

Course Descriptions for Grade Levels

5th-8th Enrichment/Elective Classes

MWF: 5th/6th Robotics/STEM: (7th/8th would need to be done in after school club)

Goal: Robotics/STEM is to serve the following purposes:

1. Introduce students to robotics/technology in the Spring semester (for preparation for Robotics/Technology club in subsequent years – which is held in the fall)
2. Provide forum to work on projects and a place to prepare for math/science competitions. Groups will prepare in class, and leading groups can become eligible to compete.
3. Forum to continue the exposure of Latin concepts to reinforce math/science

T/Th: 7th/8th Latin:

Goal: Latin is to serve the following purposes:

1. To understand Latin as a foundational language and enhance the study of English by comparing it with Latin. Since 60% of English words are derived from Latin, even one year of Latin will boost the vocabulary of students.
2. Begin the study of the structure of the Latin language including vocabulary/cognates, syntax, and grammar.
3. Students will learn noun declensions, verb conjugations, and the translation of phrases and sentences with the goal of reading short sections of primary source material.
4. A study of the culture, history, and literature of the Romans will make students aware of their contributions to western civilization.
5. Highlight the influence of Latin across various other disciplines, e.g. the STEM fields.

MWF: 5th-8th PE:

Goal: The purpose of the physical education program is to teach students to use and care for their bodies in a way that develops the character qualities and sportsmanship expressed in UME's Core Values.

Developmentally-appropriate activities will emphasize the development of physical strength, endurance, skills, and abilities. Each Physical Education course offered will involve both individual and team activities that are grade appropriate and that cover a wide array of games and sports. It is intended that our PE program serve as a natural "Feeder" program into our upper level Athletic Sports by providing intra-mural play/practice of skills in the seasonal sports. Physical activity will be presented in a manner that will interest students and that will naturally attract them to participate and to develop a life-long appreciation for and enjoyment of physical recreation.

5th-8th Technology:

Goal: Technology Class is to serve the following purposes:

1. Beginning in 5th grade, students will gain a comfort level learning internet safety and researching, and develop a comfort level working in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint.
2. Students will learn how to build tables for experiments/surveys, etc. in Excel, narrate their findings in Word, and then develop a presentation in Powerpoint.
3. Emphasis on Keyboarding skills will begin in 5th grade. The speed at which one types can often determine success or failure of meeting a project deadline. Beginning early in their technology education is an essential asset.

Character:

Goal: UME Prep will incorporate the following nine character qualities in every class. In particular courses, these character qualities will be discussed in more depth. UME Prep will communicate to parents which qualities are being emphasized each month so that they can be supported both at home and at school.

Kindness – Helping, Sharing, Giving, Manners, Empathy, Accepting

Courage – Admitting Mistakes, Personal Growth, Handling Peer Pressure, Facing a Fear, Standing Up for What is Right

Self-Control – Not Hitting, Not Seeking Revenge, Being Responsible, Keeping Promises, Not Putting Others Down, Setting Priorities, Listening, Not Judging, Asking Permission, Patience

Forgiveness – Asking Forgiveness, Forgiving, Compromising, Not Holding Grudges, Accepting Others' Flaws

Respect – Respectful Behavior, Not Talking Back, Being a Good Follower, Being Polite, Respecting Differences, Respecting Rules, Asking How You Can Help

Diligence – Learning Through Practice, Setting Goals, Making a List, Completing Responsibilities, Leadership, Finishing a Task, Excellence

Loyalty – Teamwork, Not Playing Favorites, Faithfulness, Volunteering, Standing Up for a Friend, Commitment, Confidentiality, Being Positive

Honesty – Being Fair, Being Truthful, Not Exaggerating, Returning Lost Items, Not making Excuses, Not Cheating, Integrity, Not Stealing

Confidence – Doing Something Difficult, Believing in Someone Else, Encouraging, Trusting, Knowing Your Abilities, Confidence in Your Choices and Decisions

The character qualities listed above are based on the Keystone Curriculum, a character education and leadership development curriculum for elementary school students, developed and produced by the Flippen Group, 1199 Haywood Drive, College Station, Texas 77845.

T/Th: 5th-6th Music:

- 5th-6th grade Music is a curriculum that will expose students to the elements of music theory as well as melodic and rhythmic sight reading. The class will utilize music games, fun activities, singing songs, and playing classroom instruments. We will work together to present a performance at the end of each semester.

T-Th: 7th-8th Art: OR T-Th: 7th-8th Music:

7th-8th Art Class:

Goal: Expand on various art concepts, reinforce other core domains, and encourage creativity. Art is an introductory course for students who have had little experience with art. The course will allow the students to develop their artistic skills in several media, i.e., pencil, acrylic, pen and ink. There will also be lessons in Art History, theory, covering design concepts such as visual movement, depth, contrast, and texture. The effects of light and shadow and the impacts of spatial relationships will be explored and emphasized.

7th-8th Music Class:

Goal: 7th-8th grade Music will focus primarily on the Choir TEKS and develop sight-reading skills, basic vocal technique, and some Music History. Each semester will culminate in a Concert emphasizing performance and audience etiquette, teamwork, and evaluation/critique corroborating the Core Values/Character Qualities

T-Th: 7th-8th: Journalism OR T-Th: 7th-8th Logic

7th-8th Logic:

Goal: This course is designed uniquely to foster a love for the art of correct thinking or logic. Created for junior high students, this course teaches students how to do what has started to come naturally to them at this age – argue. Students will learn how to form logical arguments and recognize erroneous ones.

7th-8th Journalism:

Goal: The students will learn the role of journalists in society and culture, moral and ethical principles of journalism, basic elements of journalistic writing, history of journalism and the 1st amendment, types of media, and the role of a journalist as an agent of change in the world. In addition, Journalism students will be learn basic skills in newspaper/yearbook design and layout, photojournalism, and desktop publishing.

Please Note: For these electives described in this document, the following table found in the UME Student Handbook will guide the total homework amounts associated with each class.

Framework for Estimated Average Hours of Homework Per Week: As a general rule, the following guidelines are good faith estimates only and, as such, are meant to aid parents as they oversee their child(ren)'s work at home. It should be noted that homework times can and do vary based on ability/work ethic of the student, previous educational attainment by the student, relative difficulty of the coursework, etc. These times reflect a pronounced bias toward English and Math from the earliest grades since these two courses are instrumental in the building of a sound academic foundation early in a student's academic career; these times level out in high school where the Academy assumes a more equalized approach to each of the respective disciplines.

	English	Math	Science	History	Electives/Other	Total
Kindergarten	No more than 3 hours per week (in addition to reading to your child)					3
1st Grade	2*	2	1	1	1	7
2nd Grade	2*	2	1	1	1	7
3rd Grade	3*	3	1	1	1	9
4th Grade	3*	3	1	1	1	9
5th Grade	3*	3	2	1	1	10
6th Grade	3.5*	3	2	1.5	1	11
7th Grade	4*	3	2	2	2	13
8th Grade	4	3	2	2	2	13
9th Grade	3	3	3	3	3	15
10th Grade	3	3	3	3	3	15

* Homework is to be divided as evenly as possible between Reading and Writing (Composition)

STAAR	<i>Shaded cells represent STAAR assessed courses</i>
Reading & Writing	<i>Shaded cells indicate that both reading and writing are assessed on the STAAR in these grades</i>
5TH AND 8TH Grade	<i>Shaded cells indicate grades where state law dictates students be retained if they do not pass either their Reading or Math STAAR assessments.</i>
High School	<i>Students in these grades will be required to take End of Course Exams (EOC's) rather than the STAAR exam; those exams will be: English 1, English 2, Algebra 1, Biology, and US History</i>