, students will strengthen their foundational math concepts, problem-solving abilities, and overall confidence. This course aims to address individual learning needs and bridge gaps, empowering students to succeed in their regular math curriculum and build a solid mathematical foundation for future learning.

16169 READING WRITING SUCCESS

Grade Level: 6, 7, 8

Course Length: Year

Credits: 5 per semester

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: Reading Writing Support class offers specialized guidance to students seeking to enhance their reading comprehension and writing skills. Through tailored instruction, interactive exercises, and targeted practice, students will develop strategies for improved understanding of texts and refined writing techniques. This course is designed to provide individualized attention, boost literacy skills, and promote confident engagement with various types of literature and writing tasks. Students will gain the tools they need to excel in their language arts studies and beyond.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Special Education Department offers math and reading programs designed for students with special needs. These programs provide access to the core curriculum for students who require assistance beyond the regular classroom. Programs offered through this department include Specialized Academic Instruction.

The SAI program works with students from one to two periods per day in reading, written language and/or math. Parents are responsible for bringing their students each day and on time for the classes. Once a student is in the program, he or she will be tested annually to chart academic progress and an Individualized Educational Planning meeting (IEP) will be held to discuss the student's progress and plan annual goals and objectives.

Our SAI program is a full-day, five-day a week placement. These students are non-severe but require a more restrictive placement in order to make optimum progress. Annual testing and IEP meetings are also held to discuss progress and plan goals and objectives.

PHILOSOPHY

Reading, writing and math are an important part of everyone's life. Good reading, writing and math skills increase a student's chance for success in school and later in a career.

GOALS

1. To bring students back up to grade level by using small groups, direct, intensive teaching;
2. To increase each student's academic levels as measured by standardized tests;
3. To increase each student's individual work study skills (includes homework responsibility) as measured by teacher observations and checklists of progress;
4. To increase each student's individual test taking skills as measured by teacher observation, student work samples, and informal assessments;
5. To increase overall student's skills according to the individual Education Program (IEP).

MAJOR OUTCOMES

Students will:

1. Read a variety of materials and write effectively, in both individualized and class guided format;
2. Build decoding and encoding skills which will enhance reading ability;
3. Use direct instruction to develop reading, writing and mathematics skills;
4. Apply mathematical concepts in a variety of settings;
5. Demonstrate understanding of a variety of writing purposes;
6. Develop and increase oral and silent reading rate for improved fluency;
7. Demonstrate understanding of content materials in reading, writing and mathematics at the student's appropriate grade level;
8. Demonstrate competency of Common Core standards depending on the student's Individual Education Program (IEP).

Special Needs classes count for credit on the student's transcripts.

** The Special Education team will use discretion to determine student eligibility for graduation and may recommend a State of California High School Diploma or a Certificate of Completion*

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

Performance and Presentation Standards

As the visual and performing arts department has grown, we have become increasingly aware that groups and students that perform or produce artistic elements at Norton Science and Language Academy are representing the school and need to be accountable for a high level of performance. Therefore, we have adopted the general standard of “Quality, not Quantity” for all performances and artistic creations, both on and off campus. The policy terms are as follows:

1. Cancellations may be necessary for groups not ready to perform with excellence.
2. Performing is a privilege for hard working students. Individual instructors will provide alternate assignments for students who have not met performance standards.
3. VPA staff has the freedom to give informative feedback into each other’s programs as a check and balance for quality and appropriateness.
4. Students will NOT be allowed to perform at any visual and performing arts event without prior screening of the performance by the instructor. *No exceptions!*
5. Disciplinary action may be taken against any student who performs an unauthorized act or actions at any VPA event.
6. It is our goal to produce shows of quality and be mindful of program length. Again, our goal is quality, not quantity.
7. Teachers will develop high standards of performance for each of their applicable classes and make students aware of expectations.
8. The VPA Academic Lead and/or the Principal/Vice Principal will make the final decision in regards to appropriateness.

MUSIC PROGRAM

Philosophy

Music is an important facet of education. All are touched daily by music and course offerings are designed to provide students with the opportunity to better understand the history, creation, and performance thereof. Courses are designed to promote a better understanding of the place of music in history, including the various national, regional, and cultural contributions to this art form; to provide students with the physical and interpretive skills necessary for personal and group performance, and to enhance an enlightened appreciation for all musical literature.

Please note: Only choir and band are considered musical “performance groups.” Other classes, however, may give recitals and concerts at the instructor’s discretion. The VPA department adopted Performance Standards beginning in Spring 2005. Students and/or groups that do not meet these standards will be given alternative assignments by their instructor in lieu of performing.

GOALS

Music students will be assisted to develop:

1. An enhanced respect for the creative process
2. A more sophisticated aural and emotional sensitivity in the listening and performing process.
3. A heightened ability in physical and manipulative coordination through learning an instrument.
4. An understanding of the independent and interdependent responsibilities of students involved in the various music performance organizations.
5. A lifelong appreciation and educated enjoyment of all forms, styles, and periods of music.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

16824 MUSIC APPRECIATION		
Grade Level: 6,7,8	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: None		
Course Description: This engaging course is designed to help students explore the many different aspects of music. They will learn what makes music “music”, evaluate different styles of music, identify instruments of the orchestra and learn to read some music notation.		

16830 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC		
Grade Level: 6,7,8	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: None		
Course Description: The class invites students to embark on a musical journey through the world of instrumental performance. Through hands-on instruction, practice sessions, and ensemble playing, students will master the basics of their chosen instrument while developing musical skills, technique, and collaboration. This course offers an opportunity for students to explore their musical interests, build a strong foundation in instrumental music, and contribute to group performances.		

16829 VOCAL MUSIC		
Grade Level: 6,7,8	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: None		
Course Description: The class offers an exciting exploration of vocal expression and musical artistry. Students will learn fundamental singing techniques, vocal warm-ups, and harmonization skills while discovering a diverse range of musical genres. Through engaging rehearsals, group performances, and creative projects, students will develop their musical abilities, teamwork, and stage presence. This course aims to cultivate a lifelong appreciation for music and nurture students' vocal talents in a supportive and enriching environment.		

PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM

PHILOSOPHY

The goal of performing arts in education is not only to train professional actors, directors, producers, technicians, etc. but also to allow the student to experience feelings, sensations and ideas through the eyes of another person, first hand. It aids in teaching young people to live and work together, in a complex society, with respect for one another. Drama allows a student to experience a multitude of situations that otherwise might not occur in his/her life.

Please note: Performing Arts classes are not considered “performance groups,” although in class performance assignments are mandatory. The VPA department presents several shows each year and most of the performers are auditioned out of the drama classes. However, the instructor may give students that do not meet the “VPA Performance Standards” alternative assignments.

GOALS

Students will be assisted to develop:

1. The ability to communicate verbally with confidence in a clear, concise manner.
2. The ability to better understand themselves in relation to drama and their life’s goals.
3. The ability to critically evaluate a piece of dramatic literature.
4. The ability to interpret verbally and in writing the content, characters and form of a piece of dramatic literature.
5. The skills to participate actively in a theatrical production.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

16840 PERFORMING ARTS		
Grade Level: 6,7,8	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: None		
<p>Course Description: This course is designed to introduce the art of the actor through performance. Through various processes each student will discover what is encompassed in the history of drama and the dramatic profession. Through reading of the textbook and scripts; writing essays and scripts; design, acting, and lecture students will develop a basic understanding of the history of drama and the dramatic profession. In class and possibly public performances may be required..</p>		

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHILOSOPHY

Physical Education is a vital element in a comprehensive, well-balanced educational program. A positive learning experience in physical education can be a major contributing factor in the optimum development of an individual in all aspects of life: physical, emotional, mental and social.

Through physical education, an individual has the opportunity to understand the importance of obtaining and maintaining a high level of physical fitness, developing good sportsmanship and socially desirable behavior, working towards maximum physiological development, developing a positive self-image and participating in a wide variety of physical activities. Satisfying and successful experiences in physical education should develop in an individual the desire to choose a continued active life-style.

See VPA for the following courses that may be used to satisfy Physical Education credits – Dance

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

16759 PHYSICAL EDUCATION		
Grade Level: 6, 7, 8	Course Length: Year	Credits: 5 per semester
Prerequisites: None		
Course Description: This class is designed to fulfill the state requirements for Physical Education at the middle school level. This course combines various forms of movement and fitness education, along with multiple opportunities to learn and play individual and team sports within the physical education class (i.e. movement concepts, basketball, volleyball, football, tennis, fitness training) Classroom lessons will also be a vital part of the course throughout the semester. National Content Standards in Physical Education will be the focus of this course.		