

Middle School Class Descriptions - Grades 6-8 (meet Mondays and Wednesdays)

9:00-10:10

MS Performance Task Writing for Test Prep (FREE!)

Do you feel confused when you read the performance task directions for the end of the year Smarter Balanced Test? Join this class and you will know what to do when the time comes. Practice reading articles and writing creative stories and essays in response. Learn to use transitional phrases and cite your sources. Practice performance task writing with friends and peers to have fun and learn from one another. We will be using Test Prep for CCSS Performance Task Grade 6-8 workbooks. Homework will be assigned for Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Students will assess themselves. The goal will be to write 8-10 essays over the course of the semester.

MS Spanish

This full-year class will introduce students to the Spanish language through development of vocabulary, grammar and conversation. Students sometimes find they are challenged beyond their comfort level when they begin study of Spanish in high school, as a significant amount of material is presented fairly quickly. This class helps prepare students with a beneficial foundation for going on to high school Spanish at Alder Grove or elsewhere, providing a confidence-building experience that familiarizes them with the language and helpful strategies for learning it. A textbook appropriate for Middle School is followed, and students will participate daily in hands-on, individual and collaborative activities. Consistent attendance is required as well as completion of weekly homework to complement in-class learning.

10:15-11:25

Math 6, 7 and 8

These courses are appropriate for students who are working at grade level. These courses cover the Common Core State Standards for grades 6, 7, and 8. Students will gain proficiency in these concepts through guided instruction, note-taking, and individual assignments. Additionally, students will work collaboratively on a variety of enriching performance tasks that require them to problem solve and use their knowledge of concepts learned in class. Students will be required to complete 2-3 hours of homework each week in addition to the tasks completed in class. Students will use technology including scientific calculators and the internet, in class and at home, to complete their assignments.

11:30-12:40

Earth Science

This Earth Science program utilizes the FOSS NGSS (New Generation Science Standards) based curriculum for Life Science. The class will be a hands-on, class run program where students could interact with the Earth. The focus of the classwork and homework will be on Earth's history, and weather and water.

Life Science

Using the FOSS Curriculum, students will explore life science questions and investigations with labs, lab discussions, reading and vocabulary tasks, in addition to art and social studies integration assignments. **Students will require support during the homework assignments to be successful in this class.** Students will need an email address and access to a computer and the internet.

Physical Science

This class will cover all of the concepts expected of a middle school physical science class, including: The Structure of Matter, Interactions of Matter, Force and Motion, and the Universe. We will use Holt Physical Science Book, and students will be expected to read and answer questions found in this book each week at home. In addition, the class will have a computer component, and students will need to have access to the internet at least one hour per week to complete an assignment and receive full credit. Class time will be spent almost entirely on lab activities, review of complicated concepts, and exams. In addition, students will be assigned one project (such as a model or written report) and one presentation each semester. Regular attendance, internet, and the ability to work at home in a textbook is what is needed to succeed in this class!

Monday Afternoon Enrichment Classes

Group A – K-1st grades

Group B – 2nd-3rd grades

Group C – 4th-5th grades

C+MS – 4th-8th grades

MS - 6th-8th grades

1:00-1:55

Group A Math and Logic

This class will follow the AIMS math curriculum. Students will be engaged in hands on math activities that strengthen critical thinking skills in solving math problems. We will explore patterns, building addition and subtraction sentences, solving word problems and other foundational math concepts.

Group C+ Maker's Space

A Makerspace is a collaborative work space for making, sharing, learning, and exploring. The Alder Grove Makerspace will be a place for students to come together to develop their 21st century skills of problem solving, collaboration, innovation, and creativity!

MS Greek Mythology

This semester-long class consists of weekly readings and discussions of Greek myths and the era from which they derived. We'll gain an understanding of the ancient Greek view of the world; explore the stories of the Olympian gods and goddesses; create original myths, poems and drawings; embark on a treasure hunt to find connections to Greek mythology in the modern world all around us, i.e. *Where did Nike shoes get their name? Which Greek goddess relates to the cereal we eat for breakfast? How did a Greek god bring us the word 'panic'?* Delve into history and human nature through study of these intriguing myths.

Group B Math Games

This class uses core standards for learning activities and games that require mathematical thinking. Learning activities are presented to the whole class and games are played in pairs or small groups. Topics covered include: telling time, counting money, place value, pattern recognition, addition, subtraction, multiplication.

2:00-2:55

Group B Science

This class will be working on creating books on science related topics. We read books and discuss key ideas and then students write their information in their books with illustrations. Student will also take part in a variety of art projects based on the topics they are learning about. This class will be working on project based activities where they will conduct research on various topics related to earth science, physical science and life science. Students will write research papers and make slide shows on their research. A majority of my lessons will be using cross curriculum learning with most lessons using Science and Language Arts skills. Students will also take part in a few hands on science experiments. We will use Studies Weekly Science magazines throughout the semester.

Group C American Sign Language

In this class, students will learn to speak with their hands and listen with their eyes through American Sign Language, the kinetic and visual language used by Deaf people. The low-key and interactive class environment will make learning ASL fun for everyone.

Group A Sing Your Way to Reading

Students will practice reading, writing, listening, and speaking all in the context of nursery rhymes and songs. Students will enjoy group singing/reading time and whole class journal time weekly.

3:00-3:55

Groups C+, MS, HS Improv Theater (4-12 grade)

This class will teach students improv skills that will assist with stage acting, creative thinking, collaboration, public speaking/presentation skills, and self confidence through engaging theater games. Enrolled HS students will be earn 2.5 credits, with a weekly homework component. Any younger students who want additional work, can do the extension assignments, if they desire the extra challenge.

Group A Science

This class will be working on creating books on science related topics. We read books and discuss key ideas and then students write their information in their books with illustrations. Student will also take part in a variety of art projects based on the topics they are learning about.

Group B Art

This class will introduce basic artistic technique, with a focus and emphasis on producing one's best work. Students will paint, draw, create and explore a wide variety of artistic media and styles.

Group C Music Appreciation

What is Music? Beethoven once said that it is "A higher revelation than all of Wisdom and Philosophy" and Louis Armstrong said that "all music is folk music. I ain't never heard a horse sing a song." Whatever it is, I believe music is an important part of the human experience. This class will survey music from early times up through Jazz and the Modern Era. Students will learn basic musical terminology to allow them to describe and understand music more thoroughly. Both Western "Classical" music and "World" music will be discussed in an attempt to expand our notion of what music is. Students will be familiarized with the instruments of the Orchestra as well as non-Western instruments. We will also explore how music affects a culture and how cultures and worldviews affect music. Classes will involve looking at the historical context of musical pieces and actively listening to them. Hopefully, we will be able to go listen to the Eureka Symphony live during the Schools to Symphony performance.

Wednesday Enrichment Classes

11:30-12:30

Parent/Student Language Arts and Math Workshop

Parents and students in TK, Kindergarten, 1st grade, and struggling 2nd graders are invited to attend the Wednesday workshop class with teacher, Terri Tripp. The class is held from 11:30-12:30 in the Rainbow Room every Wednesday. Participants can come every week or drop in when available. The class is free of charge and does not require signing up. Our classroom assistant is available for childcare for younger siblings or to assist older siblings with school work. The class focuses on math skills and reading and writing skills (language arts) for beginning learners. Parent/child teams participate in group activities, games, partner activities, and hands-on lessons designed to teach skills that can be practiced at home for academic success. Learning periods 1,3, and 5 will focus on language arts skills and learning periods 2,4, and 6 will focus on math skills. Feel free to drop in and try it out!

1:00-1:55

Group C+ Groundwater Contamination

This class will consist of a semester-long investigation into water and how it travels throughout a watershed, particularly as groundwater. Students will learn about the water cycle, groundwater pollution, map-making, and map interpretation, and use these concepts to conduct an investigation of a mysterious source of groundwater contamination in a community. Students will work to determine the contamination's source, severity, extent, and rate of travel. The data will be used to analyze the risk to the community's water supply, and students will decide on different remediation efforts to take. There will be a strong writing and notetaking component to this class. Students will keep their papers in a folder onsite throughout the semester.

Group A Great Books, Great Art, Great Fun

Students will listen to and discuss quality children's literature, both classics and new favorites, and then create art inspired by the literature. Students will learn about authors and illustrators, and also about the basic elements of a story - character, setting, plot, conflict and resolution. They will use several art media for the projects, including crayons, pastels, markers, watercolors, tempera, and collage.

MS Digital Media - Graphic Design for Academics

Students will be expected to bring subjects they are working on outside of class to be enhanced with graphics. This will include posters, report covers, charts and graphs. The goal of the course is to learn the skills needed to communicate research with visual materials.

Group B Yoga

This class will teach basic yoga poses and technique. Students will use life skill yoga cards to learn and practice listening skills, setting goals, focusing and other life skills.

2:00-2:55**Group A Science and Yoga**

In this class we will begin with a quick lesson on basic science concepts including animal classification and attributes, food chain, the rain cycle, habitats, and life cycles. After the lesson we will use yoga postures to reinforce concepts.

Group C Digital Media - Storytelling

Getting to know computers through visual storytelling. What makes a good story? What is sequential art? How do I read signs and symbols? How do I make a How-To video? We will answer all of these questions and more.

(2:00-2:55 & 3:00-3:55)**Groups B & C Hands-On Art History**

We will study several exciting times in art history and do projects inspired by the art created in these times. Art movements may include the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Eras, the Harlem Renaissance, the Mexican Renaissance. Students will also be introduced to the work of a contemporary artist.

3:00-3:55**Group A Around the World Through Books and Art**

In this class we will use literature to learn about cultures, customs and traditions around the world. Reading will be followed by group discussion and connected art activities.

Group B Spanish Songs, Games and Stories

This semester long course introduces children to the Spanish language and culture through singing, movement, games, and stories. This class combines active body movement and quieter activities such as listening to a story and/or completing a project. Throughout the semester, students will complete representations of the songs and vocabulary we use in class, which will be compiled in a lapbook that students make at the end of the semester to take home. Students will be expected to draw, color, write words, cut, and paste. This fun introduction to Spanish language will stick with them as they grow and explore world languages!

**Tuesday and Thursday classes are for High School students only.
Most classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays unless otherwise noted.**

9:00-10:10

Biology

Using the Oak Meadow curriculum, I would like to teach my biology (year-long) class again. It starts the first semester with the fundamental theories and basic understanding of biology. The second semester is a more in-depth focus of the biological world starting with prokaryotes and eukaryotes and working all the way through to human physiology. There isn't necessarily a prerequisite for this program, but it is a college-readiness based class. There *will be* at least 3 hours of homework a week.

Chemistry

This class is recommended for students in grades 11 - 12.

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 completed

This year-long Chemistry class will cover all of the concepts expected of high school student planning to attend a four-year college. Students will attend class on site for 2 days each week, with 3 days of work completed by the student at home. Class time will be spent almost entirely on lab activities, review of complicated concepts, and exams. Students will write two lab reports and give one presentation each semester, in addition to weekly homework. There will be an online component to this class, and students will need to have access to the internet at least one day per week to receive full credit. Regular attendance, internet, and the ability to work at home in a textbook is what is needed to succeed in this class!

Spanish 1

This year-long course is an introduction to the Spanish language and Spanish-speaking cultures. Students will learn to Spanish vocabulary and grammar through imitation and repetition in speech and in writing. Cultural themes of the Spanish-speaking world are introduced to offer students insights into the Spanish and Latin American cultures. This course meets onsite twice a week, with 3 days of work to be completed at home using online resources and their textbook. The college-prep course moves quickly. Therefore, students are expected to participate in all class activities and show a willingness to speak Spanish daily. Students are expected to complete oral practice oral, listening practice, and written practice. This course includes oral presentations, individual projects and group projects.

10:15-11:25

Basic Algebra

This is an algebra course recommended for high school students who are not on the 4-year college track. It covers the same content as Algebra 1 but with shorter units and homework problems that do not go much beyond the basic algebra skill level.

Prerequisites: Basic whole number/fraction/decimal/percent arithmetic; some experience with negative numbers.

Requirement: Scientific Calculator, separate from their phone. I recommend **Texas Instruments TI-30X IIS**.

Algebra 1

Grade Level: 9-10

a-g Algebra 1 is a college-prep Algebra 1 course. The key content for Algebra 1 involves understanding, writing, solving, and graphing linear and quadratic equations, including systems of two linear equations with two unknowns.

Students will also become comfortable with simplifying and performing operations on monomial and polynomial expressions, simplifying and performing operations on radical and rational expressions, and solving radical and rational equations. They will learn to extend their mathematical understanding, reasoning, skills, and techniques to solve real-world problems.

Spanish 2/Advanced Spanish 2

Prerequisite Course: Spanish 1 with C or better; Semester 1 of Spanish 2

This year-long course begins with a review of Spanish 1 material. Spanish 2 is a continuation and expansion of the students' vocabulary, grammar, and understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures. Classroom time will be focusing on speaking and listening, utilizing new and old vocabulary, through activities, games, presentations, and projects. The course meets two times a week and will require 3 days of work to be completed at home. *This course includes online*

work to be accessed and viewed on a computer. Therefore internet access is a requirement, which may be fulfilled using the school's computers. Participating in class activities and having the ability to complete assigned work for home on time is necessary to learn Spanish and succeed in this course! This is a college-preparatory course that moves quickly through its textbook. Students must be prepared for a lot of homework.

11:30-12:40

Geometry

Prerequisite: Passing Algebra 1 with a C or better

This course covers the Common Core State Standards for high school geometry. Students will gain proficiency in these concepts through guided instruction, note-taking, and individual assignments. Additionally, students will work collaboratively on a variety of enriching performance tasks that require them to problem solve and use their knowledge of concepts learned in class. Students will be required to complete 3-5 hours of homework each week in addition to the tasks completed in class. Students will use technology including graphing calculators and the internet, in class and at home, to complete their assignments.

Algebra 2

Grade Level: 10-12

a-g Algebra 2 is a college-prep Algebra 2 course. a-g Algebra 2 is a math course in the study of algebraic expressions, equations, inequalities, and functions. This course complements and expands the mathematical content and concepts of Algebra 1 and Geometry. Some of the topics covered include complex numbers, exponents, radicals, matrices, systems of linear equations, functions (absolute value, exponential, logarithmic, quadratic, radical, polynomial, and rational) and their behavior, solving nonlinear equations, conic sections, probability, and sequences/series.

1:10-2:20

Life Skills Math

For high school students who have passed algebra and would like an alternative to geometry or algebra 2. Prerequisite: Basic Algebra or Algebra 1

Requirement: Scientific Calculator, separate from their phone. I recommend **Texas Instruments TI-30X IIS**.

Mural Art (THURSDAYS ONLY)

2.5 credits

This class will complete the mural which we began last semester. We'll be finishing the base layer and adding in the final touches. This class will focus on painting technique, group art, shading, shadow, and brush work. This class will also have a component which involves touring and analyzing the murals in and around our school community, by taking walking tours and completing writing assignments.

US History

Grade Level: 10-12

a-g US History is a college-prep social studies course which fulfills a state general education and UC requirement for high school students. The a-g designation of this course means it will have a level of instruction and coursework higher than that intended for vocational or remedial students. US History will cover in its first semester the time period from pre-Columbian North America to the end of The Civil War, and will focus on each distinct time period through a combination of lectures, discussions, videos, projects, and study of primary source documents. Students will be expected to attend class regularly, take notes, ask questions, and work in groups as part of the course. Student will also be expected to prepare various culminating assignments to reinforce comprehension of each respective unit of study.

Advanced Digital Media (TUESDAYS ONLY)

The goal of the course is to explore career/educational opportunities and create a portfolio.

2:25-3:35

College and Career Readiness

In this class, students will develop important skills which will help them reach their post-secondary education and career goals. Skill practicum will include: Describe themselves in terms of their personal characteristics, values, interests and strengths. Identify college and career pathways that match their interests, strengths and values. Set short and long term education and career goals with CT and/or Academic Advisor. Apply problem solving strategies to a variety of relevant career and life scenarios. Demonstrate understanding of digital citizenship, conducting online research and importance of academic integrity. Demonstrate proficiency in completing an application neatly. Create a resume. Write a business letter of introduction/cover letter. Prepare and demonstrate proficiency participating in a phone and live interview. Develop financial literacy: earning, saving, purchasing, credit awareness, managing money, financial aid and student loan options. Describe social, workplace and online etiquette, responsibilities and ethical behavior. Demonstrate basic technology skills: word processing, email with attachments, basic spreadsheet, and presentations.

Poetry (THURSDAYS ONLY)

Students will read and discuss a variety of poetry. In response to the poems and class prompts, they will write original poetry. They identify and use literary devices, such as similes, metaphors, and alliteration. In addition, they will help create a classroom anthology and participate in the stages of the publishing, which include editing, typing, formatting, choosing/creating cover art, proofreading, and compiling the final anthology. Students will have a weekly homework assignment and also write and revise a research paper. The main goal of this class is to help students become more confident and creative readers and writers.

Student Council (grades 6-12)

FREE (THURSDAYS ONLY)

The Alder Grove Student Council is a volunteer-based, extra-curricular activity on campus available to students grades 6-12. The student council functions as a leadership group on campus, participating and assisting with school-wide events, hosting the snack bar at lunch and creating events such as last year's Glow Dance! Come by and check out what it's all about. The student council meets every-other week, on Thursday at 2:25 beginning the second week of school.

Friday Classes

Please see specified grade levels for each class.

9:00-9:55

Beginning Piano (grades 4-12)

Beginning piano skills with no experience necessary.

American Sign Language (grades 6-12)

In this class, middle and high school students will learn to speak with their hands and listen with their eyes through American Sign Language, the kinetic and visual language used by Deaf people. This interactive and engaging class will present a fun challenge to new signers.

Cooperative Games (grades 5-12)

Join this class if you like to laugh, goof around, run, jump, crawl, tug, yell, act out and just have a good time while getting your heart pumping and working up a sweat. Play cooperative games in which safety and fun come first and everyone wins. A few games we will play for sure are: Do You Love Your Neighbor/Mailbag, Mosquito Tag (where everyone is it), Shark and many other team building and ice breaking games. These games are a riot of fun with a huge crowd so consider talking a friend or two into signing up with you. We will also practice core strength training exercises and maybe even running laps to prepare for 5th, 7th, and 9th grade end of the year physical fitness tests.

10:00-10:55

Choir 2 (grades 4-12)

Students will learn basic skills in singing as a group for older and/or more experienced singers.

Ballet/Jazz (grades 5-12)

In this dance class, we will be learning ballet fundamentals and fun jazz and modern moves. The students will work together to pick a song and choreograph a dance that is performed at the end of the semester.

Beginning Ukulele (grades 4-12)

The class will introduce students to the basic techniques of playing the ukulele. This entails correct hand position for both hands. Students will learn how to read ukulele chord charts, tablature and will be introduced to the basics of reading music. Focus of the class is on playing popular Americana songs and popular pop/rock songs which utilize and demonstrates the skills at hand. Students will work as a group and increase their ability to creatively collaborate for a group performance held at the semester's end.

11:00-11:55

Orchestra (grades 4-12)

Students who have had at least one year of experience on their instrument can join this class. Various orchestral pieces of music will be learned.

Choir 1 (grades K-3)

Students will learn basic skills in singing as a group for young beginners.

Dance (grades K-6)

In this class students will learn line dances, partner dances, party dancing, multicultural dances, free style and dance steps to various songs.

Beginning Guitar (grades 4-12)

The class will introduce students to the basic techniques of playing the guitar. This entails correct hand position for both hands. Students will learn how to read guitar chord charts, tablature and will be introduced to the basics of reading music. Focus of the class is on playing popular songs which utilizes and demonstrates the skills at hand. Students will work as a group and increase their ability to creatively collaborate for a group performance held at the semester's end.

12:30-1:25**Beginning Strings (grades 3-12, or lower based on maturity)**

Violin, viola and cello are welcomed to join this class. No experience necessary. Grades 3 and up.

Flute (grades 4-8)

In this class students will learn the parts of a flute, proper finger placement, posture, pitch, tone, technique, scales, proper care, how to play various songs, and how to read sheet music.

Theater Production (grades 4-12)

In this class students will work on a stage production of a non-musical play. Every Friday we will start class with theater games, warm-ups, to build theater skills, and we will work on rehearsing for the play. It is imperative that enrolled students attend every class, unless they are sick or out of town for the day. If you know that your child will not be able to attend regularly, please do not sign them up. The play this semester is entitled: *It's All in the Cards*, which is a classic gangster character parody. There are 17 parts in the plays, so there will be 17 spaces for the class. Each student will receive a copy of the script and a contract highlighting the production responsibilities at the first class. Signed and returned contracts will be due the second Friday of class, which will also be the day students will audition for desired parts. All signed up students will get a part in the production. Regular letters will be sent home with important information from the director, Terri Tripp.

Intermediate Guitar (grades 5-12)

This class is an extension of the beginning guitar class. We will review basic material and correct hand position. Students will new learn new chords (including Major, minor, 7ths, diminished and augmented) and will improve their ability to independently read tablature and chord charts. Basic Major scales will be taught in addition to the basics of using them to solo. Focus of the class is on playing songs which utilize and demonstrate the skills at hand. Students will work be asked to pick a song which they will develop throughout the semester. Students will improve ability to play as a group and work towards a final performance held at the semester's end. Prerequisites: 1) ability to play basic guitar chords (C, G, D, E minor)in time at a slow tempo 2) ability to read chord and Tab diagrams 3) willingness to practice and improve - if you have any questions at all please contact hilson.parker@aldergrovecharter.org

1:30-2:25**Rock Band (grades 4-12)**

This class focuses on introducing students to the genre of Rock music. Students will play songs which typify the genre and will also explore other types of music. Although students are encouraged to have some background playing an instrument or singing, it is also open to students who are willing to dive in and participate. Skills taught are basic chord progressions, song structure, actively listening to each other and successfully collaborating as a group. Open to guitar, bass, vocals, keyboards, drums and other instruments as well.

2:30-3:25**Beginning Drumming (grades 4-12)**

This class focuses on providing an overview of drumming various percussion techniques. The focus of the class is on techniques to play snare drum and then transfer those skills to drum set. It will also cover the basics of hand drumming, mallet instruments (such as marimba and xylophone) and introduce students to other non-Western percussion instruments. Students will work as a group and increase their ability to creatively collaborate for a group performance held at the semester's end. Students will need to acquire a practice pad and drum sticks to succeed in developing their skills for this class. Students will work as a group towards a final performance held at the semester's end.