

AMS Course Catalog



Adams Middle School Course Catalog 2018-2019

ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL
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Class Schedule Overview



Adams Middle School offers a variety of exciting courses and programs to meet the needs of all students. This program-planning book is designed to help students, parents, and Adams Middle School staff program students into courses that will challenge and motivate them.

All students will be enrolled in seven courses. These courses will include the following subject areas:

Language Arts
Math
Science
Social Science
Physical Education
Advisement
Elective*

*Students may take 7th period P.E. after school from Monday – Thursday and choose two electives. **Priority is given to 8th grade students, followed by 7th, then 6th grade. Furthermore,** students requesting placement in 7th period Physical Education for the upcoming school year are doing so in order to take a **second year-long elective** during the regular school day. For example: Band and Spanish 1 or 2; Band and AVID 8 or AVID 7; or any combination of year-long electives.

This booklet describes these courses in greater detail to assist you in understanding what you will be studying at Adams. Parents and students are encouraged to look over the enrichment course offerings to help in determining class preferences. Please note staffing will influence course/section availability.

Electives

Adams Middle School students will have the opportunity to take **ONE** period of elective courses during the year, or **TWO** periods of electives if the student participates in 7th period PE.

Sixth Grade Elective Wheel A & B

Pre-requisite: Grade 6

Length: 1 Quarter per class

The Sixth Grade Elective Wheel A & B may consist of the following courses. The courses on the wheel may vary depending on staffing.

Art 6: Students are introduced to the fine arts using the elements of art (color, line, texture, shape, value, form, space). Students participate in projects that include making color wheels and landscape paintings with tempera, creating “paper cut outs”, sculpting with model magic and wire, perspective drawing and texture rubbing, with ink, crayons, and colored pencils. Students practice “Reading Artwork” and study famous artists and their time in history.

Exploring Communication: Students will develop and improve public speaking skills as well as the art of argument through debate. Students will learn how to structure and organize material to deliver to a variety of audiences. Techniques taught will include: listening skills, controlling speech anxiety, improving physical and vocal delivery, as well as mastering language with gestures.

AVID Experience: Students will get a snapshot of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program in an effort to assist them with their transition to middle school. The AVID Experience will teach study strategies applicable to all courses they may take in middle school. Specifically, students will learn study skills, Cornell note taking, time management, writing and research skills, while being immersed in a college-going culture.

Introduction to Engineering: This is a project-based curriculum that presents the elements and principles of visual design using the process established by Project Lead the Way. Projects focus on design factors such as aesthetics, format, geometric shape & form, perspective drawing, scale, proportion, and presentation techniques.

Current Events: Students will learn the latest issues in world affairs and participate in Socratic dialogues. Discussion and projects will focus on understanding the event (climate change, elections, war, etc.) and sharing perspectives on possible solutions.

Cultural Exploration of Chinese: Students will explore the basics of Chinese culture. Students in each class will learn the alphabet of that language, basic words (directional, food, greetings, weather, family members, introductions, etc...), culture of that particular country or region and the ability to write simple sentences in that language.

Cultural Exploration of Spanish: Students will explore the basics of Spanish culture. Students in each class will learn the alphabet of that language, basic words (greetings, numbers, weather, family members, introductions, etc...), and culture of that particular country or region.

AMS News/Video Production

Pre-requisite: Grade 7/8

Length: Yearlong

Pre-requisite: Grade 7/8

Length: Yearlong

Please note, this is a yearlong class – be prepared to make that commitment.

This yearlong course is designed to familiarize students with the process and tools associated with video production. A monthly school wide broadcast will be produced and aired.

Throughout the semester students will learn:

- The 3 levels of production
- Basic interviewing and broadcasting skills
- Video production structure and aesthetic principles
- Camera operation and recording procedures
- Basic studio, lighting and audio techniques
- Basic fundamental editing concepts, conventions and styles using iMovie.

Art

Pre-requisite: Grade 7/8

Length: Semester

Students expand their knowledge of the fine arts using the elements of art (color, line, texture, shape, value, form, space) and the principles of design (balance, pattern, rhythm, movement, unity, emphasis, contrast). Students participate in projects such as stenciling and printmaking, paper collage and tile mosaics, abstract paintings with watercolor and acrylic paint, sculptures with palm fronds and model magic, still life, portraits, and grid drawings with ink, pastels, colored pencils, and markers. Students practice “Reading Artwork” and study famous artists and their time in history.

A.V.I.D. (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

Pre-requisite: Approval of instructor based on application process.

Length: Yearlong

AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, is an elementary through high school college readiness elective course that is designed to increase school wide learning and performance. This elective course is offered at Adams Middle School for 6th, 7th and 8th grades. The AVID curriculum accelerates student learning, uses research-based methods of effective instruction, and provides meaningful and motivational learning opportunities. Students learn systematic note taking and study techniques that apply to all classes, participate in enrichment field trips, and interact with college tutors in the A.V.I.D. classroom. Recommendations for this class come from teachers and AVID administration. Visit www.avid.org for more information on AVID.

#TrendingNow: Student-driven Seminar on Global Issues

Pre-requisite: Grade 7/8

Length: Semester

This course is designed to achieve two broad objectives: first, to enable students to reason effectively concerning real life issues; and second, to provide students with a basic understanding of how and why things work such as, the economy, jobs, education, politics, conflicts, and geography. Students will choose the current issues that interest them and prepare for discussion groups in class. Over the course of the semester, students will prepare a solutions-based TED talk.

Drama

Pre-requisite: Grade 7/8

Length: Semester

This introductory course is an opportunity for students to learn basic theater and acting techniques including improvisation, vocal techniques, character and scene study, audition basics, and performance. This course is recommended to students who wish to participate in Theater Production , but is not mandatory.

Theater Production: Actors & Stage Crew for Play Performance

Pre-requisite: Grade 7/8

Length: Semester

This course will focus on producing and rehearsing drama productions for Spring 2017. This class gives students an opportunity to participate as actors or production crew. It is recommended students participate in Drama but not mandatory.

Robotics

Pre-requisite: Grade 7 /8

Length: Semester

The objective of this course is to introduce the student to basic programming as well as problem solving strategies. This course will involve students in the development, building, and programming of robot kits. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program, and document their progress.

Exploration of Engineering 7/8

Pre-requisite: Grade 7/8

Length: Semester

In this semester long course, there is a project based curriculum that presents the elements and principles of visual design using the design process established by Project Lead the Way. Projects focus on design factors such as aesthetics, format, geometric shape & form, perspective drawing, scale, proportion, and presentation techniques. Students begin to use computers as a medium/tool for design of project components such as sketching techniques, orthographic drawing, 3D modeling & rendering.

21st Century Communication

Pre-requisite: Grade 7/8

Length: Semester

Communication helps us form relationships, allows cultures to evolve, and encourages understanding among people; in short, communication is the thing that makes us human. The study of speech is based on the assumption that one's ability to communicate in an effective manner is vital to successful human interaction. This course will focus on interpersonal and intrapersonal communication, small group communication, conflict management, public speaking, informative and persuasive speeches, mass communication, and effective oral and written communication.

Topics for this course include, but are not limited to...

- Methods of Communication
- Individual Identity (Race, Gender, Age, Class)
- The Art of Persuasion
- Media and Influence
- Freedoms of Speech, Expression, and Press in a Democratic Society

Eagle Fit

Pre-requisite: Grade 7/8

Length: Semester

This course focuses students on the benefits of health awareness, active lifestyles, and life goals. Students participate in research projects, group activities, and presentations to facilitate learning about self-improvement. This course explores how to support a college/career-driven lifestyle and the keys to its success.

Yearbook/Journalism

Pre Requisite: Application and Grade 7 or 8 with Teacher approval /recommendations

Length: Yearlong

Students write, design and produce the *Eagle Eye* electronic newsletter and annual Ebb Tide school yearbook. The *Eagle Eye* is published quarterly on the Adams' Website under the Student tab. The Ebb Tide yearbook will be produced and published using Herff Jones' online program; hjedesign.

Skills emphasized in this class include; journalistic interviewing and writing, desktop editing and publishing, computer skills, graphic arts, photography and design.

Vocal Music

Pre-requisite: A desire to sing, and the ability to work as a team

Length: Yearlong

This is a one-year course for students who are interested in singing and performance. Curriculum follows state standards and will focus on all aspects of voice and musicianship including: theory, technique, writing, reading, and performing. Students will have the opportunity to participate in performances throughout the school year. The vocal music class is designed to be a continuation of music curriculum taught in the fourth grade Redondo Beach elementary schools. It is also used as a preparation to join one of the vocal classes offered at RUHS.

Students learn to:

- Sing solos and as a group in 2-3 part harmonies (S-A or S-S-A)
- Sing individually in student recitals
- Write simple compositions and learn about different artists/composers
- Learn to sing in relative pitch using solfege and Kodaly method.

Concert Band

Pre-requisite: A desire to learn an instrument, and the ability to work as a team. Prior music experience recommended but not required.

Length: Yearlong

Entry level music class. Recommended for students who are new on the instrument and/or new to Adams music program.

This course offers instruction in:

Flute	Trumpet
Clarinet	Trombone
Alto Saxophone	Baritone/Euphonium
Tenor Saxophone	
Baritone Saxophone	
French Horn	Percussion

Students learn to:

- Play with good tone quality.
- Read and play music with good notation accuracy.
- Take performance based assessments.
- Play at school performances.
- Students may also participate in school functions including winter and spring Concerts, and other school events.

Symphonic Band

Pre-requisite: Audition, teacher recommendation

Length: Yearlong

Intermediate level music class composed of returning 7th, 8th graders and advanced 6th graders.

Students enrolled in this course will:

- Continue to progress through playing more challenging music. (Grade level 1.5-3)
- Read and play higher level musical notations and expressions (Dynamics, articulation, style, phrasing, intonation and blend/balance)
- Increase playing range
- Play solos or in small groups for performance assessment.
- Participate in winter, district, and spring concerts, parade, school spirit assemblies and lunch concerts.

Wind Ensemble

Pre-requisite: Audition, teacher recommendation

Length: Yearlong

Advanced ensemble; recommended for returning Adams music students who are proficient on their instrument. Composed mostly of 8th graders and advanced 7th graders.

Students enrolled in this course will:

- Continue to progress through playing more challenging genres and styles of music.
- Read and play note and rest value of: dotted quarter, eighth, and sixteenth patterns and triplet figures in multiple meters.
- Increase playing range through scales and repertoire.
- Learn to play advance notation accuracy and musical expressions, blending and balancing their sounds as an ensemble.
- Perform solos and duets.
- Participate in winter and spring concerts, RUHS performances, school concerts, and compete in music festivals.

Jazz Band

Pre-requisite: Audition, teacher recommendation

Length: Yearlong

Advanced ensemble; recommended for returning Adams music students who are proficient on their instrument. Composed mostly of 8th graders and advanced 7th graders.

The Jazz Band at Adams is a one-year instrumental music course specializing in the practice and performance of Jazz music. Jazz Band instrumentation includes brass and woodwind players, as well as guitar, bass, keyboard, and drums. Musicians in this class are required to compose and perform solos (during class) and work on improvising music. The Jazz Band performs at most of the same performances as the other bands. The Adams Jazz Band may perform at other select concerts as well.

Due to the difficulty of the music and level of musicianship required, the students should be advanced players. Seating for the class is limited and requires the consent of the instructor.

Chinese 1

Pre-requisite: Grade 7/8 and B average or better in Language Arts
Length: Yearlong

This course is equivalent to Chinese 1 at RUHS and will prepare students for Chinese 2 upon entering 9th grade. **This is a one-year course—students who choose this course will not be able to drop after the first two weeks.**

This course begins with “Four tones of Mandarin” and the “Hanyu Pinyin system” (A system used to indicate pronunciation of Chinese characters.) Students will have the chance to learn both traditional and simplified characters. Student will engage in basic listening, speaking, reading and writing activities in Chinese and will learn to communicate with others. They will also learn about Asian culture and study skills such as organizing information, group-discussion and public speaking.

Spanish

Pre-requisite: Grade 7/8 and B average or better in Language Arts
Length: Yearlong

Adams students are offered the opportunity to take the first two years of high school Spanish. This program enables the student upon successful completion to continue on to the next level as a freshman at RUHS.

Spanish 1 (equiv. to first year of Spanish 1 at RUHS)

Pre-requisite: Grade 7 or 8, B or higher in Language Arts 6 or 7

This yearlong class introduces the students to the Spanish language by familiarizing them with the sounds and letters of the alphabet. Also covered is basic vocabulary used in every day situations. Greetings, numbers, expressions of preferences, going places, doing things, foods, occupations, use of adjectives, telling time and the weather are among the topics covered.

Cultural projects (CPR) are assigned throughout the year and put together in a portfolio, which students take with them to Redondo Union High School.

Spanish 2 (equiv to second year Spanish 2 at RUHS)

Pre-requisite: Grade 8, B+ or higher in Spanish 1

This course continues to build on the basic principles of the Spanish language. The language used is authentic and current, reflecting the language spoken and read in a Spanish speaking society. Instruction is student centered and communication based. Cultural projects (CPR) are assigned throughout the year and put together in a portfolio, which students take with them to Redondo Union High School.

Special Education

In addition to encouraging participation in school-wide courses and activities, the Special Education Department offers extensive opportunities for students in the following programs:

Foundation Subjects

Foundation classes offer the four core academic subjects: Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Science in smaller, self-contained classrooms. Curriculum and assignments are accommodated as necessary for individual students. Students in this program are also enrolled in Physical Education and elective classes.

Foundations of Social Studies

This Foundations class offers a smaller, multi-grade, self-contained classroom with instructional aide support for students below grade level. Curriculum and assignments are accommodated as necessary for individual students.

Foundations of Science

This Foundations class offers a smaller, multi-grade, self-contained classroom with instructional aide support for students below grade level. Curriculum and assignments are accommodated as necessary for success in Science. Students learn using a variety of modalities, such as direct instruction, activities and projects, lab experiments, and various forms of media (textbook, magazines, Internet and educational videos). The emphasis is on discovery learning, where students work together to discover and develop various concepts in science.

Foundations of Language Arts

Students learn the major common core state standards for 6th grade Language Arts. Foundations classrooms are taught by a special education instructor with smaller class sizes and an instructional aide to support. Students performing below grade level will utilize the Language Live! curriculum which provides an interactive focus on reading, writing, and critical-thinking. In addition, there are programs such as Read Naturally and Book Share, which are supplemental programs that will help struggling readers improve their reading skills.

Foundations of Mathematics

Students learn the major common core state standards for 6th grade mathematics. Foundations classrooms are taught by a special education instructor with smaller class sizes and an instructional aide to support. This class is for students performing below grade level and has an emphasis on functional math skills and skills necessary for success in pre-algebra, such as fraction, decimal and percent conversions, number sense, ratios and measurement. Students utilize the Go Math online textbook, TenMarks, and XtraMath as curriculum.

SDC Program

Special Day Class is offered to students with intellectual disabilities who are 6th, 7th and 8th graders. They are taught a combination of functional skills curriculum and academic skills curriculum. In this class, the basic skill areas covered are: fine motor, gross motor, positive behavior, pre-academic, academic, arts and crafts, and social. Lessons are taught using a variety of techniques: computers, learning centers, picture supported text for content areas, imbedded curriculum, and remedial games. Students experience work training skills curriculum and community training trips into the community. Students have opportunities to utilize their independent living skills through educational excursions such as community walks and making purchases.

Collaboration Classes

Collaboration Math and Collaboration English Language Arts are general education classes with small clusters of special education students who may require additional support from a special education teacher and/or instructional assistant to be successful. Students recommended for Collaboration are able to achieve grade level expectations with in-classroom accommodations and supports. Collaboration time consists of some or all the following activities: direct support in the classroom with students, curriculum adaptations, pull-out for small group reinforcement, progress monitoring, dissemination of IEP-related information and updates, and consultation on grading in alignment with student IEP language.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Adams Middle School offers a variety of programs to help ensure our students' success. Please acquaint yourself with the options so we can maximize student potential on a daily basis!

Our library is open at snack and lunch for students who wish to read, research, do homework, word-process, or use the Internet.

AMS Athletics

Adams promotes an active lifestyle and the values of teamwork and sportsmanship through its intramural program. Students may tryout and participate in one sport per season. The following sports are offered:

Fall: Co-ed Football, Girls Volleyball, Co-ed Cross Country
Winter: Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer
Spring: Boys Volleyball, Girls Softball, Track & Field

Clubs

Lunch Clubs are designed to create and promote friendships where students have similar interests. Each fall, students may submit proposals for clubs during club application week. Those clubs selected by ASB will then solicit membership through our annual Club Rush Friday during both lunches. Once students have enlisted, club rosters are developed and Lunch Clubs begin. Clubs meet on Thursdays or Fridays during lunch.

Associated Student Body (ASB)

Students who are elected or appointed as student body officers and students who want to help plan and implement fun activities for students have the opportunity to participate in the Student Council Program at Adams Middle School. Students meet during their Advisement Class period.

Student Council members plan and run the following types of programs and activities throughout the school year:

- School Dances
- Philanthropic Endeavors
- Lunchtime Activities
- Red Ribbon & Earth Week
- Student Council Meetings
- PTSA Activities
- Monthly Spirit Days
- School Tour Coordination
- Publicizing Activities and Fundraisers

Cyber Patriot

This is an advisement-based class deployed nationwide to build capacity among students in coding and cyber security. Its objective is to:

- Engage students in learning about careers in cybersecurity and other STEM disciplines.
- Help students understand the importance of cybersecurity
- Introduce students to cybersecurity principles
- Equip students to better protect themselves on the Internet

WEB

This is an 8th grade advisement-based program which stands for “Where Everybody Belongs.” It supports middle school orientation and transition that welcomes 6th graders and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their middle school experience. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, the program trains mentors from your 8th grade class to be WEB Leaders. As positive role models, WEB Leaders are mentors and student leaders who guide the 6th graders to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to middle school and help facilitate 6th grade success.

Green Team

This club open to all grade levels supports environmentally-friendly practices around campus, including recycling, composting, and water conservation. Students participate in project-based promotion and conservation to ensure a better world for the future.