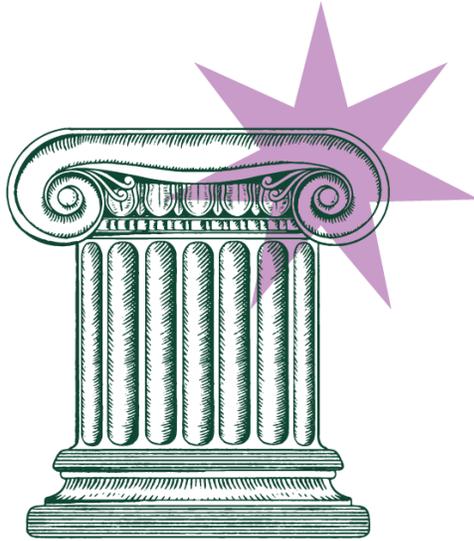


# ARCHER

2025-2026 COURSE CATALOG

## Middle School





# Table of Contents

## Introduction

Core Academic Program	2
Integrated Learning Opportunities	3
Experiential Education	5
Experiential Education	6

## Middle School Course of Study

English	7
History	8
Math	9
Science	11
Arts	12
World Languages	15
Middle School Co-Curriculars	18
Fitness & Wellness	20

## 2025-2026 Middle School Course of Study

### Core Academic Program

Unless otherwise noted, all courses are year-long and do not have a prerequisite.

Subjects	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
<b>ENGLISH</b>	English 6: Journey of the Self	English 7: Ujima - Collective Responsibility	English 8: Becoming
<b>HISTORY</b>	History 6: Young Historians and the Ancient World	History 7: Global Middle Ages	History 8: The Roads to Right Now
<b>MATH</b>	Math 6: Mathematical Ways of Thinking	Math 7: Math in Action	Algebra 1 IM 1 Accelerated
<b>SCIENCE</b>	Integrated Science 6	Integrated Science 7	Integrated Science 8
<b>WORLD LANGUAGES</b>	Language Foundations (quarter rotation): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chinese</li> <li>• French</li> <li>• Spanish</li> <li>• Media Literacy</li> </ul>	Chinese 1A  French 1A  Spanish 1A	Chinese 1B  French 1B  Spanish 1B
<b>FITNESS AND WELLNESS</b>	Fitness & Wellness 6	Fitness & Wellness 7	Fitness & Wellness 8  MS Dance Performance Company (by audition)

Subjects	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
<b>ARTS</b>	Art 6: Creativity & Wonder (quarter rotation): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strings</li> <li>• Theatre Arts</li> <li>• Visual Arts</li> <li>• Vocal Music</li> </ul>	Art 7: AMPeD Up! Art, Music, Performance & Design (semester-long courses) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acting &amp; Improv</li> <li>• Art &amp; the Machines</li> <li>• Dance 7</li> <li>• Rock Band 7</li> <li>• Sculpture 7</li> <li>• Strings 7</li> <li>• Studio Art 7</li> <li>• Web &amp; App Design</li> </ul>	Art 8: Arts & Imagination (semester-long courses) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acting &amp; Theatre</li> <li>• Art + Code</li> <li>• Ceramics &amp; Sculpture</li> <li>• Film 8</li> <li>• Game Design</li> <li>• News Magazine 8</li> <li>• Pattern, Architecture, and Design</li> <li>• Photography</li> <li>• Rock Band 8</li> <li>• Strings 8</li> <li>• Visual Arts 8</li> </ul>

## Integrated Learning Opportunities

Subjects	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
<b>ENGINEERING &amp; COMPUTER SCIENCE</b>	Media Literacy MS Robotics	Art & the Machines Web & App Design MS Robotics	Art + Code Game Design Pattern, Architecture, and Design MS Robotics
<b>FLX BLOCK WORKSHOPS</b>	FLX Block workshop offerings change by semester and include co-curricular programs such as A Cappella, Advanced Strings Ensemble, Choir, Dance, Debate, Orchestra, Robotics, Science Fair, and the Archer Garden.  Sample FLX Block Workshops: ARCHERtechs • Board Games and Beyond • Coding Club • Developing Leadership 101 • FLX Write Fever • Growing Wild • How It's Made: Break It & Investigate It! • Masterminds • Math Cafe • Math Extension • MS StuCo Meeting • Paw-Some Pup Run • Soft Sculpture • Stand Up Comedy • Storytelling Through Robotics & Coding • Study with Me • Team Improv • Watercolor		
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY</b>	The Environmental Literacy program in Middle School teaches students how to be environmental activists through hands-on learning in their core science classes, as well as real-world application through Arrow Week and the Archer Garden. Students will be able to articulate the root causes of climate change, the interconnectedness of the resulting social issues, and the myriad of ways they can take ownership of combating climate change at school, at home, and in their broader community.		

Subjects	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
<b>FINANCIAL LITERACY</b>	The Middle School Financial Literacy curriculum aims to empower students to take responsibility for their own financial independence. Covering topics such as budgeting, investing, credit, and risk management, Middle School students develop financial literacy skills that will benefit them now and in the future.		
<b>MEDIA LITERACY</b>	The Media Literacy program develops critical thinking skills and empowers students to become informed media consumers, innovative content designers, and responsible digital citizens. The program covers topics such as digital footprints and identity, privacy and security, online communication, and digital drama.		

# Experiential Education

## SERVICE LEARNING

The Service Learning Program aims to inspire students to find their passion and purpose as civically engaged citizens of the world. Students actively explore different challenges that face their communities and learn to see themselves as agents of change. While each grade level investigates different issues, students have the opportunity to explore community needs through the Artemis Center by attending guest speaker events and participating in service initiatives around campus. Through these experiences, students gain awareness of the issues and develop civic engagement skills.

### **6th Grade**

The area of focus in the 6th grade is combating ageism and the impact of social isolation on senior citizens. The sixth grade teams up with Sage and Seekers, which aims “to develop empathy, combat social isolation and dissolve age-related segregation within our communities while meeting the universal and compelling need of both young adults and older adults to make sense of their lives.” Students will explore these issues in Mentorship and Class Meetings and will then hear from a panel of senior citizens who have experienced unique challenges. On the day of service, 30 Sages will visit campus and spend the day building one-on-one relationships with our 6th grade students. This experience will connect two generations in “a sense of purpose and connection.”

### **7th Grade**

The 7th grade will explore the topic of food insecurity. Through their exploration, students will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of healthy food as a human right. 7th grade students will team up with Our Big Kitchen LA (OBKLA), which is a “community-run, non-denominational kitchen that prepares meals for distribution to those in need throughout Los Angeles.” Students will investigate the issues in Class Meetings and Mentorship in preparation for the service trip where they will visit OBKLA. During their visit, they will prepare and package meals for local community members in need.

### **8th Grade**

The areas of focus in the 8th grade are homelessness and food insecurity. Students will explore the complexity of the Los Angeles homelessness crisis as they launch a grade-level snack drive in collaboration with PATH (People Assisting the Homeless). Upon completing the drive, students will hear from a PATH spokesperson to learn about the organization's mission and the work that they do locally. 8th grade students will spend the afternoon building snack kits for PATH and review their actions and impact. Following the drive, a policy expert from PATH will visit campus to explain the advocacy work they do.

# Experiential Education

## OUTDOOR EDUCATION

The Outdoor Education & Leadership Development program offers opportunities for students to embrace possibility, seek challenges, and take healthy risks. The essential components of the program are Fall Outing and the Arrow Week expeditions.

### **Fall Outing (6th & 7th Grade)**

A longstanding and favorite tradition at Archer is the annual fall outing trip that occurs near the start of the school year. Students will have a chance to bond with their classmates, meet new students, and get a gentle introduction to outdoor education. Fall Outing locations vary by grade, but each class will spend time in nature and participate in team-building exercises. Not only do Fall Outings contribute to increased class bonding, but they also give students an idea of what to expect on their first Arrow Week in 8th grade.

### **Arrow Week (8th Grade)**

Arrow Week is an outdoor experience that promotes self-discovery and personal growth. Courses serve to enhance the curriculum by providing students with opportunities to learn valuable skills outside of the classroom. Through participation in outdoor education trips, students will:

- Learn how to assume leadership in cooperative group settings
- Discover personal strengths and overcome challenges
- Gain an appreciation and respect for the outdoors and natural environment
- Enhance their ability to reflect and grow as critical thinkers
- Transfer knowledge and skills from their experiences outdoors to their lives at home and in the classroom

### **The Archer Garden**

The Archer Garden is a living laboratory that offers students opportunities for discovery and natural experimentation. Key components of the program include:

- Planting and harvesting seasonal produce
- Maintaining and testing soil pH and health
- Adopting sustainable agriculture methods, including no-till, crop rotation, and square-foot planting
- Developing anaerobic and aerobic composting methods
- Examining native species

# English

## **English 6: Journey of the Self**

With literature as their guide, students explore the intention and purpose of journeys, both their own and those in literature, as they embark on a journey of self-reflection, growth, and creative risk-taking. They study big ideas around what they believe in, who they want to be, and how their values shape their actions. Our young readers and writers practice clear and effective communication through speaking and writing, and learn how to collaborate with peers constructively and respectfully. They channel their curiosity into a strong foundation for abstract thinking, questioning, and analysis; reflect on their own learning; and develop empathy for themselves and others. Alongside texts such as *Fish in a Tree*, *Nevertheless, We Persisted: 48 Voices of Defiance, Strength, and Courage*, and other texts, our young changemakers examine central themes, such as building a growth mindset, discovering their own identity, and the power of using their voice to advocate for themselves and others.

*Grade Level: 6*

## **English 7: Ujima - Collective Responsibility**

Students will embark on a thought-provoking journey that blends language skills with social consciousness through literature, writing, and collaboration, with attention to understanding diverse perspectives. This course aims to center marginalized voices, bringing them from the margins into the mainstream alongside classic texts. In addition to practicing active readership by analyzing literature for theme and characterization, students engage in the writing process in analytical, argumentative, and creative modes. They also build on their public speaking skills as they present their work at intervals. Students will analyze inclusive texts, challenge single narratives, and question stereotypes. The four core units of study include story, beliefs, collective responsibility, and self-determination; by examining each of these influential themes through the past and the present, students can better understand themselves and the human condition. By fostering a safe and respectful environment for open dialogue, students will develop a strong sense of social responsibility and a commitment to promoting a more equitable and inclusive world.

*Grade Level: 7*

## **English 8: Becoming**

The idea of becoming refers to 'how people redefine their values and rethink their priorities to prepare for transformation into new roles.' With any change, there are losses and gains, unknowns and certainties, facts and feelings. In this course, we will explore essential questions like: "What does it mean to come of age?"; "What are the complexities of growing up/becoming?"; "How can I use my voice and power to support causes I care about?" Our exploration of these questions will involve analysis of literature from diverse authors, including poems, essays, short stories, novels, Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*, and John Lewis' graphic novel *March*.

Through class discussions and collaborative activities, students will wrestle with complex ideas and actively seek out the next steps to deeper understandings. Students explore different modes of writing that challenge them to expand their analytical and argumentative skills, apply textual evidence, and hone their voice.

*Grade Level: 8*

# History

## **History 6: Young Historians and the Ancient World**

Through ancient societies, such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and more, 6th grade students learn how to think like a young historian as they explore what makes a civilization and draw comparisons across time periods. During their time travels, students learn the impact of bias on historical information and how new discoveries can change interpretations of the past. Students examine the importance of geography, societal structures, and religious beliefs, and investigate different expressions of culture, power, and gender. In alignment with their Science curriculum, students learn to distinguish observation from inference, analyze source credibility, and build stronger communication and writing skills. This course also builds in opportunities for creativity and play to enhance engagement and build relationships.

*Grade Level: 6*

## **History 7: Global Middle Ages**

This course gives students the opportunity to draw connections between the medieval and modern worlds. By examining various historical themes through the past and the present, students can better understand themselves and the human condition. Central texts include primary and secondary sources from the medieval world and modern takes from contemporary thinkers. In addition to practicing the skills of a historian by questioning, analyzing sources, crafting claims, and seeking out multiple points of view, students write and showcase their learning in written, oral, and creative forms. With an emphasis on life-worthy learning, students regularly reflect on their own learning to gain the metacritical skills that lead to personal growth inside and outside of the classroom.

*Grade Level: 7*

## **History 8: The Roads to Right Now**

This course surveys United States history from the founding of the country through the late 19th century while making connections to current events and the contemporary world all along the way. Students explore the historical roots of contemporary beliefs, institutions, practices, and groups. They learn about the events and choices that have shaped the United States and are asked to reflect on how their own actions can influence the present and future of this country. Students strengthen their critical thinking skills by exploring essential questions that connect to overarching themes of the course, including “How does the past shape the present?”, “What is progress?”, and “Is violence ever justified?” Additional objectives of this course are to develop skills such as researching and writing, assessing source credibility, engaging in civil discourse, and practicing a variety of methods of historical analysis to prepare for Upper School and more advanced courses of study.

*Grade Level: 8*

# Math

## **Math 6: Mathematical Ways of Thinking**

Math 6 aims to enhance students' problem-solving skills while enabling them to confidently tackle complex mathematical challenges. The learning approach is active and includes hands-on manipulatives, group collaboration, online practice, and real-world problem-solving. The goal is to cultivate students' ability to think, problem-solve, and communicate like mathematicians. Key course standards include:

- Strengthening accuracy in operations with decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers
- Creating and analyzing various ways to display data sets and find measures of central tendency
- Performing operations with positive and negative numbers
- Using properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions
- Solving real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations
- Measuring the area and perimeter of polygons, circles, and composite figures, and describing the relationships and connections between these measurements
- Analyzing ratios and proportional relationships and using them to solve real-world and mathematical problems

*Grade Level: 6*

## **Math 7: Math in Action**

Math 7 explores the connections between algebraic-numerical and geometric-spatial relationships, with a focus on real-world applications. Students delve into financial math topics as they explore linear patterns. Key course standards include:

- Understanding the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations
- Analyzing and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations
- Defining, evaluating, and comparing functions
- Using functions to model relationships between quantities
- Understanding and applying the geometry of parallel lines and angles
- Investigating patterns of association in bivariate, independent, and dependent data
- Defining and creating transformations on coordinate graphs

*Grade Level: 7*

## **Algebra 1**

Algebra I enhances the foundational concepts of functions learned in Math 7, deepening students' grasp of linear models. The course emphasizes the development of algebraic proficiency through an exploration of both linear and nonlinear functions, as well as systems of equations and inequalities. By solidifying these algebraic skills, the course prepares students for the more complex topics they will encounter in Integrated Math 2 in Upper School. Key course standards include:

- Understanding the process of solving equations as a form of reasoning and being able to explain the reasoning
- Solving equations and inequalities in one variable
- Solving systems of equations and inequalities
- Representing and solving equations and inequalities graphically
- Performing arithmetic operations on polynomials
- Constructing and comparing linear and exponential models and solving problems
- Interpreting functions that arise in applications in terms of the context
- Analyzing functions using different representations

*Grade Level: 8*

## **Integrated Math 1 Accelerated**

Integrated Math I Accelerated expands upon and extends students' understanding of algebra. The course assumes a strong foundation in linear functions to cover the entire Integrated Math 1 curriculum (Algebra 1 and Geometry) and prepares students for Integrated Math 3 in Upper School. Key course standards include:

- Solving quadratic equations by factoring as well as linear and quadratic proportions
- Simplifying expressions with exponents including negative and zero exponents
- Constructing and modeling with exponential functions, and comparing their behavior to that of linear and quadratic functions
- Rigid and non-rigid transformations and composition of transformations in the Cartesian plane
- Solving systems of linear equations and inequalities in multiple ways
- Constructing mathematical arguments via triangle classification and triangle congruence proofs
- Extending students' understanding of the distributive property and factoring to performing arithmetic operations on polynomials and trinomial factoring
- Utilize trigonometry within right triangles to solve for missing sides and angles as well as to develop the rules for special right triangles
- Addition, subtraction, simplification, multiplication, and division of radicals

*Grade Level: 8*

*Prerequisite: Math 7, Self-Reflection, and Department Approval*

# Science

## **Middle School Science**

In Archer's inquiry-based Integrated Science program, student learning revolves around discovering the scientific ideas behind an intriguing phenomenon and making connections across the disciplines of Earth and Space Science, Life Science, and Physical Science. Driven by engaging phenomena, students investigate their questions and wonderings as they incrementally build and revise their ideas and understanding of the science behind the phenomena. Students learn how to work together collaboratively and respectfully as they actively engage in the process of scientific inquiry. By asking questions, designing investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, building models, developing explanations, and finding solutions, students develop a deep understanding of scientific concepts.

## **Integrated Science 6**

- Physical Science
  - Light & Matter: Why do we sometimes see different things when looking at the same object?
  - Thermal Energy: How can containers keep things from warming up or cooling down?
- Earth Science
  - Weather, Climate, and Water Cycling: Why does a lot of hail, rain, or snow fall at certain times and not others?
  - Plate Tectonics and Rock Cycling: What causes Earth's surface to change?

## **Integrated Science 7**

- Chemistry
  - Chemical Reactions and Matter: How can we make something new that was not there before?
  - Chemical Reactions and Energy: How can we use chemical reactions to design a solution to a problem?
- Biology
  - Cells and Systems: How do living things heal?
  - Metabolic Reactions: How do components of our bodies work together to make us feel the way we do?

## **Integrated Science 8**

- Physical Science
  - Contact Forces: Why do objects occasionally get damaged when they hit each other?
- Earth Science
  - Earth in Space: How are we connected to the patterns we see in the sky and space?
- Biology
  - Genetics: Why are living things different from one another?
  - Natural Selection & Common Ancestry: How could organisms living today be connected to those that lived long ago?

# Arts

## **Art 6: Creativity & Wonder**

6th grade students explore what it means to be creative by rotating through four different art courses: Visual Arts, Theatre, Vocal Music, and Strings. As actors, they showcase their skills in performance and improvisation. As musicians, they play classical stringed instruments and learn the foundations of reading music. As visual artists, they experiment with mixed media and digital art. As vocalists, they harmonize melodies and learn about musical genres. In combination, these four rotations free students' imaginations, strengthen their collaboration, and build strong creative problem-solving skills.

*Grade Level: 6*

## **Art 7: AMPeD Up! (Art, Music, Performance & Design)**

7th grade artists take two semester-long arts courses:

### **Acting & Improv**

Actors use their imagination to dream up characters, create scenes, and gain confidence on stage through improvisation, theatre games, and performance projects.

### **Art & the Machines**

Students learn to use new technologies to transform traditional arts in new and exciting ways by delving into pattern, volume, color, and form. Contemporary and classical art are used for inspiration, while students create new works using a laser cutter, 3D printers, and other tools in the Saban IDEALab. No prerequisite experience required.

### **Dance 7**

Students learn the fundamentals of dance technique, performance, and choreography through ballet, jazz, modern, hip-hop, and contemporary dance.

### **Rock Band 7**

Rock Band 7 gives students the opportunity to learn a new instrument and jam with a group of both novice and experienced musicians. Students may play keyboard, bass, guitar, drums, and/or sing, picking up a new instrument or fine-tuning skills on an old one. The band performs at an end-of-semester concert and at select school assemblies.

### **Sculpture 7**

Students will explore the fundamentals of three-dimensional art through hands-on projects using a variety of materials, such as clay, wire, and found objects.

### **Strings 7**

Music makers learn to play an instrument and create music together in this hands-on, collaborative class. Students learn the violin, viola, cello, or upright bass, and learn to play familiar tunes on their instrument.

### **Studio Art 7**

Students bring out their inner artists by exploring a variety of media including drawing, painting, and collage, as well as various creative projects.

### **Web & App Design**

Students learn to create a stylish, modern, and functional website. Students will develop a foundation in coding using powerful tools like HTML, CSS, and Javascript.

### **Art 8: Arts & Imagination**

8th grade artists take two semester-long courses to explore in depth:

#### **Acting & Theatre**

Actors explore theatre games and improv comedy, create their own work, and experiment with acting techniques. Performance opportunities abound in this course.

#### **Art + Code**

Students explore different ways to create art with code. Creative coders use JavaScript and JS libraries to create visual art, animations, interactive programs, and generative art (where the computer creates art!)

#### **Ceramics & Sculpture**

Students create a variety of sculptures using advanced sculptural techniques. Topics include the exploration of positive and negative space, additive and subtractive techniques, and narrative and abstract sculpture. Sculptors have many options—including stoneware and high-fire glazes—to express their creative visions.

#### **Film 8**

Students gain the fundamental skills and techniques needed to create and produce high-quality, original high-definition videos. Filmmakers utilize advanced sound editing, lighting, and on-camera acting techniques while creating music videos, news clips, experimental movies, and short films.

#### **Game Design**

Students will explore design theories and learn to code games using Scratch and Python. They will also create 3D games in the web browser using WebVR with A-Frame, combining creativity with technical skills to bring their game ideas to life.

#### **News Magazine 8**

Curious, creative, collaborative Middle School students are perfect for this semester-long elective. Dive into the world of journalism as you learn the essentials of reporting, interviewing, and writing in a journalistic style. Explore photojournalism and design fundamentals while working on a Middle School news magazine that will be published at the end of each semester. This course is a great foundation for yearbook and digital journalism courses in the Upper School.

#### **Pattern Design in Fashion & Architecture**

In this class, students use digital printing, laser etching, and more traditional hands-on techniques to create textiles and decorative elements adorned with patterns of their own design. To help inspire creations, students look across design domains, including architecture, fabrics, ceramics, wovens, prints, and more.

### **Photography**

Appreciate the difference between catching a photographic moment and creating one through planning, staging, and digital enhancement. Projects are designed to improve students' photographic eye and help them to properly present images for exhibition. Dark room experience and digital tools provide a strong foundation for understanding the magic of capturing images on film.

### **Rock Band 8**

Rock Band 8 offers an opportunity for both budding and experienced musicians. Students will hone their skills or master a new instrument—keyboard, bass, guitar, drums, or vocals. Band members will collaborate for performances at special school events.

### **Strings 8**

Students continue building their skills in this class for experienced musicians. The class enjoys a wide repertoire of music and special performances throughout the year.

*Prerequisite: Prior Experience*

### **Visual Arts 8**

Students will explore and integrate a wide range of media, including painting, drawing, printmaking, digital imaging, collage, and sculpture. Projects foster creative experimentation and challenge students to further their vision and artistic voice.

# World Languages

## **Language Foundations**

In this introductory course, students explore three world languages—Spanish, French, and Chinese—and the cultures and peoples they represent, as well as Media Literacy. During each world language rotation, students study a different language and interact with the building blocks of each with the aim of seeing how people communicate across different cultures and spaces. Special attention is given to framing language learning as a bridge to global competence. At the end of the four-class rotation, budding linguists choose a language to study in depth through 7th and 8th grade. In the Media Literacy rotation, students learn to critically evaluate the reliability and intent of different media sources, enhancing their understanding of how information is presented in the digital age.

*Grade Level: 6*

## **Chinese 1A**

This course introduces students to the Pinyin system and the pronunciation of tones. Students also learn to read and write commonly used radicals and simplified Chinese characters. The class explores Chinese culture through music, stories, and current events. Students engage in the language through songs, videos, and cultural projects. By the end of the course, students are able to introduce themselves and carry on a basic conversation about their families, daily lives, and hobbies. Highlights include filming a video blog to introduce oneself and one's family, conducting a multidisciplinary integration project, planning a birthday party, and writing pen pal letters.

*Grade Level: 7*

*Prerequisite: None*

## **Chinese 1B**

In this course, students expand their ability to communicate effectively and confidently in Chinese. Students continue to cultivate their appreciation for and understanding of Chinese culture while developing their linguistic skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students synthesize and apply new grammar, vocabulary, and cultural knowledge in oral presentations, role-plays, compositions, and a variety of projects. At the end of this course, students are able to communicate about topics such as food, clothing, sports, and Chinese national treasures. Highlights include comparing fast-food restaurants in the U.S. and China, ordering food in Chinese restaurants, designing clothes for a fashion show, and making and describing Beijing opera masks.

*Grade Level: 8*

*Prerequisite: Chinese 1A*

## **French 1A**

This introductory course operates at the A1 level of the European Common Framework of Reference for Languages (ECFR) and integrates the four core competencies of listening, speaking, reading, and writing French to communicate in meaningful real-world situations. Students explore the language and culture by engaging in situational dialogues, listening to popular music, reading short excerpts from a variety of sources including online media, magazines, and newspapers, and building foundational skills in written expression. Students also build an understanding of French and Francophone culture through music, games, art, and cuisine. By the end of the course, students can communicate about themselves, their friends and families, their daily school routine, and preferred activities. Highlights include: a deep dive into Francophone music and musicians, filming "A Day in the Life" vlog about a typical 7th grade Archer school day, planning a French fashion show, and organizing a French feast.

*Grade Level: 7*

*Prerequisite: None*

## **French 1B**

By the end of this course, students should achieve proficiency at the A1 level in the ECFR. To reach that goal, they continue their study of French through listening, speaking, reading, and writing in meaningful, real-world situations. In class, students communicate in the target language around themes such as the home, food, friendship, the news, heroes and heroines, exploring a French city, vacations, and the geography of the French-speaking world. They develop linguistic sophistication by learning and using both past and present tenses, object pronouns, reflexive verbs, and a variety of adverbs, negation tools, and time markers. Highlights include developing a restaurant menu, crafting a persuasive video on vacation destinations, creating the front page of a newspaper, and projects describing both friends and heroes.

*Grade Level: 8*

*Prerequisite: French 1A*

## **Spanish 1A**

In this course, students build the skills to communicate in various real-life situations. Students learn to effectively ask and answer questions, engage in conversations, and narrate skits. Students contextualize language by writing situational dialogues and reading current media. The class celebrates Spanish and Latin American cultures through music festivals, media, role-plays, and storytelling. By the end of the course, students are able to convey detailed personal information including physical descriptions, daily activities, likes and dislikes, school, family, and co-curricular activities. Highlights include exploring music from the Spanish-speaking world, creating a detailed weather forecast of a city in Latin America, writing an authentic menu of typical foods, and filming a video blog about a school day at Archer.

*Grade Level: 7*

*Prerequisite: None*

**Spanish 1B**

In this course, students expand their ability to communicate effectively and confidently in Spanish. They continue to cultivate their appreciation for and understanding of Hispanic cultures while developing their linguistic skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students in this class synthesize and apply new grammar, vocabulary, and cultural knowledge in oral presentations, role-plays, compositions, and a variety of projects. Students improve their control of verbs in the present tense, including irregular verbs (ir and stem-changing verbs); they also learn to form the false future and present progressive forms and make comparisons and superlatives. Highlights include the Día de los Muertos unit and altar project, a Spanish-speaking athlete biography and role play, and a unit on fashion with iconic and contemporary fashion designers from Spain and Latin America.

*Grade Level: 8*

*Prerequisite: Spanish 1A*

# Middle School Co-Curriculars

## **Middle School A Cappella**

Members of the Middle C's—Archer's Middle School a cappella group—continue to develop their musicianship by performing a variety of genres in an a cappella style. While furthering their vocal technique study and aural skills, students learn to read, notate, and arrange music. A cappella is a perfect co-curricular for committed singers who want many performance and solo opportunities. The Middle C's meet on Wednesdays after school as well as during FLX Block. Performance opportunities include the Winter and Spring Concerts, as well as various events on and off campus.

*Grade Level: 6 - 8*

*Prerequisite: By Audition*

*Co-Requisite: Choir*

## **Middle School Choir**

In this group, students sing and perform a wide variety of music while developing their vocal technique and musicianship. Students who join this group should expect to learn foundational music theory, ear training, sight reading, and notating skills. Choir is an excellent creative outlet for students who want to share their voice and connect with their peers more deeply through music. Rehearsals take place during FLX Block; during the weeks of the Winter and Spring concerts, there are also rehearsals after school.

*Grade Level: 6 - 8*

*Year-Long Commitment*

*No audition required*

## **Middle School Orchestra**

Orchestra invites musicians to deepen their understanding of musical language and enhance their playing techniques with orchestral arrangements and excerpts from symphonic repertoires. Rehearsals are scheduled on a designated day after school and during FLX Block, creating a structured yet dynamic environment for musical growth. The culmination of these rehearsals is showcased in performances at the Winter Concert, the Spring Concert, and various school assemblies, where students demonstrate their skills and progress.

*Grade Level: 6 - 8*

*Prerequisite: By Audition*

## **Middle School Advanced Ensemble**

The MetroGnomes, Archers' Middle School Advanced Ensemble, is designed for experienced musicians seeking to refine their ensemble skills and artistic expression. Through regular performances and masterclasses, students will not only enhance their technical proficiency but also cultivate a nuanced approach to musical storytelling and audience engagement.

*Grade Level: 6 - 8*

*Prerequisite: By Audition*

## **Middle School Play and Middle School Musical**

Middle School actors are encouraged to audition for and perform in fully-staged plays and musicals in our Meridith Baer Black Box Theater. Rehearsals take place after school and on some weekends. Interested students can also serve as tech crew, lighting/sound support, and assistant directors.

*Grade Level: 6 - 8*

*Prerequisite: By Audition*

**Middle School Robotics**

Middle School Robotics is designed to introduce students to the basic principles of robotics and programming by designing, building, and programming robots. Students will develop their problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity as they work together to complete various challenges and projects. This course is designed to inspire and engage students in STEM fields, and it is perfect for students interested in engineering, computer science, mathematics, and technology.

*Grade Level: 6 - 8*

**Middle School Debate**

Join our Middle School Debate Program and enhance your critical thinking, public speaking, and teamwork skills. As a member of the Debate Team, you'll learn the art of constructing arguments, researching topics, and engaging in respectful, persuasive debates on various issues. Whether you're a seasoned debater or new to the activity, this program will boost your confidence as you compete in Middle School debate competitions.

*Grade Level: 6 - 8*

# Fitness & Wellness

## **Fitness & Wellness 6**

In this course, students participate in a variety of team sports such as volleyball, basketball, softball, soccer, and track and field. Students also play non-traditional sports including Ultimate Frisbee, flag football, and floor hockey. Sportsmanship, teamwork, and leadership are key elements of the class. Throughout the course, students also gain an understanding of cardiovascular health, muscular strength, and physical endurance.

*Grade Level: 6*

## **Human Development 6**

This course provides space for students to explore their relationships with themselves and others, examine developmental changes, and build healthy habits of mind and body. Class activities include group discussions, council, games, journal writing, and mindfulness practices.

*Grade Level: 6*

## **Fitness & Wellness 7 & 8**

These classes focus primarily on skills-related fitness and team sports such as volleyball, basketball, softball, and soccer. Students learn skills and movement patterns to support participation in the after-school athletic program. Students also enjoy non-traditional activities, including Ultimate Frisbee, flag football, and floor hockey. Sportsmanship, teamwork, and leadership are key elements of the class. A portion of each fitness class is designated to improve cardiovascular levels and strength. Students also learn to evaluate the elements of an efficient and effective workout.

*Grade Level: 7 & 8*

## **Middle School Dance Performance Company (year-long course)**

This course is designed for students with previous dance training who desire to continue improving their creative and technical skills in ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and contemporary dance. Visiting choreographers and outside professionals refine students' skills and enhance their creative dance expression.

*Prerequisite: By Invitation (Audition Required)*

*MS Dance Performance Company satisfies the requirement for Fitness 8.*

## **Human Development 7**

7th grade is a year of dynamic physical, emotional, social, and intellectual change. The Human Development curriculum explores some of the challenges of this developmental stage. Discussions, council, and role-play encourage students to examine their patterns of behavior and values as they pertain to peers, family, and self. Additional topics of discussion include reproduction, body image, puberty, boundary setting, social pressures, healthy relationships, self-defense, and cyber safety.

*Grade Level: 7*

## **Human Development 8**

8th grade is a year of increasing autonomy, leadership, and rites of passage. The Human Development curriculum continues to examine physical, emotional, social, and intellectual growth through the lens of students' increasing desire for independence. Students learn about nutrition, environmental responsibility, financial literacy, conflict resolution, boundary setting, cyber safety, and the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Class activities practice the skills necessary for healthy decision-making.

*Grade Level: 8*