

INTERMEDIATE/MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE

5th Grade

Humanities

The 5th Grade Humanities course is a study of the age of exploration. Beginning with the explorers and their travels to Canada, South America, and North America, students will learn of the desire and need to explore, developing an understanding of charters and territories. Using timelines and sequencing, the class will delve into an in-depth study of North America from the Colonies and the American Revolution through the Civil War. Novels include *Pedro's Journal*, *Elijah of Buxton*, *Johnny Tremain*, and *The Sign of the Beaver*. The course emphasizes the cross-curricular skills of reading comprehension, writing, critical thinking, and oratory. Students are also introduced to the different narrative forms, sentence structure, grammatical constructs, and paragraph formation. Spelling patterns and vocabulary are taught based on our study of Greek and Latin roots. The 5th graders complete an Explorer Exhibition in the first semester and our *Why America is Free* Exhibition in the second semester.

Math

The fifth grade math course is designed to cultivate mathematical understanding and competency through the study of number theory. This study includes estimation and calculation, geometry, fractions, decimals, percentages, and ratios. Students are also introduced to fractional multiplication, division, percentages and rates. Problem solving is used to develop higher order thinking while showing understanding of computations.

Science

Fifth grade science is a formal and informal place-based experiential class that introduces students to Environmental Science through hands-on investigations utilizing scientific inquiry, creative and critical thinking skills, and problem solving. The class exposes students to scientific concepts, terminology, and the Scientific Method by utilizing the natural world as the integrating context. The year concludes with students having gained a greater understanding of how natural processes work and how man is impacting those cycles.

Foreign Language

5th grade foreign language is a continued exposure to Spanish vocabulary and grammar. Students have the opportunity to become proficient in the oral aspects of the language by listening and speaking. Learning a different language is not just about learning how to speak and write the language. It is also about understanding the variety of Hispanic countries and their unique cultures. Students are able to learn about the traditions of these countries by doing projects, trying their food, learning their songs and even learning their dances. Fifth grade students have Spanish class twice a week.

6th Grade

Humanities

The 6th Grade Humanities course is a study of colonization with an emphasis on South Carolina history. Beginning with the early settlements in North America, students will learn of the history of our country, focusing on the American Revolution, continuing through Reconstruction. Novels include *A Light in the Forest*, *Tales from the South Carolina Low Country*, *A Hunt for Life's Extras*, *Tom Sawyer*, *Black Crows*, *White Cockades* and *Bull Run*. The course emphasizes the cross-curricular skills of reading comprehension, critical thinking, applying different styles of writing, including descriptive, expository, and persuasive writing, and considering audience. Students are also introduced to the different narrative

forms, sentence structure, grammatical constructs, and paragraph formation. Spelling patterns and vocabulary are taught based on our study of Greek and Latin roots. The 6th graders complete a year-long Roots Exhibition.

Math

The 6th grade math course introduces students to all operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers. Students also learn measurement with both standard and metric systems. Students learn perimeter, area, surface area, volume, angles, and angle relationships in the area of geometry. Students cover probability, ratios and percentages, statistics and graphing. Finally, this course also provides an introduction to algebraic expressions and equations.

Science

Heathwood Hall's 6th grade science course introduces students to Earth Science. This course expands upon the elements of scientific inquiry, scientific concepts and terminology, the Scientific Method, and laboratory use introduced in 5th grade. The skills are developed through an interdisciplinary study of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, biology, ecology, soils, geology and geologic time. Technology is utilized for research and assessments, and experiential activities are incorporated throughout all investigations and topics of study.

Foreign Language

Students choose to study one of three foreign languages in the sixth grade. They may choose Spanish, French, or Latin and they have class three days a week.

7th Grade

English

Seventh Grade English provides students the opportunity to develop reading skills through engaging literature and to develop writing skills by mastering the writing process. The following books (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Milkweed*, *Samir and Yonatan*, *The Lightning Thief*, *The Outsiders*) will be examined through close reading, and their themes and character development will be explored through text-supported essay questions and longer essays.

Math

The goal of Pre-Algebra 7 is to prepare the student for algebra and geometry while reviewing the basic math skills taught in 5th and 6th grade. The student will be transitioning from concrete to abstract mathematical operations this year. This will be done through games, lectures, manipulatives, group work, drill and practice. Students will work on communicating mathematically through the year. This may include working closely with a group, explaining solutions verbally to classmates, and/or writing how they arrived at a particular solution.

In Algebra I, the traditional topics of algebra are studied, including number systems, linear and quadratic equations, polynomial, rational, and radical expressions, factoring, equations, inequalities and systems of equations and inequalities. Emphasis is placed on the solution of word problems and the development of problem-solving skills.

Science

This course exposes students to a wide variety of topics in life science including organisms and processes that occur at microscopic levels; genetics; classification, anatomy, and physiology of living things, biodiversity, and human health and reproduction. Students practice organization, attention to detail, precision and accuracy, generation of meaningful questions and connections, research, data collection and analysis, laboratory safety and procedure, and wrestling with unfamiliar ideas and concepts. Material is presented during classroom discussions and activities, homework assignments, collaborative lab activities, and student-led independent projects. Students keep a lab notebook throughout the year.

History

This course will be a new expedition for all seventh graders as each student embarks on a journey around the world. The primary focus will be the regions and the nations of the Western Hemisphere. Students will study the history, the geography, the culture of the citizens of the Earth and the study of why, what, who, when and where. The course will include the following areas: world geographical skills, water and climate, the people of the world and the ways they live, the countries of North America, the countries of Central America and the Caribbean, the countries of South America, the nations of Europe, and an introduction to Asia and Africa. The students will also be reading selected articles from *Newsweek*, *Time*, *US News and World Report*, and some reputable newspapers to keep up with the day-to-day occurrences around the world, but especially, dealing with the regions and nations we will be studying and covering throughout the school year.

Foreign Language

Beginning in the seventh grade, Heathwood Hall students may begin a two-year foreign language study that provides Upper School credit. Students may select Spanish, French, or Latin.

Spanish 1A

This course is the first half of a two-year Middle School language course, which upon completion, fulfils one credit of high school modern language. Essential elements are pronunciation, reading, writing, and speaking with a particular emphasis on verb conjugation. The student masters present tense of all three verb conjugations and the command form of tú. There is exposure to the culture and geography of the Spanish speaking world.

Latin IA

This course emphasizes regular vocabulary lists with derivatives, Latin grammar covered in chapters 1-8 of *Wheelock's Latin*, and translating for practice and review. Students also translate sentences and passages from ancient authors.

French IA

This course is intended to build a solid foundation in the French language and culture. It is the first half of a two-year Middle School language course which upon completion fulfils one credit of high school modern language. Grammar and vocabulary are emphasized to fit into particular, meaningful contexts. Other essential elements are pronunciation, reading, writing, and speaking with a particular emphasis on verb conjugation.

8th Grade

English

The eighth grade English course introduces students to a variety of American literature, including poetry, short stories, drama, and novels. The class consists of reading, writing, both expository and creative, grammar; and vocabulary. Assessments for English 8 are administered in several ways. Students will develop skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, group work, research, and appropriate Internet-related research projects.

In addition to reading novels of their choice, the class reading selections for English 8 include *Inherit the Wind*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *The House on Mango Street*.

Math

In the eighth grade, students take one of three levels of math — Pre-Algebra, Algebra I or Geometry depending upon their developmental proficiency with mathematical concepts and computational ability. Both Algebra and Geometry provide high school credit based upon a student's ability to pass the class with a B average or better.

Science

Physical Science is one of the core academic courses offered to 8th grade students. This course introduces students to some basic and fundamental ideas of chemistry and physics. Chemistry topics are taught in the fall semester, and physics topics are taught in the spring semester. Physical Science is a lab-based course with students exploring a multitude of phenomena through experimentation and discovering scientific ideas through their experiments.

History

The 8th grade social studies curriculum is Civics, the study of the rights and duties of citizenship. In this course we investigate the foundation of American citizenry, the workings of our government, and various aspects of law, economics, and free enterprise. A variety of written and oral presentations, class discussions, and projects are part of the class assessment.

Foreign Language

Eighth grade students continue the second level of foreign language study for high school credit that they initiated in the seventh grade.

Spanish 1B

This course is the continuation of the 1A course, which upon completion, fulfils one credit of high school modern language. The student is expected to receive class instruction in the target language. All verb tenses are presented. There is emphasis on speaking in the target language. The cultural lessons focus on Mexico and are read in the target language.

Latin IB

This course emphasizes the continued mastery of the vocabulary and grammar from chapters 1-16 in *Wheelock's Latin*. Students translate for practice and review. They are exposed to and translate sentences and passages from ancient authors.

French IB

This course is the second half of a two-year Middle School language course, which upon completion, fulfils one credit of high school modern language. Grammar and vocabulary are expanded to fit into more expansive, meaningful contexts. Continued emphasis is placed on pronunciation, reading, writing, speaking and verb conjugation.

Fine Arts (all grades)

Band

Students in grades five through eight have the opportunity to learn to play a band instrument. Instrumentalists are taught the fundamentals of music reading and of their individual instruments through classes that meet three days a week. An emphasis on overall musicianship is achieved through preparation for performances as a large ensemble and with smaller groups. Supplemental performing opportunities with the Heathwood Percussion Ensemble, Pep, Jazz and Honor Bands as well as opportunities to participate in statewide festivals and ensembles are an available option to IMS band members.

Chorus

Intermediate/Middle School (I/MS) students have the option of participating in chorus for the full academic year. The I/MS chorus program focuses on music theory and performance culminating in a winter and spring concert.

Students also have the opportunity to participate in festivals and competitions, including sixth grade S.C. Clinic, SATB SC clinic, Carowinds competition, and the South Carolina Independent School Association choral competition. The 5th grade choir participates in the annual Lessons and Carols service.

Art

Intermediate/Middle School Visual Art students are exposed to a vast array of artistic mediums covering two and three dimensional work. All grades meet three days a week for nine weeks. Typically in this concentrated study, three to five pieces of high quality projects are produced. In addition to these classes, students participate in an Integrated Arts/ Science/ Humanities project. These projects are enhanced with input from Columbia area businesses and visiting artists. Each grade level also visits The Columbia Museum of Art, touring a show relevant to their classroom studies and participates in a hands-on studio project.

Drama

All fifth through eighth grade students take drama every year while in Intermediate/Middle School. Each grade level takes a bi-weekly drama class for a full academic quarter that focuses on the fundamentals of performance. These skills include character creation, story-telling, improvisation, and scene work. All I/MS students also have the opportunity to participate in the annual I/MS play or All School Play. Open to all fifth through eighth graders, the play is a great opportunity to showcase their talents. Past productions include *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (2009), *Aladdin, Jr.* (2009), and *The Sound of Music* (2011).

Physical Education

All Intermediate/Middle School students at Heathwood Hall take Physical Education during their four years in the division. This course develops habits related to maintaining physical fitness, including flexibility, strength training, and aerobic activity. This physical education builds upon the physical fitness, flexibility, strength training, and aerobic activities conducted in the fifth grade through the integration of skill development in specific sports. These sports include tennis, football, volleyball, basketball, track and field, softball, soccer, and hockey.

At certain times throughout the year, students are also exposed to Outdoor Education. This component of physical education introduces small groups of students to kayaking and canoeing, archery, orienteering, low and high ropes elements, basic first aid, and CPR.

Guidance and Skills

One way to help students meet the challenges that they face in today's world is to provide them with information and skills that they can immediately use for effective decision-making. *Skills* curriculum offers a developmentally appropriate and systematic approach for sharing and applying information that may be used to develop skills that help students succeed academically, socially and vocationally. All students will participate in a nine week skills class at some point during the year.

The focus of the *Skills* classes for grades 5 through 8 centers on the question of what young people need to know in order to make their preadolescence an understandable and positive time. The intention is to foster an environment where positive social behavior (self-discipline, responsibility, good judgment and getting along with others) can be taught; an appreciation of others and self-knowledge can be expanded; and, problem solving and cooperation within the class can be practiced. The acquisition of these skills and attitudes contributes to the social, emotional and cognitive growth of middle school youngsters, and as such, assists these individuals in more fully reaching their potential today and in the years to come.

Religion

5th and 6th grade classes study The Book of Common Prayer. Lessons include learning the Seasons of the Christian Year, how Easter is determined, how the Lectionary is used by the Episcopal Church and then study prayer. Students learn about the different kinds of prayer and then get experience writing prayers. The students are encouraged to critique Chapel services and talk about their content every week. Time is allotted to answer general questions with regards to religion in general and practice here at Heathwood. The course is designed to begin to familiarize our students with The Book of Common Prayer we use in all Chapel services and thereby increase the meaning and enjoyment of Chapel services.