

INTERMEDIATE/MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE

5th Grade

Humanities

The fifth grade Humanities course offers a comprehensive study of the Americas through an integrated study of social studies and language arts. The course emphasizes the cross-curricular skills of reading comprehension, writing, critical thinking, and oratory. Students are required to develop their critical thinking skills and demonstrate an extensive knowledge of the use of maps and globes as they study the explorers within the geographical context of North America, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. Students also engage in a study of the geography, history, government, culture, and economics of countries in these regions. Novels include *Treasure Island*, *The Cay*, *The Secret Garden*, and *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, *The Kite Fighters*, and *The Single Shard*. Students are also introduced to the different narrative forms, sentence structure, paragraph formation, and the formulation of the five-paragraph essay, grammar, and vocabulary.

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.

Science

Fifth grade science 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 and terminology, the Scientific method, and laboratory use and safety. Students are expected to complete formal laboratory reports as a vital component of each unit covered in the class.

Foreign Language

Heathwood Hall's language program exposes 5th grade students to French and Spanish. These courses are designed to reinforce the languages studied in the Lower School through a program that develops listening, reading, intonation, and communication skills. Students are assessed in both written and oral competency. This course also exposes students to the cultures and history of both countries.

6th Grade

Humanities

Sixth grade Humanities integrates the study of social studies and language arts through an exploration of American and South Carolina history and literature from 1500 to 1900. The course also investigates the historical connection between South Carolina and Africa as a foundation for the African studies unit of the course. From a geographical perspective, students study the geography of the United States and South Carolina. In the Language Arts portion of the course, students cover vocabulary, grammar (including the parts of speech), punctuation and capitalization, paragraph formation, and reading comprehension. Students learn and apply

different styles of writing, including descriptive, expository, and persuasive writing. Students compile a variety of exhibition projects throughout the year that include research, writing, and public speaking components. Literary texts include: *A Light in the Forest*, *Tales from the South Carolina Low Country*, *A Hunt for Life's Extras*, *Tom Sawyer*, *Nzingha*, *Voices of South Carolina Slave Children*, *Skeeter*, and *Black Crows, White Cockades*.

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 covered in 5th grade. The skills are developed through a study of ecosystems, soils, geology and geologic time, astronomy, and ecology.

Math

This course introduces students to all operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers. Students also learn measurements with both systems and use perimeter, area, surface area, volume, angles, and angle relationships, probability, ratios and percentages, statistics, graphing, and algebraic equations.

Foreign Language

At Heathwood Hall, all students begin an introductory study of Latin in the sixth grade. This course emphasizes the Latin grammar, vocabulary acquisition, and translation. This course provides a working vocabulary and basic knowledge of the language.

7th Grade

English

Seventh grade English combines the study of grammar, vocabulary, and fiction. The course tracks, both geographically and temporally, the 7th grade History course. Students learn the use of the writing process, beginning with a review of sentence structure and moving to paragraph and essay formation. Students also embark upon a year-long study of grammar, sentence structure, and vocabulary. Students read *The Hobbit*, *Best Short Stories*, *The Moon is Down*, *Smoke and Ashes*, *Devil's Arithmetic*, and *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*.

History

Seventh grade history includes a study of European and Middle Eastern countries and cultures. The investigation includes extensive review of the Holocaust and of world religions. These studies culminate in extensive research and writing projects in these two areas at the end of each semester.

Math

Beginning at the seventh grade, students are placed in either Pre-Algebra or Algebra I based upon the student's mathematical development. Placement depends upon teacher recommendations, standardized test scores, and grades from the previous year. Students who place into Algebra I take this course for upper school credit.

Pre-Algebra includes a review of fractions, decimals, ratios, percentages, and integers. The course then introduces students to algebraic concepts and equations. Algebra I includes exposure to solving equations and matrices, graphing and writing linear equations, inequalities, linear

systems, polynomials, rational expressions and equations, simplifying and solving radical equations, proportions, exponents, and factoring quadratic equations.

Science

This course exposes students to Life Science, with specific attention given to cell structure and function classification, viruses, bacteria, protists, fungi, plants and animals, anatomy, physiology, and ecology. Students continue their study of the scientific method through the use of lab techniques and formal lab reports.

Foreign Language (Language I-A)

Beginning in the seventh grade, Heathwood Hall students may begin a two-year foreign language study that provides upper school credit. Students may select among Spanish, French, and Latin. Typically, students make this selection based upon their exposure to languages in the Intermediate and Lower schools. Each class typically emphasizes grammar, vocabulary, speaking, reading comprehension, and writing skills.

8th Grade

English

The eighth grade English course is designed to introduce students to 20th and 21st century American literature. Students read among a variety of genres, including poetry, short stories, drama, and novels. The course also emphasizes grammar and vocabulary. The course requires extensive writing. The course culminates in an 8th grade exhibition project that includes an essay, a technological presentation, and public speaking components. This process introduces students to the research process, including citation and documentation. Units include *Inherit the Wind*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Red Pony*, *The Wave*, and *The House on Mango Street*.

History

This course includes a review of United States history from 1776 to the present. The eighth grade course emphasizes social and political movements, current events. Special emphasis is placed upon historical research and on the construction of a five-paragraph history essay. The course also requires student to make presentations throughout the year.

Math

In the eighth grade, students take one of three levels of math — Pre-Algebra, Algebra or Geometry — based upon their developmental need. 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

Eighth grade students take physical science, which incorporates elements of chemistry physics and Newton's laws of motion, electricity, and electronics. The chemical component includes reactions, physical and chemical properties of elements, and the Periodic Table. The physical component includes the study of waves, sound, and light. The course relies heavily upon work in the laboratory. Thus, the students study the Scientific Method and learn to use a variety of laboratory apparatuses and techniques. Formal lab reports are a cornerstone of the compilation of data garnered from the students' experimentations.

Foreign Languages (Language I-B)

Eighth grade students continue the second level of foreign language study for high school credit that they initiated in the seventh grade. Student select among Latin, Spanish, and French, and this second level emphasizes the continued mastery of basic grammar and vocabulary to communicate in everyday situations with proper intonation and pronunciation.

Fine Arts (all grades)

Throughout their Intermediate and Middle School years, Heathwood Hall offers students exposure to numerous elective opportunities in the arts as an essential element to developing a well-rounded student. Students may select courses in Art, Chorus, Band, and Drama. These courses also include performance, exhibition, and competition opportunities for students throughout the year.

Physical Education (all grades)

All Intermediate and Middle School students at Heathwood Hall take Physical Education during the 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.