

# GRACE

PREPARATORY ACADEMY  
of NEW BRAUNFELS



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

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# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

## **6th Language Arts**

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Scope and sequence: This course will emphasize English grammar and usage through memorization of rules and sentence diagramming. Students will also work on improving their writing skills. They will learn the principles in IEW (The Institute for Excellence in Writing), how to write structured paragraphs and essays, and how to edit their writing.

## **6th Literature**

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Scope and sequence: This is a wonderful, highly-recommended companion course for 6th grade Language Arts. The syllabus will include time-tested classical literature and various enrichment activities including discussion and art projects.

## **7th Language Arts**

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Scope and sequence: Students will continue to improve their writing skills based on the principles offered through IEW. Students will learn to implement a wide range of structural models and stylistic techniques in their compositions as they write on a variety of enjoyable fiction and non-fiction topics. Students will also continue to work on reading with depth and on writing analysis of literature.

## **8th Language Arts**

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Scope and sequence: Students will master many of the writing principles offered through IEW. They will incorporate stylistic techniques in their compositions as they write more complex essays and reports. Students will also continue to master the techniques of reading with depth and of writing analysis of literature.

# MATHEMATICS

## 6th Math

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Scope and sequence: This course teaches students to understand basic math concepts in order to become problem solvers and to prepare for higher level math. Concepts include: place value, basic operations, fractions, decimals, geometry, measurement, ratio, proportion, percentages, statistics, graphing, probability and time & money.

## 7th Math

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Scope and sequence: This course expands on the lessons learned in 6th math. Concepts include working with rational numbers and using them to describe increasingly complex situations, proportional reasoning, geometry, and measurement. Emphasis is placed on problem solving and algebra readiness.

## Pre-Algebra

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

PREREQUISITE: 7th grade math. Teacher recommendation required if transitioning from 6th grade math.

Scope and sequence: This course is a bridge from elementary math to algebra. Students begin with familiar operations applied to fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals, including the evaluation of exponents and radicals. They learn to simplify increasingly more complex mathematical expressions, and then are introduced to algebraic properties. Students practice solving for the variable in simple and complex equations, as well as applying operations to integers.

## Algebra I

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

PREREQUISITE: Pre-Algebra or teacher recommendation to transition from 7th grade math to Algebra I.

NOTE: This course satisfies the Algebra I requirement for a GPA-NB high school diploma.

Scope and sequence: This course is a study of the language, concepts, and techniques of algebra. Emphasis is placed on collaboration and persisting in problem solving. The course introduces basic algebraic skills including rational numbers, basic equations, graphing, factoring polynomials, systems of equations and quadratic equations.

# SCIENCE

## **6th Science -- Chemistry and Physics**

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Scope and sequence: This course introduces students to the world of atoms, molecules, and chemicals as they follow in the footsteps of the Master Creator, learning about the laws that govern the design of our wonderful universe. The coursework emphasizes an immersion approach to learning through directed exploration. Students engage in many experiments and hands-on demonstrations.

## **7th Science -- Earth Science**

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Scope and sequence: This course provides comprehensive content that introduces students to key earth science concepts including energy, plate tectonics, weathering, earthquakes, volcanoes, and ecosystems. The text also integrates important ideas in science such as heat, density and buoyancy. Students study astronomy in civilization, patterns and objects in the sky, our place in space, the moon, reasons for the seasons, planets, the sun, stars, galaxies, and space exploration. Students conduct experiments; construct and test conclusions; observe results; and gather, record, and analyze data.

## **8th Science -- General Science**

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 8th Grade

Scope and sequence: The content of this course is wide-ranging by design. Topics covered include the history of science, scientific method, how to perform experiments, simple machines, archaeology, rocks, minerals, fossils, geology, paleontology, living organisms, organisms and energy, classifications, and the human body. All theory introduced is further supported with engaging labs to help deepen understanding of the topics being taught.

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## 6th Geography

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Scope and sequence: Students will pursue the ultimate adventure on the seven continents. In addition to mapping and labeling major landforms, topography, and countries, they will also study climate, culture, religion, and history of every continent. Students will use the world atlas and additional resources to learn about our world and the people who live in it.

## 7th Texas History

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Scope and sequence: This course studies the history of Texas from the migration of Native Texans to the present. Students will examine the full scope of Texas history, including natural Texas and its people, Spanish colonization, revolution, republic and early statehood. The course will identify regions of Texas and the distribution of population within and among the regions. Students will analyze the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of Texas in various industries such as agriculture, energy, medicine and aerospace. The focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and their impact on Texas. The course will describe the structure and functions of municipal, county, and state governments. Students will use primary and secondary sources to examine the rich and diverse cultural background of Texas as they identify the different groups that settled in Texas to build a republic and then a state.

## 8th U.S. History

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Scope and sequence: This course offers an interactive and comprehensive overview of early American history. Themes studied throughout the year include Exploration and Colonization, Colonial America, the American Revolution, Westward Movement, and the Civil War. Students will be encouraged to critically evaluate events from our nation's past and communicate their knowledge in various ways, including writing, art, technology use, and speech.

*Note: The second half of our nation's history (Reconstruction through the present day) is covered in 10th/11th grade U.S. History.*

# FOREIGN LANGUAGE

## Spanish I

CREDITS: 1.0

TERM: Full Year

GRADE PLACEMENT: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and up

COURSE LEVEL: standard (on-level)

PREREQUISITE(S): None for 9<sup>th</sup> grade and up. 8<sup>th</sup> graders must have completed Conversational Spanish and be recommended by the Spanish teacher.

NOTE: This course satisfies a foreign language credit for a GPA-NB high school diploma.

Scope and sequence: This course introduces students to the Spanish language and culture through the Natural Approach, which helps them understand Spanish through a variety of interactive, communicative activities.

# ELECTIVES

## Art

CREDITS: 1.0

TERM: Full Year

GRADE PLACEMENT: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

Scope and sequence: This introductory project-based course enables students to become familiar with many different media used in art. It will also begin introducing students to various techniques and processes that will help them improve their visual perception and drawing skills. Projects rotate from year to year so that students may take art in both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and not repeat projects. Students learn right from the start that they can be artistic in many different aspects of life with different media and their various talents. The course encourages freedom of expressing creativity as students grow in skill. This will prepare students for moving forward in high school Art I.

## Choir

CREDITS: 1.0

TERM: Full Year

GRADE PLACEMENT: 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

Scope and sequence: Choir is a vocal ensemble of mixed voices that performs choral music from a multitude of styles and periods. The focus is on vocal training to include correct breathing, posture, positioning, listening, note-matching, and blending to discover the voice that God has gifted to each individual student.

## **Critical Thinking**

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

REQUIREMENT: Students who enroll in Critical Thinking must also enroll in 8th U.S. History.

Scope and sequence: This course looks at the underlying reasons for believing claims and analyzing opposing viewpoints. As students examine these sources and evidence through a biblical worldview they will learn how to brainstorm effectively. Students will then apply these skills to their studies of literature, history, science, etc. The goal of this class is to teach students how to think critically from a biblical perspective.

## **Conversational Spanish**

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

Scope and sequence: This fun, interactive course for middle school students is filled with Spanish language activities. Students will practice the vocabulary of daily living, as well as explore Spanish countries and their festivals. Natural language context is emphasized as students prepare to engage the Spanish signs and conversations in their community. Students will take this course one time during either their 7th or 8th grade year. It is a great preparation for taking Spanish 1 in high school, but cannot be used for a high school credit.

## **Health, Nutrition, and Etiquette**

CREDITS: 1.0      TERM: Full Year      GRADE PLACEMENT: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

Scope and sequence: This interactive elective course will explore how to maintain a healthy and God-honoring lifestyle. Topics may include physical and mental health, nutrition, exercise, personal hygiene, first aid, etiquette, modesty, and propriety, and the dangers of smoking, vaping, and drug use. All discussions and activities will be presented from a Christian worldview.