

Middle School Program

Grades 7-8

The 7th and 8th grade curriculum includes four core areas of instruction: language arts, math, science and social studies, as well as reading, theology, physical education, health, art, life skills, music, dance and language exploration courses. Students in grades 7 and 8 prepare for the rigors of a high school college preparatory curriculum with emphasis on organization, study skills, cooperative learning and interdisciplinary studies.

Language Arts is designed to prepare students for future high school reading and writing endeavors. Summer reading is assigned in both grades. Lessons are based on different genres of literature, including short stories, novels, poetry and myths. Language Arts also focuses intently on writing skills, incorporating vocabulary, spelling, grammar, usage and mechanics. A separate semester of reading is taught in grade 8.

Math is designed for algebra readiness in grade 7 and pre-algebra or algebra in grade 8. The lessons in grade 7 involve challenging and realistic math material with emphasis on the development of problem-solving skills. Grade 8 reinforces the signed numbers in word problems involving fractions, inequalities and graphing. Basic facts of geometry, probability and statistics also are explored. Acceleration in math may be possible for qualifying students.

Science in grades 7 and 8 is designed to give students a broad understanding of science that is intended to prepare them for high school. Science in grade 7 includes environmental, life and physical sciences. Life science focuses on cell structure, function and processes and genetics. Physical science addresses motion, forces and energy. Environmental science includes ecosystems, population, weather and climate. Grade 8 focuses on earth and physical sciences and chemistry. This earth science course includes plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, weathering, soil formation, erosion and deposition, and geologic time and astronomy. Physical science focuses on the characteristics of waves, sounds and light, and the electromagnetic spectrum. Chemistry includes the properties, changes and measurement in matter, atoms and bonding, chemical reactions, acids and bases and solutions.

Social Studies is designed to give the student an understanding of history in ancient times and the history of the United States through Reconstruction. Students in grade 7 explore ancient civilizations through the first global age. The grade 8 course covers United States history from colonization through Reconstruction. This course is presented in such a way that the student will be impressed with the country's need for active participation in the democratic process. Specific units are taught on the United States Constitution, citizenship, and Native Americans. Historical fiction is woven into the curriculum.

Theology for 7th grade students focuses on the person of Jesus through a study of Jesus' life, loving actions and His presence in those around us. Students also study our call to respond to Jesus and to develop a deeper spiritual relationship with Him. Grade 8 theology focuses on the Church as an expression of Christ's presence in the world today. The course studies the nature, history and moral witness of the Church.

Foreign Language options are available for middle school students. Students in 7th grade may choose to study Spanish or French. This one year course is equivalent to the first semester of high school Spanish I or French I. As 8th graders, students complete their foreign language I course. Thus, Elms students will be prepared to start high school in Spanish II or French II.

A curriculum of personal leadership development and healthy relationship development for middle school students is based on *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. The interactive and engaging lessons are taught over the course of each year during co-curricular periods.

Middle School students present a compilation of academic works, annually in the **Middle School Convocation**. Students work closely with a teacher/coach to demonstrate a concept learned within the curriculum and integrated with an outside interest of the student (e.g. French language and ballet).



Admissions Office 330.867.0918 1375 W. Exchange St. Akron, Ohio 44313
High School & Middle School 330.867.0880 1375 W. Exchange St. Akron, Ohio 44313
Elementary, Kindergarten & Preschool 330.864.7210 1290 W. Market St. Akron, Ohio 44313