

**Middle School Curriculum Guide**  
**Heathwood Hall | 2020 - 2021**

***The Heathwood Hall Middle School is a grade 5 through grade 8 Middle School program that is dedicated to the academic, physical, spiritual, and emotional growth of adolescents. As an Episcopal School, we respect the dignity of every student. We emphasize the value of every person as we build relationships and help students discover their God-given gifts and talents. We nurture the spirituality of students by providing time to balance body, mind and spirit.***

**Heathwood Middle School is committed to the following goals:**

- Creating Middle School experiences that balance the intensity of middle school students with their natural energy and need for peaceful growth.
- Engaging middle school students with issues of social justice in ways that play on their natural desire for and understanding of fairness and empathy.
- Inspiring Middle School students to embody greater awareness of themselves and those around them.
- Exposing students to experiences that uncover their skills and passions to create mentally nimble individuals.
- Providing weekly instruction and mindfulness strategies focusing on posture, breath, body awareness
- Preparing students for learning by teaching executive functioning strategies, time management, time estimation, organizational, and study skills
- Using daily advisory to develop relationships with students and set goals
- Creating tranquil spaces for learning to allow introspection and reflection
- Providing PEAK outdoor programs that are educational, connected to curriculum, and allow for leadership experiences
- Instilling confidence by creating a positive digital footprint, and self-regulation with social media through our partnership with The Social Institute
- Encouraging professional development for teachers, specific to the needs of teaching Middle School students
- Offering parenting resources and strategies for navigating adolescence

- Consistently communicating with parents, students, and teachers through the use of Plus Portals, student agenda, Google tools, and division and school-wide resources

### ***Signature Programming***

#### ***Mindful in the Hall: Heathwood Hall's Middle School Mindfulness Program***

National trends indicate students are stressed, anxious, and suffering in classrooms all while trying to pay attention in school, get good grades, make and keep friends, have a presence on social media, and be perfect. It takes great energy to be a middle schooler, but add to that the intensity of life, and it can be paralyzing.

Mindfulness is being truly present in the moment - aware of what you are thinking, doing, saying at any given moment - without judgement. The Mindful in the Hall program aims to teach students specific strategies to focus their minds, to calm their bodies, to acknowledge their feelings and thoughts, and to affect their learning in a positive manner. Cultivating mindfulness in students promotes self-awareness, emotional intelligence, confidence, and resilience in the face of stress, busyness, and the pressure to perform.

#### **Benefits of Teaching Mindfulness:**

- Improves sustained attention, visuospatial memory, working memory, concentration, and sleep
- Increases emotional stability, social tolerance, happiness, gratitude, empathy, grit, resilience, and perseverance
- Reduces stress, anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and hostility

#### ***Executive Functioning and Growth Mindset***

Executive functioning skills and encouraging students to adopt a Growth Mindset are two important layers in the work we do with our students. As a faculty, while we focus on content, we also want to focus on the process of learning. Teachers reinforce Growth Mindset tenets of “the power of yet,” the value of preparation and teaching students how to demonstrate their knowledge through putting forth their best effort. We strive to help students develop the necessary skills to achieve their learning goals.

Knowing these executive functioning skills will help our students think about how they think, give us a common cognitive vocabulary to use with students and parents, and address our goal of building better brains, not just well-filled brains.

## **1:1 iPad Program**

The Middle School has a one-to-one (1:1) iPad program with every student in grades 5 through 8 using an iPad in their classes for assignments, projects, and homework. Students use their iPads for a varied list of activities, including working collaboratively with teachers and classmates on documents and essays, interacting with mathematical equations and graphs, creating movies and presentations, and using the iPads in conjunction with their Logitech Crayon to take notes and highlight e-texts. By bringing iPads into the classroom, every student is given access to the limitless resources of the Internet and can benefit from using these technologies as they learn and grow during these formative years. With these resources -- and guided by their teachers -- our students are learning the content of our curriculum while developing 21st-century skills including critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and technology literacy.

The Middle School has been a 1:1 iPad school and a Google for Education school for over seven years now. During that time, students and teachers have developed their skills, their curriculum, and their confidence in ways that have allowed the iPad to become a difference-maker for teaching and learning. We have built the infrastructure and invested in the accompanying tools that maximize the iPads' effectiveness in our classrooms. We have covered the technical details, like building reliable wireless networking and giving students and teachers the ability to project their iPads wirelessly in the classroom. We have identified and encouraged the use of "evergreen" apps--apps we can use across all grade levels and classes--so that the students become highly capable with the tools used for note-taking, content creation, student and teacher collaboration, and classroom management. We have provided ongoing professional development for our faculty on how to meaningfully integrate the iPad into their classrooms. We have adopted the Google ecosystem to enable ease of access for content creation and data storage while providing the best platform for collaboration between our students and collaboration between our students and their teachers. And, this year, we provided each student with an advanced stylus, the Logitech Crayon, enabling high-quality handwriting to increase the possibilities for student note-taking and content creation. This ongoing effort to invest in our students and faculty while providing ongoing professional development has allowed our program to mature to a point where we cannot imagine our classrooms without these powerful devices.

## **Content Areas by Grade-Level**

**The Middle School includes grades 5-8 because we believe that students benefit from an extra year to transition to the changes that Middle School brings. We are able to scaffold student support to help students prepare for**

**adolescence and gradually introduce aspects of student agency, independence and responsibility. Student confidence grows as they learn how to be a Middle School student: changing classes, using an agenda, and developing self-advocacy skills are a few examples of opportunities that help develop the whole-child. Our related arts rotations allow students to sample and explore many different options and introduce students to a variety of disciplines. Our content-area, grade-level specific teachers are experts not only in the coursework they teach, but also in how to address the unique needs of children they teach.**

## **5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### ***English***

Fifth Grade English emphasizes the cross-curricular skills of reading comprehension and fluency, writing, editing, publishing, vocabulary, and critical thinking. Students are introduced to 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. Students have the opportunity to develop their reading and comprehension skills through literature that connects to content in history and in science. Books read in this class include *Who was Marco Polo?*, *Pedro's Journal*, *Woods Runner*, *Escape Into the Night*, *The War That Saved My Life*, and *My Side of the Mountain*, along with various short stories and poems. Students are also offered a choice when preparing for their book reports, enjoying one pleasure novel of their choosing each month. Since we know that literature can build empathy and change the way children view the world around them, students are asked to ponder details in each text, such as symbols, settings, and characters' emotions and motivations. Students are also asked to garner details and facts, adding to their explicit language skills.

Assessments range from nightly reading questions to book reports, short answer quizzes, and longer paragraph reflections. Students write in various ways, including the production of shorter in-class reflections, book reports, opinion pieces, and persuasive arguments.

### ***Math***

Fifth Grade Math is designed to cultivate mathematical understanding and competency through the study of numeration, number operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, data analysis, probability, and problem-solving. This study includes estimation and calculation, 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 computation.

### ***Science - Environmental Science***

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum is related to the environment, and the processes that drive change within the environment. Environmental science incorporates many different disciplines so, during the first semester, students are introduced to matter, the properties of matter, and the measurement of matter using quantitative (metric system) and qualitative descriptions. Students will conduct real world investigations in the laboratory honing the 21st century skills while learning how to use the laboratory equipment. During the second semester, students will then learn about Earth's four spheres (atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, and biosphere), and the interconnectedness of these spheres. Throughout the year, they will be guided to understand how scientists make and use models to describe the events that take place in the environment. Students will also apply knowledge relating to ecological processes, such as biotic and abiotic influences, carbon and nitrogen cycles, food chains, and energy transfer, that takes place within and between Earth's spheres. Environmental issues related to changes in each of Earth's spheres (water quality, air quality, and land use) will be studied where students will have an opportunity to problem solve. Classroom lessons are supported by lab and field experiences, and students will learn the basics of writing lab reports, and preparing materials to be shared using technology.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum is a platform that supports science topics students will learn in future years. As they progress through middle school, many of the concepts and some topics will be revisited providing a better foundation for long term science learning.

### ***History***

The 5th Grade history course is a study of American history beginning in 1800 and ending with the Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement of the mid 20th century. Various resources are utilized as tools to guide the curriculum. Students employ critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate evidence, understand concepts, make inferences, determine point of view, identify issue and purpose, and examine implications. The course of study begins with a unit on map skills with geographical vocabulary that is followed by a journey filled with the triumphs and tragedies of this period in our American story. The class is enriched by novels studied in English class that are closely connected in themes and topics. Students think deeply about the inspiration and impact of historical figures in our country's saga. They make connections by examining perspective and point of view, studying the role of cause and effect, and relating the motivations and actions of the past to the present.

Essential questions include:

- *How do individuals develop values and beliefs?*

- *What motivates them to act on these principles?*
- *What events from this period in our history echo to us today?*
- *What leadership traits and actions inspire loyalty and trust?*

Students write throughout the curriculum and use interactive notebooks, creative projects, research activities, and various assessments to acquire knowledge and evaluate progress.

### ***Spanish***

Fifth Graders continue to build their Spanish vocabulary and grammar. Students have the opportunity to become proficient in the oral aspects of the language by listening and speaking. Understanding the variety of Hispanic countries and their unique cultures is another focus of 5th Grade Spanish. Students learn about the traditions of these countries by doing projects and learning songs and dances.

### ***Technology***

The Fifth graders will be meeting once a week to learn how to better use and understand technology as part of their day to day lives. Students will have the chance to learn what it means to be a digital citizen and how to responsibly use technology to enhance their own work in their classes. This course will allow students to improve their skills with their iPads and Google Workplace, as well as develop typing skills that will aid them in utilizing their technology to its maximum potential. Additionally, students will get to experience a brief introduction to the basics of computer science with a portion of the class being dedicated to an introduction to programming.

### ***Physical Education***

Heathwood Hall Episcopal School believes in a strong physical education curriculum that provides the opportunity for all students to participate in physical activities that will help them develop physically through the psychomotor, cognitive, and affective domains. The program consists of the following six strands of activities: Net/Racquet Activities, Target Activities, Team Activities, Individual Activities, Fitness for Life Activities, and Outdoor Pursuits/Leisure Activities.

All students will be encouraged to be proficient movers as well as developing an understanding of sportsmanship and appreciation of athletic participation. All activities will progress from a basic level to a more advanced level of sequencing and strategizing. The program encourages a balance of both teacher-directed and student-centered education.

### ***Music Skills***

This quarter long class begins with an introduction to rhythmic music literacy, composition, and ensemble skills. Through the use of African Drums, students will work together to interpret, create, and perform rhythms together. Students will then further their understanding of the elements of music through active listening and analysis of songs, applying all of these lessons to their own compositions using the GarageBand App on the iPad.

### ***Guitar/Ukulele***

The Middle School guitar/ukulele classes will learn basic chords and strumming patterns and will use their skills to play along with songs. Music theory and the history of American music will also be studied. Students will study how to listen to music actively and how to analyze music. This year we have added tone chimes to our instrument offerings and they offer the students an opportunity to apply their music reading skills.

### ***Art***

Fifth Grade Visual Arts supports a transition from elementary art to middle school with emphasis on exploration of materials and techniques. The Middle School Visual Arts program fosters the skills our students need to express themselves creatively and to become lifelong inquisitors. Through studio based classes, students will work with a variety of media in both two and three dimensions as they build and hone their perceptual, creative and technical skills. Media may include painting, printmaking, drawing, collage, and 3-D. Using connections from their subject-area classes, students will be encouraged to express ideas and viewpoints about personal experiences and the world.

### ***School Counseling and Skills***

All 5th and 6th grade students participate in the Skills for Adolescence curriculum, which offers a developmentally appropriate and systematic approach for sharing and applying information to help students succeed academically, socially, and emotionally, and vocationally. The class also focuses on 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 (kindness, 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 helps them reach their potential today and in the years to come.

## ***Drama***

Whether it's in class, onstage or behind-the-scenes, every Middle School student participates in the Heathwood Drama Program. Fifth grade drama teaches the fundamentals of stage performance, developing skills in movement and voice, beginning improvisation, reader's theatre, self-reflection and basic stagecraft. New safety protocols incorporate wearing masks and modifying exercises to accommodate physical distancing.

## ***Outdoor Education***

Students have a unique opportunity to experience the benefits of our PEAK outdoor program, located on campus. A small group of students rotates every quarter to the outdoor education program to be engaged in an active and experiential learning setting. Students will develop basic skills, interest, and knowledge in a variety of adventure activities including archery, backpacking, mountain biking, canoeing, and climbing. Students will also explore a few topics on the wilderness, environmental issues, and leadership development.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### ***English***

In sixth grade, students will be immersed in a study of vocabulary, spelling, grammar, writing, and literature. Our vocabulary study is done through the workbook *Growing Your Vocabulary* and introduces Greek and Latin roots and how they form the basis for many of today's words. Each lesson defines roots and gives a variety of activities to help students grasp the meaning and use of roots. Proper spelling is constantly encouraged in class through editing papers, looking at different spelling rules, and class-chosen spelling lists.

As a Middle School, we intentionally scaffold our study and instruction of grammar to reflect the learning stages of emerging adolescents. The levels of mastery for grammar and writing vary based on a student's reading level, maturity level, and ability to think abstractly and critically. In 6th grade, the students will identify the eight parts of speech, learn how they are used, and demonstrate usage. We work with proper punctuation, capitalization, and editing skills as well.

The Middle School English Department works closely with our Upper School English faculty to fully understand the writing expectations to prepare for the rigors of the



culminating Senior Exhibition. We will write frequently in class using different modes of writing, including expository and narrative writing. In sixth grade, students begin to learn the longer essay structure and to refine their editing skills. The writing curriculum is structured around the ROOTS project and includes many types of writing, encouraging students to write about the subjects they know best—themselves and their families!

During the year, we will read five novels as a class, which have been chosen to enhance the history and science curriculum. We visit the library and read biographies and historical fiction, but also find time for “free reads” as well. Students are introduced to the South Carolina Junior Book Award Nominees as a summer reading project and are encouraged to read as many of those novels during the course of the year as possible. Students will review literary elements throughout the year as they are appropriate to the literature.

There are several projects in the 6th grade including the ROOTS project. The ROOTS project is a year-long writing endeavor where the students do an in-depth study of their families. The culmination is a scrapbook that will be presented in the spring. Other smaller projects include creating an iMovie that goes along with Tom Sawyer, creating a snack made from prefixes, roots, and suffixes, along with other smaller projects that are warranted with our study.

### ***Math***

Sixth Grade Math introduces students to all operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers. This is a year to review and master math facts, concepts related to decimals and fractions, as well as introducing algebraic concepts and exposure to problems that encourage higher order thinking skills. Students learn measurement with both standard and metric systems, perimeter, area, surface area, volume, angles, and angle relationships. Students cover probability, ratios and percentages, statistics and graphing. A variety of class projects reinforce skills and applications.

In addition to sixth grade math, some students are invited to take 6th Grade Pre-Algebra. This course is designed to provide the transition from arithmetic to algebra and geometry. Problem-solving is emphasized throughout the course. Heavy emphasis is placed on patterns, relationships, and functions as well as working with algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities.

### ***Science - Earth Science***

Sixth grade science introduces students to Earth Science. The course expands upon the elements of scientific inquiry, scientific concepts and terminology, the Scientific Process, and laboratory use. The skills are developed through an interdisciplinary study of fossils and geologic past, plate tectonics and earth's movements, weather, water, rocks, human impacts on the planet, and solar system. Creative and critical thinking skills are further developed through project-based instruction and the use of interactive notebooks. Technology is utilized for research and assessments. Experiential activities and field work are incorporated throughout all investigations and topics of study.

### ***History - Ancient Civilizations***

Sixth Grade history focuses on our roots as a community and as individuals, as well as the connections between events in history. Using timelines and sequencing, the class does an in-depth study of Ancient Civilizations around the world through the Exploration period in Europe. This class is closely paralleled with the novels read in English, which are connected to themes and topics like Ancient Egypt and the Roman Empire. Students are required to think deeply about the inspirations and consequences that motivated historical figures and the causes and effects of major historical events. This course will be based on the essential questions: How do you build civilizations around the community? What are the reasons that cultures and individuals create narratives of their experiences? Students will also be asked to examine their role in the Heathwood community, their cultural values, and who they are as individuals in a community.

### ***World Language***

In sixth grade, students choose either Latin or Spanish. These classes meet twice in a seven day rotation. Sixth Grade Latin is an exploratory course in which vocabulary, derivatives and grammar are emphasized and studied through the lens of the ancient Romans in Pompeii in 79 A.D. Students also learn to conjugate present tense verbs and to decline nouns in the nominative and accusative cases. There is an emphasis on translating passages of varying lengths from Latin to English.

In Sixth Grade Spanish, students study vocabulary and structures useful to describe themselves and their world. Basic grammatical concepts are introduced with the objective of developing strong listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. There is an emphasis on oral communication with the ultimate goal of using simple Spanish in different contexts. Students identify elements of culture from the countries in which Spanish is spoken.

### ***Physical Education***

Heathwood Hall Episcopal School believes in a strong physical education curriculum that provides the opportunity for all students to participate in physical activities that will help them develop physically through the psychomotor, cognitive, and affective domains. The program consists of the following six strands of activities: Net/Racquet Activities, Target Activities, Team Activities, Individual Activities, Fitness for Life Activities, and Outdoor Pursuits/Leisure Activities.

All students will be encouraged to be proficient movers as well as developing an understanding of sportsmanship and appreciation of athletic participation. All activities will progress from a basic level to a more advanced level of sequencing and strategizing. The program encourages a balance of both teacher-directed and student-centered education.

### ***Outdoor Education***

Students have a unique opportunity to experience the benefits of our PEAK outdoor program, located on campus. A small group of students rotates every quarter to the outdoor education program to be engaged in an active and experiential learning setting. Students will develop basic skills, interest, and knowledge in a variety of adventure activities including archery, backpacking, mountain biking, canoeing, and climbing. Students will also explore a few topics on the wilderness, environmental issues, and leadership development.

### ***Music Skills***

This quarter long class begins with an introduction to rhythmic music literacy, composition, and ensemble skills. Through the use of Bucket Drums, students will work together to interpret, create, and perform rhythms together. Students will then further their understanding of the elements of music through active listening and analysis of songs, applying all of these lessons to their own compositions using the GarageBand App on the iPad.

### ***Guitar and Ukulele***

The Middle School guitar/ukulele classes will learn basic chords and strumming patterns and will use their skills to play along with songs. Music theory and the history of American music will also be studied. Students will study how to listen to music actively and how to analyze music. This year we have added tone chimes to our instrument offerings and they offer the students an opportunity to apply their music reading skills.

### ***School Counseling and Skills***

All 5th and 6th grade students participate in the Skills for Adolescence curriculum, which offers a developmentally appropriate and systematic approach for sharing and applying information to help students succeed academically, socially, and emotionally, and vocationally. The class also focuses on 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 (kindness, 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 helps them reach their potential today and in the years to come.

### ***Art***

In Sixth Grade Visual Arts, students explore a variety of media as they continue to build their skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, and 3-D. Theory is introduced to further elaborate upon ideas about color, perspective, and design. The Middle School visual arts program fosters the skills our students need to express themselves creatively and to become lifelong critical-thinkers. Through studio based classes, students work with a variety of media in both two and three dimensions as they build and hone their perceptual, creative and technical skills. Using connections from their subject-area classes, students will be encouraged to express ideas and viewpoints about personal experiences and the world.

### ***Technology***

This class will focus on teaching the fundamentals of computer science and building each student's skills with programming. This is a project centric class that will scaffold the skills necessary for students to express their creativity through coding. This will allow students to start creating personal projects and making fun coding experiments such as games, animations, or other fun and creative programs.

### ***Drama***

Whether it's in class, onstage or behind-the-scenes, every Middle School student participates in the Heathwood Drama Program. Sixth grade drama continues to teach the fundamentals of stage performance, developing skills in movement and voice, beginning improvisation, reader's theatre, self-reflection and basic stagecraft. New safety protocols incorporate wearing masks and modifying exercises to accommodate physical distancing.

## ***Library***

Sixth-grade classes go to the library three times during each seven-day rotation over one nine-week quarter. In Library class, students focus on solidifying their familiarity with the print and digital resources available to them through the library. Using their iPads, students learn how to access and search the library catalog, DISCUS and other subscription database resources. They also learn how to evaluate information found on the open web, as well as developing an understanding of the basics of digital citizenship. Other topics are covered at teachers' requests in conjunction with classroom assignments. In addition to research skills, students are introduced to a variety of genres and platforms for recreational reading; they review how to download ebooks and audiobooks using the Overdrive app; and explore digital, print and graphics-based works of many authors and genres, deepening their proficiency in and enjoyment of reading

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade *English***

Seventh Grade English is an integrated reading and writing approach to benefit all phases of language development. Vocabulary study incorporates words from our literary selections, along with the vocabulary workbook. Our grammar/usage study provides practice in parts of speech, sentence structure, verb forms, and subject-verb agreement, along with speaking, listening, and writing skills. Students learn the ten-step approach to research writing, incorporating key elements for organizing and revising their research papers. Many readings support our development of *The Hero's Quest* including *To Be A Hero*, *Best Short Stories*, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, and *Smoke and Ashes*.

As students read our class novels, they are given comprehension questions to complete using their iPad or paper. The novels also have a detailed study guide for review before the test, so students can practice the literature analysis writing prior to the test. Our grammar study follows a scaffold approach in mastering the four levels of grammar, with each level building and reinforcing the other. Diagramming sentences offers the students the opportunity to view the graphic structure of the parts of the sentence. Students enjoy reviewing these concepts in our "board challenge" game which also serves as a study guide. Our writing practice continues the workshop pattern of brainstorming, rough draft, revisions, conferencing then final draft using a detailed rubric for the format of that writing. A daily five-minute writing activity on a topic provides a sustained focus and receives a teacher-written response or clarifying

question. Students complete writing activities that reinforce the grammar and usage of the word as we connect the vocabulary words to our grammar and literature study.

### ***Math***

The goal of Pre-Algebra 7 is to prepare students for algebra and geometry while reviewing the basic math skills taught in Fifth and Sixth Grades. Students transition from concrete to abstract mathematical operations through games, lectures, group work, word problems, drills, and practice. Communicating mathematically is a focus of the class, as students work in groups, explaining solutions verbally to classmates, showing detailed work for problems, writing explanations for solutions, and writing reflections.

In Algebra I, students learn traditional algebra topics, 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 solving word problems, and the development of problem-solving skills. To proceed to 8th grade Geometry, students must pass Algebra I with a B+ (87%) average or better.

### ***Science - Life Science***

Seventh grade science exposes students to a wide variety of topics in life science, including cells, heredity, genetics, evolution, classifications, simple organisms, animals, plants and ecology. Students practice the scientific method, generate meaningful questions, perform research, data collection and analysis, as well as follow laboratory procedures and safety. During the course of the year, students work to improve their proficiency in organization and attention to detail, while wrestling with unfamiliar ideas and concepts. Material is primarily presented through classroom discussions and activities, collaborative labs, student-led projects, current event articles, and assignments. The primary textbook for this class will be the Life Science textbook through iScience, however, supplemental texts will also be used. The overarching goals of 7th grade science are to achieve a deeper understanding of the scientific method and grasp the fact that science is truly everywhere.

### ***Geography***

Seventh Graders take a journey around the world through their study of history. Students will critically explore the history, geography, and culture of the Earth's citizens by asking Who, What, Where, Why and When. The course is 95%-paperless through the daily use of our iPads, as well as our ever current techbook through Discovery Education. Over two semesters, the focus will be the Five Themes of Geography, the regions of the world, globalization, interdependence, 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, Asia, and Africa. Seventh graders will master many maps as well as understanding how geography affects history and how people live. Three quarterly research projects will nurture the Heathwood exhibition tradition. Students will also read selected articles from the reading websites such as Newsela and [PBS.org](http://PBS.org), as 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. The three quarterly research projects nurture the Heathwood exhibition tradition. Students will utilize *MLA* formatting basics using PurdueOWL & the book *Writing a Research Paper*. Students will complete outlines, create thesis statements, and write full research papers with in-text citations and at least three sources. This social studies course assists students in the development of college preparatory skills including note-taking, critical reading, writing, and research.

### ***World Language***

Seventh grade students begin their Upper School language study of Spanish, French or Latin, and language is now considered a core academic class. One high school credit is given for the two-year sequence in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### ***Latin 1A***

Latin students, working from *Wheelock's Latin, 7<sup>th</sup> edition*, cover the grammar, vocabulary, and derivatives from chapters 1-8. They study verbs from the first three conjugations in the present, imperfect, and future tenses, nouns in the first three declensions in six cases, adjective agreement with nouns, and prepositional phrases. They apply their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary by translating sentences and longer passages, utilizing text from ancient authors.

### ***Spanish 1A***

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, students will develop language skills through comprehension based methods of language teaching that are directed toward proficiency. Beginning with short stories and dialogues, and working up to novels written for language learners, students will develop language skills as well as cultural competency. The course will be, as much as possible, conducted in Spanish so that students become comfortable hearing and using basic forms of the language.

### ***French 1A***

Students study the French language and culture through a variety of thematic units, including vocabulary and structures, basic grammatical concepts and communicative

competence. With an emphasis on listening, speaking, reading, and writing, students work towards the goal of effective comprehension and comprehensibility. Students also study the cultures of specified regions in the French-speaking world and compare and contrast these cultures with each other and with their own. The course will be, as much as possible, conducted in French so that students become comfortable hearing and using basic forms of the language. Students are required to interact with each other and participate enthusiastically in class activities. Seventh grade French focuses on communicative skills with an emphasis on speaking and listening through a variety of thematic units that include chapters on greetings, numbers, how to read time, friends and family, a comparison between the French and the American school system, French cuisine and culinary traditions, leisure activities and sports. The class focuses on the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning, which emphasize communication, culture, connections with other subject areas, communities, and comparison and contrasts of different languages and customs.

### ***Art***

In Seventh Grade Visual Arts, students focus on further developing techniques, vocabulary, creativity, and concepts of design. Two-dimensional lessons may include painting, collage, drawing, and printmaking. Three-dimensional projects may include functional or sculptural work. Art history, art appreciation, and art criticism are integrated into the lessons as a framework of the curriculum. A greater emphasis on high-quality craftsmanship takes place in seventh grade.

The middle school visual arts program is designed to build the foundation for self-expression and art appreciation through the use and understanding of the elements and principles of art and design. In addition, the curriculum is designed to allow understanding of artistic heritage by introducing students to the work of many famous artists and indigenous artwork of different cultures around the globe and across time. Through this study, our HHES students are challenged to use their developing art vocabulary and observational skills to critically evaluate art. Development of aesthetics will be gained through a sense play and ingenuity, as well as the study of nature and 2D design principles. Each student will be guided by their own artistry as they create unique works of art that contain a strong sense of authorship.

### ***Music Skills***

This quarter long class begins with an introduction to rhythmic music literacy, composition, and ensemble skills. Through the use of Bucket Drums, students will work together to interpret, create, and perform rhythms together. Students will then further their understanding of the elements of music through active listening and analysis of



songs, applying all of these lessons to their own compositions using the GarageBand App on the iPad.

### ***Guitar and Ukulele***

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### ***Drama***

Whether it's in class, onstage or behind-the-scenes, every Middle School student participates in the Heathwood Drama Program. Seventh and eighth grade drama builds on the previous years with an exploration of improvisation, pantomime, script analysis, theater history and appreciation, monologues and small-group student projects. New safety protocols incorporate wearing masks and modifying exercises to accommodate physical distancing.

### ***Outdoor Leadership***

The 7th/8th Grade students not only get to practice their past knowledge of outdoor education and leadership, but also they gain a new perspective. By learning certain techniques like belaying on the Alpine Tower, students gain a sense of trust and leadership. Students have an opportunity that promotes leadership qualities and characteristics through personal challenge and team-building activities. We hope to take this class further than the typical Outdoor Education classes and really help students understand and learn what Outdoor Leadership is about.

### ***Physical Education***

Heathwood Hall Episcopal School believes in a strong physical education curriculum that provides the opportunity for all students to participate in physical activities that will help them develop physically through the psychomotor, cognitive, and affective domains. The program consists of the following six strands of activities: Net/Racquet Activities, Target Activities, Team Activities, Individual Activities, Fitness for Life Activities, and Outdoor Pursuits/Leisure Activities.

All students will be encouraged to be proficient movers as well as developing an understanding of sportsmanship and appreciation of athletic participation. All activities

will progress from a basic level to a more advanced level of sequencing and strategizing. The program encourages a balance of both teacher-directed and student-centered education.

### ***Makerspace***

The Makerspace is a place where creativity and technology come together. Students will learn to use software to design vinyl stickers, 3D objects, t-shirts, and more. If a student likes to create his/her own designs instead of borrowing images from the internet, this is the class! The Makerspace has four 3D printers, two vinyl cutters, a special printer for t-shirt transfers, a heat press, and a laser cutter. In this class, students will get time to use all of these devices to create their own one-of-a-kind objects.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### ***English***

English 8 is primarily a study of American Literature, including short stories, drama, poetry, nonfiction, and novels. Students read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Animal Farm*, *Anthem*, *Ghost Boy*, *The Pearl*, and *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as various novels of their choice. Students work on grammar, vocabulary, writing, collaborative learning, and research, and have various assignments and projects incorporating technology. A focal point of the class is the Eighth Grade Exhibition Research Project – something or someone that has made a significant impact on society and the world. Students work through the research process: outline, notecards, rough draft, edit, and final draft. Students also present their Exhibition Research Project.

#### ***Math***

In the Eighth Grade, students take one of three levels of mathematics – Algebra Transition, Algebra 1, or Geometry, depending upon their developmental proficiency with mathematical concepts, computational ability, work ethic, and maturity. Both Algebra 1 and Geometry provide high school credit based upon a student's ability to pass the class with a B average or better.

Algebra Transition covers the first part of a high school Algebra curriculum. Students will gain mastery of basic math concepts, as well as functions, real numbers, exponents, equations, and inequalities. Upon completion, students will have the foundation they need to be successful in Algebra 1 in the Ninth Grade.

Algebra 1 is for students who have mastered the fundamentals of arithmetic and are ready for a more in-depth study of functions, real numbers, linear equations and inequalities, systems of equations, exponents, polynomials, quadratic functions, and

rational equations. Technology will be used to enhance the students' understanding of the concepts.

Geometry is for students who have mastered the fundamentals of arithmetic, as well as Algebra 1. Students will learn how to reason mathematically using formal proofs. Students will also study in-depth properties of parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent triangles and relationships within triangles, quadrilaterals, similarity, transformations, area, surface area and volume, and properties of circles. Trigonometry will also be introduced within an extensive study of right triangles.

### ***Science - Physical Science***

Students in the Eighth Grade take Physical Science. In this course, topics in chemistry are discussed in the Fall semester. We engage in topics in physics in the Spring semester. During the Chemistry unit, students explore the following concepts: measurement and laboratory techniques; properties of matter; atoms and the periodic table; types of chemical reactions; acids and bases; and carbon chemistry. The physics unit explores forces and motion: energy, work, and machines; electricity; and light and sound.

The *inquiry approach* and collaborative laboratory work is an essential component of the Physical Science course. In addition, students work on writing, problem-solving, public speaking, and peer review of their classmates' work throughout the year. In addition to encouraging students to explore their world in new ways, the 8th grade science class seeks to build on a solid foundation for future coursework in physics, biology, and chemistry.

### ***Civics***

Eighth Grade History is the study of Civics -- the rights and duties of citizens. In this course, students investigate the foundation of the American citizenry, the workings of our national government, and various aspects of law, economics, and government. Throughout the course, current events are used to stimulate discussion and relate concepts learned in class with events happening around the world. During the second semester, students participate in the Stock Market Game, which gives them the opportunity to learn about investing and personal finance and to compete with other schools across the state in a simulated stock exchange. Throughout the year we will hold both formal and informal debates to promote confident public speaking and respectful dialogue.

### ***World Language***

Eighth Grade students continue with the language they began in the Seventh Grade. One high school credit is given for the sequence in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### ***Latin 1B***

Continuing from their seventh grade language course of study, Latin students continue working from *Wheelock's Latin, 7<sup>th</sup> edition*, covering the grammar, vocabulary, and derivatives from chapters 9-16. They study verbs from the fourth conjugation; demonstrative pronouns and adjectives; personal, reflexive, and intensive pronouns; perfect active system of all verbs; third declension adjectives; and further uses of the ablative and genitive cases. They continue to apply their knowledge of the grammar and vocabulary by translating sentences and longer passages, including work from ancient authors.

### ***Spanish 1B***

In 8th grade, students will continue on their path to proficiency through the comprehension based methods that they were introduced to in Spanish 1A. They will further develop their reading comprehension and writing skills through a robust reading list that is rich in culture and language. They will read short stories and novels and complete assignments that aim to advance their ability to communicate orally and in writing. As in Spanish 1A, the class will be conducted in Spanish primarily, so students will become comfortable hearing and using different forms of the language.

### ***French 1B***

Building on material and skills from French 1A, this course emphasizes listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, guiding students towards the ultimate goal of effective comprehension and comprehensibility. The course provides, as much as possible, an immersive French experience to support students' basic familiarity with and comfort using the language. Real world examples including educational video clips, brief news articles, French language websites, and other primary documents are used frequently as source material.

Vocabulary and cultural comparisons are centered around units on air and rail travel, sports, winter and summer activities, visual and performing arts, daily routines, and health and medicine. Students expand their understanding of French grammatical structure by mastering regular -er, -ir, and -re verbs, reflexive verbs, frequently used irregular verbs, the futur proche and the passé composé tenses, interrogative constructions, negation, pronouns, and the imperative mood. This class follows the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning which emphasize communication,

culture, connections with other subject areas, communities, and the comparison of different languages and customs.

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### ***Drama***

Whether it's in class, onstage or behind-the-scenes, every Middle School student participates in the Heathwood Drama Program. Seventh and eighth grade drama builds on the previous years with an exploration of improvisation, pantomime, script analysis, theater history and appreciation, monologues and small-group student projects. New safety protocols incorporate wearing masks and modifying exercises to accommodate physical distancing.

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### ***Documentaries***

The Documentaries Class introduces students to people, ideas, and events that often get overlooked by larger budget productions. We strive to choose documentaries that go beyond the History Channel and Ken Burns type film to find selections that students may not otherwise watch. While the list of documentaries changes as new documentaries are made available, some recent favorites include 180 Degrees South, Palio, and Alpha Go. Essential questions and classroom discussions are used to facilitate interest, discussion and understanding.

### ***Service Learning***

During Service Learning class, 8th grade students evaluate their value systems while determining and embracing their strengths, talents, and passions. Throughout this reflective process, students learn about others who have devoted their lives to service to others and learn about ways that they can also utilize their passions and talents to serve others in the school, the community, and society at large.

### ***Video Editing***

In this quarter long class, students learn how to make a plan for a video production through storyboarding, scripting, and analysis of other videos. They are taught about considerations for lighting and overall composition of the images they video as well as selection and balancing of audio elements. These skills are applied in the creation of two videos, an *Autobiography* and *How to/Do it yourself* video.

### ***Music Skills***

This semester long class begins with an introduction to rhythmic music literacy, composition, and ensemble skills. Through the use of Bucket Drums, students will work together to interpret, create, and perform rhythms together. Students will then further their understanding of the elements of music through active listening and analysis of songs, applying all of these lessons to their own compositions using the GarageBand App on the iPad.

### ***Guitar/Ukulele***

The Middle School guitar/ukulele classes will learn basic chords and strumming patterns and will use their skills to play along with songs. Music theory and the history of American music will also be studied. Students will study how to listen to music actively and how to analyze music. This year we have added tone chimes to our

instrument offerings and they offer the students an opportunity to apply their music reading skills.

### ***Art***

In Eighth Grade Visual Arts, students will work to develop and make art that reflects personal narrative. Each student will be introduced to methodologies and practices of professional artists: idea generation and research, form and content, goal setting, planning, execution of work, high-quality craftsmanship and critique.

The middle school visual arts program is designed to build the foundation for self-expression and art appreciation through the use and understanding of the elements and principles of art and design. In addition, the curriculum is designed to allow understanding of artistic heritage by introducing students to the work of many artists and indigenous artwork of different cultures around the globe and across time. Through this study, our HHES students are challenged to use their developing art vocabulary and observational skills to critically evaluate art. Development of aesthetics will be gained through a sense play and ingenuity, as well as the study of nature and 2D design principles. Each student will be guided by their own artistry as they create unique works of art that contain a strong sense of authorship.

### ***Library (Research Skills)***

Eighth-grade library skills/study skills class focuses on further developing the research, information, and citation skills students will need as they head into the Upper School and beyond. Topics covered include finding the right source for different research tasks (books/ebooks/databases/online sources); evaluating sources for accuracy and credibility; formulating essential questions; drawing key words from essential questions; effective sharing of information; MLA copyright and citation basics for electronic resources.