**2021-2022 Pinecrest Inspirada Middle School Course Descriptions**

**Algebra I Enrichment/Advancement**

Grade Level: 8

*Yearlong*

**Associated Cost- $0**

Prerequisite: Current enrollment in Algebra I course

This advanced course in mathematics is designed for students who desire enrichment of Algebra concepts in the fields of science or engineering. This course provides additional instruction and real-world application of Algebra concepts in conjunction with the students’ concurrent enrollment in Algebra. The use of mathematical tools, computer programs, and STEAM projects will give students a strong foundation in Algebra through the introduction of methods & tools they will use in high school, university, and technical careers. This course does not fulfil the middle school mathematics requirement for promotion.

**Art**

Grade Levels: 6-8

*1 Semester*

**Associated Cost- $25**

Prerequisite: None

This course introduces students to a multitude of techniques used to produce art. Students will use a variety of mediums to create original pieces of art through personal interpretation. Students will have an opportunity to apply the use of colored pencils, watercolor, tempera paints, chalk, clay, paper, and string to develop their own versions of an assigned project. Students will learn and understand the concepts behind shading, shadows, and dimension to add life to their works of art. At the end of this course, students will have gained exposure to and an appreciation for the various forms of artistic expression.

**Band: Beginning Band**

Grade Level: 5

*Yearlong*

**Associated Cost- $150 (includes conservatory fee\*)**

Prerequisite: None

Beginning Band students will have the opportunity to perform on the following instruments;  flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, french horn, trumpet, trombone, baritone/euphonium, tuba and percussion.

Active participation during class is essential in order for a student to learn how to play an instrument and therefore will be a substantial portion of the grade.  Concert attendance and participation is mandatory.

Students will learn and exhibit proper, safe, care and maintenance of their instruments.  They will play in large ensembles demonstrating appropriate ensemble techniques while following a conductor.  Students perform multiple-part ensemble literature and learn music terminology and music reading techniques. This course concentrates on the development of correct instrument position and placement, note-reading and aural skills, rhythmic patterns, intonation, articulation, and breath support in order to perform with a good tone quality.  The importance of sustained group and individual effort is stressed. A progression of fundamental and technical proficiency is expected. This course is a preparatory course for progression to

more advanced band courses.

Students are required to provide their own instrument. Arrangements for rentals have been made for Pinecrest students through Music and Arts. Please consult the teacher before purchasing an instrument.

**Band: Concert Band**

Grade Levesl: 6-8

*Yearlong*

**Associated Cost- $150 (includes conservatory fee\*)**

Prerequisite: 1 Year of Beginning Band & Teacher Recommendation

Concert Band is offered to students entering 6th- 8th grade as a continuation for students with previous band experience. This course concentrates on the development of style, articulation, pitch, dynamics, technique, advanced rhythmic patterns and tonal recognition. A progression of technical proficiency is expected.  Students will play a carried repertoire of instrumental literature representing diverse genres and styles including both classical and popular music. Students will be able to identify the various ways that music conveys universal themes, i.e., contrast, conflict, or emotion. This course emphasizes preparing students to continue learning how a successful band functions and the continuation of success on their instrument of choice. Students with one year of experience who wish to change instruments may choose this course

Concert participation and attendance is mandatory.

**Band: Symphonic Band (Advanced)**

Grade Levels: 6-8

*Yearlong*

**Associated Cost- $150 (includes conservatory fee\*)**

Prerequisite: 1 Year of Beginning Band & Teacher Recommendation

Advanced Band is offered to students entering 6th- 8th grade as a continuation for students with previous band experience. This course concentrates on advancing the development of style, articulation, pitch, dynamics, technique, advanced rhythmic patterns and tonal recognition. A progression of technical proficiency is expected.  Students will play a carried repertoire of instrumental literature representing diverse genres and styles including both classical and popular music. Students will be able to identify the various ways that music conveys universal themes, i.e., contrast, conflict, or emotion. This course emphasizes preparing students to continue learning how a successful band functions and the continuation of success on their instrument of choice.

Concert participation and attendance is mandatory. Students are required to provide their own instrument. Arrangements for rentals have been made for Pinecrest students through Music and Arts.  ​

**Choir: Concert Choir**

Grade Levels: 6-8

*Yearlong*

**Associated Cost $150 (includes conservatory fee\*)**

Prerequisite: None

This yearlong class is designed to enhance the musical, creative and expressive qualities of all students.  Musical opportunities are provided for every child to learn the basic skills of singing, playing and reading music, developing song repertoire, broadening listening skills and experiencing the interrelated nature of music with other cultures and content areas. There is one concert per semester and attendance at these concerts are required. Students need the grey Pinecrest polo, navy blue pants, black socks and all black shoes.

**Computer Science and Applications (Formerly Computer Literacy)**

Grade Level: 6 (Required)

*1 Semester*

**Associated Cost- $0**

Prerequisite: None

Computer Computer Science and Applications is a one semester course that lays the foundation of preparing students for success in future computer classes, the use of technology in secondary classes and college coursework, and career. The first half of the course focuses on relevant standards such as Productivity Tools including Docs, Slides, Calendars, Drawings, Maps, Sheets, and Search. The second half of the course focuses on Computational Thinking/Computer Science. This middle school course satisfies the Use of Computers half-credit requirement for high school graduation.

**Digital Broadcasting (Pioneer News)**

Grade Levels: 6-8

*1 Semester*

**Associated Cost- $25**

Prerequisite: None

This digital broadcasting and journalism elective is a fast-paced course that provides students with the opportunity to develop and refine skills that relate directly to academic programs and future career tracks involving modern media.  Students are tasked with writing scripts, recording news segments, and editing footage to create a cohesive and informative news broadcast. Daily newscasts are viewed by the entire middle school student body and are an integral part of campus communication.  Students in this course may also have the unique opportunity to work with and interview individuals of notoriety.

**Flight and Space**

Grade Levels: 6-8

*1 Semester*

**Associated Cost- $0**

Prerequisite: None

This course is divided into three sections: Flight, Space, and Destination: Mars. During the flight section of the course, students discover the science of flight and use aerodynamic concepts to explain how aircraft fly. Students receive an introduction to the engineering design process, investigate the effect of different airfoils on flight, use maps for navigation, and explore flight crew scheduling criteria. During the space section of the class, students investigate how scientists and engineers play a vital role in space travel, space discovery, and living in space. They explore launch, orbit, landing, maintaining health in space, and maintaining a stable living environment for astronauts. In the last section of the course, students work in teams to design and model different aspects required to complete a mission to Mars. Students collaborate to complete the problems and present their findings. The mission includes planning the astronaut crew, rocket specifications, crew daily activity schedules, Mars landing site, and Mars landing vehicle.

**Geometry Enrichment/Advancement**

Grade Level: 8

*Yearlong*

**Associated Cost- $0**

Prerequisite: Current enrollment in Geometry course

*This course is required for students enrolled in Geometry.*

This yearlong course is designed for students who desire advanced material in Euclidean Geometry. This course provides additional instruction in problem solving, reasoning, modeling, and effective communication in the study of transformational geometry, trigonometry, measurement, and probability. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The use of mathematical tools and technology, including graphing calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course. A TI-84 plus Graphing Calculator will be used daily throughout this course. This course is mandatory for all students in Geometry and will not fulfil the middle school mathematics requirement for promotion.

**Leadership**

Grade Levels: 7-8

*1 Semester*

**Associated Cost- $15**

Prerequisite: None

Students will practice various aspects of leadership by experiencing a situation, discuss what happened and extract essential elements that they will then be able to apply to new situations. Students will be required to keep a daily journal of their progress, experiences, and reflections during the semester. The Leadership skills covered during the one semester course include: communication, self-awareness, goal setting, organization, problem solving, group process, conflict resolution and promoting pluralism. This course is recommended for National Junior Honor Society and Student Council members but is not required.

**Math Intervention**

Grade Levels: 6-8

*Yearlong*

**Associated Cost- $0**

Prerequisite: Required per teacher recommendation based on mathematics placement assessment

This mandatory (administration placed) intervention course in mathematics is designed for students who need traditional instruction and support to master necessary middle school mathematics concepts.  This course provides additional instruction in conjunction with the students’ required mathematics course of study in grades 6, 7, and 8. The use of manipulatives, mathematical tools, and technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course.  This course is a repeatable elective and does not fulfil the middle school mathematics requirement for promotion.

**Medical Detectives**

Grade Levels: 7-8

*1 Semester*

**Associated Cost- $0**

Prerequisite: None

In this 1 semester course, students engage in the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health. Learning about the human body muscular and skeletal system the students will create prototype prosthetics by using the design process.

**Novels and Film**

Grade Levels: 6-8

*1 Semester*

**Associated Cost- Novel Purchases**

Prerequisite: None

Students will read a variety of novels and compare them with their film adaptation. Cinematic Literacy is a course that will provide students with reading comprehension practice as well as utilize their writing skills on a daily basis. Students will be required to complete a STEM driven book report for each completed novel. This course provides the opportunity to participate in collaborative literary discussion over a common reading all while practicing reading and writing skills.

**Orchestra: Beginning Orchestra**

Grade Level: 5

*Yearlong*

**Associated Cost- $150 (includes conservatory fee\*)**

Prerequisite: None

Students learn to play a string instrument. String instruments taught will include the violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Active participation during class is essential for a student to learn how to play an instrument and therefore will be a substantial portion of the grade. Concert attendance and participation is mandatory.

Students will learn and exhibit proper, safe, care and maintenance of their instruments. They will play in large ensembles demonstrating appropriate ensemble techniques while following a conductor. Students perform multiple-part ensemble literature and learn music terminology and music reading techniques. This course emphasizes the place of string music in the western musical heritage. It concentrates on the development of correct instrument position and placement, note-reading and aural skills, rhythmic patterns, intonation, and tonality inherent to string music. The importance of sustained group and individual effort is stressed. A progression of fundamental and technical proficiency is expected. This course is a preparatory course for progression to more advanced orchestra courses.

Students are required to provide their own instrument. The instrument MUST be from a reputable company. Arrangements for rentals have been made for Pinecrest students through Music and Arts. Please consult the teacher before purchasing an instrument.

**Orchestra: Intermediate (Concert Strings) Orchestra**

Grade Levels: 6-8

*Yearlong*

**Associated Cost- $150 (includes conservatory fee\*)**

Prerequisite: 1 Year of Beginning Orchestra & Teacher Recommendation

Concert Strings is offered to students entering 6th- 8th grade as a continuation for students with previous orchestral experience. This course concentrates on the development of style, articulation, pitch, dynamics, technique, advanced rhythmic patterns, and tonal recognition. A progression of technical proficiency is expected. Students will play a carried repertoire of instrumental literature representing diverse genres and styles including both classical and popular music. Students will be able to identify the various ways that music conveys universal themes, i.e., contrast, conflict, or emotion. This course emphasizes preparing students to continue learning how a successful orchestra functions and the continuation of success on their instrument of choice.

Concert participation and attendance is mandatory. If grades or ability are not up to par, students will be given a lengthy alternate assignment for the points missed as concerts are a large portion of their grade.

Students are required to provide their own instrument. Arrangements for rentals have been made for Pinecrest students through Music and Arts.

**Orchestra: Advanced Orchestra**

Grade Levels: 6-8

*Yearlong*

**Fee- $150 (includes conservatory fee\*)**

Prerequisite: 1 Year of Orchestra & Teacher Recommendation

Advanced Orchestra is offered to students entering 6th- 8th grade as a continuation for students with previous orchestral experience. This course concentrates on the advancement of style, articulation, pitch, dynamics, technique, advanced rhythmic patterns, and tonal recognition. A progression of technical proficiency is expected. Students will play a carried repertoire of advanced instrumental literature representing diverse genres and styles including both classical and popular music. Students will be able to identify the various ways that music conveys universal themes, i.e., contrast, conflict, or emotion. This course emphasizes preparing students to continue learning how an advanced orchestra functions and the continuation of success on their instrument of choice. This course is designed to prepare students for high school orchestra.

Concert participation and attendance is mandatory. If grades or ability are not up to par, students will be given a lengthy alternate assignment for the points missed as concerts are a large portion of their grade.

Students are required to provide their own instrument. Arrangements for rentals have been made for Pinecrest students through Music and Arts.

**Physical Education & Health**

Grade Levels: 6-8

*1 Semester*

**Associated Cost- $0**

Prerequisite: none

This semester-long course focuses on the physical, mental, social and emotional development of the individual in a cooperative and competitive setting. The student will be provided with experiences in psychomotor skills, movement experiences, lifetime health-related fitness skills and values. The goals of this class are accomplished through participation in team sports and individual sports, fitness, wellness and movement activities. Rules, strategies, safety and life skills will be emphasized in relation to active participation and the development of becoming a knowledgeable spectator.

In addition 8th graders will take health. During the health portion of this course, students learn about health and well-being while analyzing the relationship between health behaviors and personal health. They explain the interrelationships of emotional, intellectual, physical, and social health in adolescence. Students will learn how behaviors, pathogens, genetic history, and other factors are related to illness/ disease prevention. They examine how individual family, peers, and information influence the personal use, misuse, and abuse of substances. Students apply time management strategies and learn skills needed to attain a personal long-term health goal.

**Robotics- First Lego League (FLL)**

Grade Levels: 6-7 *(7th and 8th grade students are encouraged to participate in our after school Robotics instead of the Robotics elective)*

*Yearlong - 1st semester is robotics/ 2nd semester rotates with either C02 cars or roller coaster*

**Associated Cost- $100**

Prerequisite: None

Students will work hands-on with engineering software and tools to develop, plan, and build robotic creations using the Lego Mindstorms product. Students will be presented with a ‘need’ or ‘problem’ and will be tasked with developing a robotic model as a solution. Students will work on a team of up to 6 students to come up with creative, problem-solving ideas, make critical design and function decisions, and build a robot for competition. Besides building and programming a robot students are required to creatively solve a “problem” by researching, interviewing, prototyping, and presenting their proposal numerous times.

Students will compete in First Lego League (FLL competitions/challenge) at the school, as well as from 1-3 required Saturday events for the competition. ​ Students are expected to attend all competitions, and they will require transportation by parents or guardians. Students must be willing to work extra at home and meet with their teammates to work on their solution and presentation throughout the semester.

Grades will be based on: programming ability and tasks accomplished, building ability, team work/cooperation, presentation/research, and participation in competitions.

**\*\*Science of Technology (NEW THIS YEAR)**

Grade Levels: 6-8

*1 Semester*

**Associated Cost- $0**

Prerequisite: None

Science impacts the technology of yesterday, today, and the future. In this unit, students apply the concepts of physics, chemistry, and nanotechnology to activities and projects, including making ice cream, cleaning up an oil spill, and discovering the properties of nano-materials**.**

**Speech & Debate using ThinkLaw Curriculum**

Grade Levels: 6-8

*1 Semester*

**Associated Cost- $15**

Prerequisite: none

The purpose of Speech and Debate is for students to actively work on and strengthen their skill areas in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students who take this course will learn how to properly and confidently speak in public. Students will participate in a variety of topics (Informational, Persuasive, Demonstrative, Argumentative) that allow them to research, analyze and prove a factual point. ThinkLaw is also a curriculum that is used by students in this course. This program allows students to study different arguments and real life law cases that students must decipher using claims and text based evidence. This helps students use their critical thinking skills.

**Spanish: Conversational Spanish**

Grade Levels: 6-7

*1 Semester*

**Fee- $0**

Prerequisite: none

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to Spanish and to begin developing communicative competence in the Spanish language.  By the end of the course, students should be able to:

* Speak and write about activities of daily life;
* Give and follow simple oral and written instructions and commands;
* Recognize commonly used verbs and phrases;
* Participate in structured conversations in a variety of topics;
* Write a simple narrative about a personal experience or event;
* Recognize the standard rules of usage and grammar;
* Demonstrate creativity in the production of language;
* Comprehend written and spoken numbers, dates, times, and other basic thematic vocabulary;
* Read and comprehend phrases, short sentences, written directions and narratives; and,
* Identify important people, holidays, geography, and history of Spanish speaking countries and compare it to their own culture.

No previous experience with Spanish necessary. Previous knowledge and experience with Spanish is always helpful but not required.

**Spanish 1**

Grade Levels: 7-8

*Yearlong*

**Fee- TBD**

Prerequisite: Conversational Spanish is recommended

The purpose of this course is to develop communicative competence in the Spanish language.  Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

* Speak and write about activities of daily life;
* Give and follow simple oral and written instructions and commands;
* Recognize commonly used verbs and phrases;
* Participate in structured conversations in a variety of topics;
* Write a simple narrative about a personal experience or event;
* Recognize the standard rules of usage and grammar;
* Demonstrate occasional creativity in the production of language;
* Comprehend written and spoken numbers, dates, times, and other basic thematic vocabulary;
* Read and comprehend phrases, short sentences, written directions and narratives; and,
* Identify important people, holidays, geography, and history of Spanish speaking countries and compare them to their own culture.

Students should have taken a course similar to Conversational Spanish in grades 6 or 7 before taking Spanish 1 for high school credit.  In order to earn high school credit and be in Spanish 1, students must be in 7th or 8th grade.

**Student Aide/Office Aid**

Grade Levels: 7-8

*1 Semester*

**Fee- $0**

Prerequisite: None

Teacher (or) administrator approval is required for this semester-long elective.  Students will get the chance to partner alongside office staff, a specialist teacher, elementary teacher, or middle school teacher to assist in the day-to-day operations.  Students will develop leadership and management skills, as well as a better understanding of their own learning strategies and styles.

**World Cultures**

Grade Levels: 6-8

*1 Semester*

**Fee- $10**

In World Cultures, students will learn about what culture is, examine their own culture, and then explore the cultures of a variety of different countries.  At the beginning of the course, students get to choose the countries that they are most interested in learning about for the remainder of the semester. As a class, we will explore the history, language, holidays, food, and daily life of these chosen countries.  Students will also learn about some of the major issues in the world today and how individuals can get involved in solving these issues.

**\*Conservatory at Inspirada**

The "Conservatory at Inspirada" provides Nevada's only advanced music training curriculum housed within a public middle school. Some of Las Vegas' most inspiring and sought after music educators are joining our ranks to provide a transformative music education to the students of Pinecrest Academy Inspirada. By design, this new system will build on the award winning STEAM features of our school and will nurture the creativity needed to prepare our students for the careers of tomorrow. Welcome to The Conservatory at Inspirada.

The costs associated with the new conservatory are minimal and may be reduced significantly through active support of fundraising.

$65 Pinecrest System Instrumental Music Fee

$85 Conservatory Instruction Fee (Every student will be provided with instruction on their instrument both in class and privately)