



MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE



Getting to know all of our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students as individuals is at the heart of what we do. Seven Peaks students are seen and known. We have the benefit of time specifically designated for planning, conferring with students and parents, and collaborating with colleagues. That extra time, combined with fewer students per grade level, allows us to challenge, teach, coach, mentor, guide, and inspire each student. Seven Peaks is a place of academic rigor, but it is also a place where adolescents learn and discover who they are, what they are passionate about, and how they can contribute to the well-being of society. Our goal is to provide an enriching experience for each student while preparing them for high school and their lives beyond.

HUMANITIES

Overview - The primary focus of the middle school course in *Individuals and Societies* is for students to develop investigative and critical thinking skills. Our coursework introduces students to the historical significance of specific events and the connections of these events to their lives individually, locally, and globally. Students explore multiple perspectives of events such as political upheaval, individual struggles for freedom and equality, and world altering events such as war to understand the complexities of history. Through proper forms of investigation and expression of opinion, students cultivate critical thinking skills to understand our world. Students study historical units with the time they need to deeply explore main ideas, making connections and sense of our contemporary, complex world.

6th Grade - MYP Year One

Year One, *Individuals and Societies*, integrates various disciplines from the humanities with traditional social studies topics. Additionally, there are connections to reading and writing throughout the year, such as the research-based information writing unit. Students look to understand how historical events changed the lives of those in the past and how they still have significance on our lives today. Students learn to see the world through the five themes of geography with a special focus on deserts of the world. Historical topics range from medieval Europe and Asia to the rise of democracy in the western hemisphere. Each unit challenges students to recognize the interactions between people of similar and different cultures and the geography that shaped those cultures.

7th Grade - MYP Year Two

Year Two, *Power: Human and Machine*, includes the study of world power, technological advancement and world conflict, governmental responsibilities, and oppression vs. freedom.

The focus of the course is world change, upheaval, and conflict, and the positive changes forced by these events. Students explore world events changed by human nature, political ideologies, new technologies, and conflict that lead to responses to all creating enormous change. Emphasis is placed on economic, political, societal, historical, and cultural perspectives and how the close relationship of the power of humans and the ideas and machines they create lead to conflict and change. A global perspective is presented to help students become more aware of the relevance of their learning. An intercultural awareness is presented to help students develop their attitudes, knowledge and skills as they learn about their own and others' social and national cultures. The ability to communicate, express, and reflect on their learning is stressed to explore these multiple forms of expression. To be effective with these skills, students work to develop oral and written communication techniques simultaneously, including information gathering, speech writing and presentation, document production, and techniques required to work effectively in group situations.

8th Grade - MYP Year Three

Year Three, *Freedom and Equality*, involves the study of rights and responsibilities, freedom and equality, fear, mistrust and the resulting conflict, and responsibilities to other nations.

The focus of the course is equality, freedom, and the struggles to achieve and maintain these goals as well as the positive changes forced by these events. Students explore world events changed by political ideologies, human nature, new technologies, and conflict centering around the desire for freedom and equality creating enormous change. Emphasis is placed on political, societal, technological, historical, and cultural perspectives and how the close relationship of all lead to conflict and change. A global perspective is presented to help students become more aware of the relevance of their learning. An intercultural awareness is presented to help students develop their attitudes, knowledge and skills as they learn about their own and others' social and national cultures. The ability to communicate, express, and reflect on their learning is stressed to explore these multiple forms of expression. To be effective with these skills students work to develop oral and written communication techniques simultaneously, including information gathering, speech writing and presentation, document production, and techniques required to work effectively in group situations.

LANGUAGE ARTS

At the core of Language and Literature in years 1-3 of the MYP Program is students' ability to use language in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, and presenting. As active participants in classrooms that foster inquiry-based learning, students enjoy a variety of opportunities to create both independently and collaboratively, express themselves, and reflect on their learning. With strong ties to the Humanities program, students are exposed to texts from a diverse mix of time periods, cultures, and mediums. Students leave Seven Peaks School's three-year Language and Literature program well-prepared for high school as readers, writers, communicators, thinkers, and creators.

6th Grade - MYP Year One

IB MYP Year 1 Language and Literature is a course of study to introduce students to analysis for fictional and nonfictional literature, such as short stories, novels, plays, and articles/essays. Students also develop collaborative and self-management skills, as well as speaking and presentation skills, through class projects. Students learn to organize and write for different purposes, including narratives, literary essays, persuasive letters, and descriptive and creative writing. Students develop vocabulary and language skills in connection with their reading and writing.

7th Grade - MYP Year Two

In the seventh grade MYP, students continue to develop as readers, writers, thinkers, and communicators through units centered on analysis of both fiction and nonfiction works--short

stories, novels, articles/essays, poetry, songs, and more. These units are also organically connected to the content and time periods they are studying in Humanities. Students have multiple opportunities to hone their craft as organizers of information and as writers of narrative, information, and opinion pieces as well as ongoing creative journaling and on-demand writing. Development of language skills and vocabulary is interwoven throughout the course in conjunction with students' literacy goals. Through varied class projects, students not only gain confidence in their speaking and presentation skills but also build community with their classmates.

8th Grade - MYP Year Three

The eighth grade program provides Seven Peaks' maturing students with the opportunity to reflect upon the challenges in both their personal lives and the world around them. To that end, each unit is crafted around the idea of "challenge"--the challenge of ideas, relationships, conflict, and more. Students continue to develop as readers, writers, thinkers, and communicators through units centered on analyses of both fiction and nonfiction works. These units are also organically connected to the content and time periods highlighted in Humanities. Students have multiple opportunities to hone their craft as organizers of information and as writers of narrative, information, and opinion pieces as well as ongoing creative journaling and on-demand writing. Development of language skills and vocabulary is interwoven throughout the course in conjunction with students' literacy goals. Through varied class projects, students not only gain confidence in their speaking and presentation skills but also build community with their classmates.

MATHEMATICS

Through the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP), the approach to learning seeks to teach students how to analyze information and how to develop, organize and present their ideas. This approach is applied in all the major disciplines, including math. Our students develop algebraic thinking and sharpen their logical thinking. They develop the ability to communicate mathematics using appropriate symbols and language and they are taught to reflect upon and evaluate the completeness of their solutions. We strive to teach an appreciation for the usefulness, power and beauty of mathematics and its relationship with everyday life.

6th Grade MYP Year One

Pre-Algebra

In Pre-Algebra, students reinforce their understanding of rational numbers and integers and their operations. They apply what they have learned to manipulate and evaluate algebraic expressions; begin to solve multi-step equations and understand and use formulas. Students review the relationships between fractions, decimals, percent equivalences, and represent numbers in terms of exponents and as products of prime numbers. They will use their

knowledge of squares and square roots to investigate the Pythagoras Theorem and begin to understand the relationships between the equation and the graphical representation, and study areas, perimeters and properties of quadrilaterals and circles.

7th Grade MYP Year Two

Algebra (Year 1 of 2 path description)

In 7th grade our students are divided into 3 small classes. A majority of 7th grade students at Seven Peaks enter the two-year algebra program. The focus of the program is to build a solid algebra foundation by exploring concepts at a slower pace to create a deeper understanding of the major concepts of algebra. The first year of algebra includes the following areas of study: writing, simplifying, and solving equations, linear equations and slope, similarity, systems of equations, basic probability, and an introduction to geometry and the Pythagorean Theorem. Throughout the course students will use calculators and technology along with collaborative group work while investigating mathematical concepts in these areas.

Algebra (Year 1 of 1 path description)

A small percentage of students have demonstrated the ability to understand complex mathematical concepts at a faster pace. These students are enrolled in the Algebra 1 course where all major algebra concepts are taught during their 7th grade year. Along with the areas of study that are taught in the two year course, students in this class will study: graphing and solving quadratic equations, simplifying and factoring polynomials, simplifying radical expressions, trigonometry, simplifying rational expressions, and data analysis. Throughout the course students will use calculators and technology along with collaborative group work while investigating mathematical concepts in these areas.

8th Grade MYP Year Three

Algebra (Year 2 of 2 description)

Students who have completed the first year of the two-year algebra program continue their study of algebra building on the concepts taught in 7th grade. Graphing and solving quadratic equations, simplifying and factoring polynomials, simplifying radical expressions, trigonometry, simplifying rational expressions, and data analysis are the major concepts studied in 8th grade. Students will use calculators and technology along with collaborative group work while investigating mathematical concepts in these areas. 8th grade also includes an introduction to key geometric concepts. After successful completion of this course students will be prepared to enroll in a high school geometry class.

Geometry

Students who have successfully completed an Algebra 1 course are enrolled in our one year geometry program. In this course the concept of proof is introduced for the first time with the emphasis being placed on developing critical thinking skills as they relate to logical reasoning and argument. Topics include the building blocks of geometry, congruent triangles and their application to problem solving, similar polygons, the Pythagorean relationship and trigonometric ratios, and area and volume. Students will use calculators and technology along with

collaborative group work while investigating mathematical concepts in these areas. Upon completion of this course students will be prepared to enroll in an Algebra 2 course when entering high school.

SCIENCE

Scientific inquiry fosters critical and creative thinking about research and design, as well as the identification of assumptions and alternative explanations. Students learn to appreciate and respect the ideas of others, gain ethical-reasoning skills and further develop their sense of responsibility as members of local and global communities.

Using the IB MYP framework as a guide, we aim to guide students to discover science through inquiry, real-world applications, and hands-on projects. Our students learn to work both independently and collaboratively as they explore life, physical, and earth sciences in our fully-equipped science laboratory. At Seven Peaks, we value the connection between scientific concepts learned in school and local and global applications. Students develop a global perspective as we explore ethical, cultural, and environmental applications of science and their impact on the world around us. Through student-driven, inquiry-based investigations, students develop the valuable life skills of critical thinking, problem solving, and and creativity as they discover the forces and interactions of the natural world.

During every year of the MYP curriculum, students have the opportunity put their learning into action in ***Celebration of Innovation***. During this weeklong event, students get to combine their knowledge and their interests while they follow the IB design cycle to create a solution to a local, domestic, or global problem. Whether the students identify a small or large-scale issue, they use critical and creative thinking to collaborate, build a prototype, and present their inventions.

6th Grade MYP Year One

During MYP Year One, students explore the realm of Earth Science. This study begins with the study of the oceans. During the study of the oceans we take a three-day trip to the Oregon Coast to enhance students' learning through field experiences. Students will also explore earth science fields of plate tectonics, astronomy and energy. We also branch from earth science to study computer programming, engineering and human body systems.

7th Grade MYP Year Two

During MYP Year Two, students explore the realm of environmental sciences. This study begins with the discovery of the atom - the building block of all matter and life. Using this knowledge as a foundation, students explore the chemical properties of matter by working collaboratively to design and carry out scientific investigations within our laboratory. Students have the opportunity to put their learning into action during a four day trip to Mount St. Helens at the end

of the academic year, where we study the short and long term environmental effects of the eruption of 1980.

8th Grade MYP Year Three

During MYP Year Three, students discover practical applications of physical sciences. Through studying forces acting on student-created water rockets and model vehicles, students learn Newton's Laws and how they affect our daily lives. We explore machinery, both simple and complex, to gain an understanding of how humans have learned to manipulate the forces acting upon us to make life easier. Students apply this learning in the creation of a Rube Goldberg machine. During our investigation of electricity and magnetism, we analyze and reflect on the issue of worldwide access to electricity and the impacts it has on cultures around the world.

ART, BAND & MUSIC

6th Grade MYP Year 1 Visual Arts

In MYP IB Year 1 Visual Arts, students cover global art as well as the fundamental elements and principles of design guided by the sequential timeline of Core Knowledge. As 6th graders entering into the IB program, students receive a Process Journal which becomes a record of their own creative process throughout each unit. We cover a wide variety of materials and methods of artistic design from collage and painting to 3-dimensional sculpture and ceramics. Students attend visual arts classes twice a week and typically complete 6-7 units of study. At Seven Peaks, aligned with IB philosophy, the arts are considered a "core" subject where we understand the potential they have to develop creative, problem-solving thinkers. In May, all SPS students' artwork is showcased in an *All School Art Show* where we honor each student's creativity and beautifully crafted work.

7th Grade MYP Year 2 Visual Arts

MYP IB Year 2 Visual Arts covers global art as well as the fundamental elements and principles of design, guided by the sequential timeline of Core Knowledge. Year 2 students use their process journal to dive deeper into understanding and recording their own artistic process through recorded research, detailed notes and sketches, and thoughtful reflections throughout the unit. We cover a wide variety of materials and methods of artistic design from collage and painting to 3-dimensional sculpture and ceramics. Students attend visual arts classes twice a week and typically complete 6-7 units of study. At Seven Peaks, aligned with IB philosophy, the arts are considered a "core" subject where we understand the potential they have to develop creative, problem-solving thinkers. In May, all SPS students artwork is showcased in an *All School Art Show* where we honor each student's creativity and beautifully crafted work.

8th Grade MYP Year 3 Visual Arts

MYP IB Year 3 Visual Arts studies the masters of art, from the Renaissance to Modern Art. Students connect with art styles and movements all around the world, deepening their knowledge of the fundamental elements and principles of design, guided by the sequential timeline of Core Knowledge. Year 3 students use their process journal to reveal an in depth record of their artistic process through recorded research and ideas, detailed notes and sketches, and thoughtful reflections throughout the unit. We cover a wide variety of materials and methods of artistic design from collage and painting to 3-dimensional sculpture and ceramics. Students attend visual arts classes twice a week and typically complete 6-7 units of study. At Seven Peaks, aligned with IB philosophy, the arts are considered a “core” subject where we understand the potential they have to develop creative, problem-solving thinkers. In May, all SPS students artwork is showcased in an *All School Art Show* where we honor each student’s creativity and beautifully crafted work.

6th Grade MYP Year 1 Music

Music in sixth, seventh and eighth grade at Seven Peaks consists of a variety of engaging learning experiences as students learn lifelong musicianship skills. We focus on basic elements of music theory such as rhythm, beat, notes, and genres while utilizing the Orff approach - learning music by doing. Seven Peaks is set apart from other area schools in that we have a vast instrumentarium of xylophones, metalophones, glockenspiels and small percussion, in addition to a variety of world drums - enough so that each student always has their own instrument. Students are able to create music digitally as well through our online curriculum with Quaver Music. Composition of original music happens frequently, as does creativity through dramatic art. Students are also exposed to real-world musical scenarios as they study composers, holiday songs, the science of sound, and the music profession and through these topics create projects that are fun and engaging like the Create-a-Band unit or our Fairy Tales unit where they work as a team through the IB process of Knowing and Understanding, Developing Skills, Thinking Creatively and Responding. Performance is always a large part of what we do in music, and students are encouraged to develop those skills through performing instruments, vocally, with body percussion, in presenting a research report or through an annual spring “informance” - where the year’s work is presented to our SPS community.

7th Grade MYP Year 2 Music

Music in sixth, seventh and eighth grade at Seven Peaks consists of a variety of engaging learning experiences as students learn lifelong musicianship skills. We focus on basic

elements of music theory such as rhythm, beat, notes, and genres while utilizing the Orff approach - learning music by doing. Seven Peaks is set apart from other area schools in that we have a vast instrumentarium of xylophones, metalophones, glockenspiels and small percussion, in addition to a variety of world drums - enough so that each student always has their own instrument. Students are able to create music digitally as well through our online curriculum with Quaver Music. Composition of original music happens frequently, as does creativity through dramatic art. Students are also exposed to real-world musical scenarios as they study composers, holiday songs, the science of sound, and the music profession and through these topics create projects that are fun and engaging like the Create-a-Band unit or our Fairy Tales unit where they work as a team through the IB process of Knowing and Understanding, Developing Skills, Thinking Creatively and Responding. Performance is always a large part of what we do in music, and students are encouraged to develop those skills through performing instruments, vocally, with body percussion, in presenting a research report or through an annual spring "informance" - where the year's work is presented to our SPS community.

8th Grade MYP Year 3 Music

Music in sixth, seventh and eighth grade at Seven Peaks consists of a variety of engaging learning experiences as students learn lifelong musicianship skills. We focus on basic elements of music theory such as rhythm, beat, notes, and genres while utilizing the Orff approach - learning music by doing. Seven Peaks is set apart from other area schools in that we have a vast instrumentarium of xylophones, metalophones, glockenspiels and small percussion, in addition to a variety of world drums - enough so that each student always has their own instrument. Students are able to create music digitally as well through our online curriculum with Quaver Music. Composition of original music happens frequently, as does creativity through dramatic art. Students are also exposed to real-world musical scenarios as they study composers, holiday songs, the science of sound, and the music profession and through these topics create projects that are fun and engaging like the Create-a-Band unit or our Fairy Tales unit where they work as a team through the IB process of Knowing and Understanding, Developing Skills, Thinking Creatively and Responding. Performance is always a large part of what we do in music, and students are encouraged to develop those skills through performing instruments, vocally, with body percussion, in presenting a research report or through an annual spring "informance" - where the year's work is presented to our SPS community.

6th - 8th Grade Band

Students can choose to take Band instead of Music class beginning in our 5th grade. Band class is held four days per week, Monday - Thursday, led by Warren Zaiger. Warren is a

veteran of the LA music scene and has performed and toured extensively throughout the U.S. with well-known musicians. He has been a college music professor for many years as well and he is an outstanding instructor. Warren enjoys working with motivated young people. The SPS band has two major performances per year, a Winter Band Concert and a Spring Band Concert. Please contact Warren directly if you have questions about our band program. wzaiger@sevenpeaksschool.org.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

IB MYP Years 1, 2, and 3 Health and Physical Education

The MYP PE program promotes a healthy and active lifestyle for students. Students learn activities that are not only enjoyable but also contribute to healthy living. Units are created to develop the motor skills and sports skills necessary to enable them to participate successfully in a variety of physical activities. Physical Education class also serves to promote intercultural awareness, since physical activity and health create meaningful connections among people, nations, cultures and the natural world (IB MYP) and it offers many opportunities to build positive interpersonal relationships. Students learn and practice sports such as Flag Football, Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Team Handball, Handball, Badminton, Pickleball, Softball, Rugby, Ultimate Frisbee, and Bowling while developing self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving skills.

SPANISH

The MYP Spanish program is designed to foster students' ability to use and produce the language. The program explores the language through thematic units with a statement of inquiry that guides the learning and combines vocabulary, grammar and culture. The learning encourages in the student a respect for and understanding of other cultures and languages. Central to the SPS IB mission is to further in the students intercultural awareness and international-mindedness. Spanish class is held four days per week.

FRIDAY ELECTIVES

Friday electives (enrichment courses) are an important part of the SPS Middle School experience. All middle school students participate in four quarters of Friday electives each school year, one elective per quarter. Options change each quarter and students sign up during school. Students participate in a variety of activities in order to experience the disciplines of art, music, theater, design, writing, athletics, technology, service learning and science in new ways.

Friday Electives begin at 12:10 and end at 1:30, with the exception of the *Wintermeister: Mt. Bachelor Skiing/Snowboarding* elective during the winter, which begins at 11:30 a.m. and ends at 4:00. Just like any other class, middle school students will receive attendance and

performance grades. Staff members and parent/community volunteers spend considerable time planning quality enrichment classes for students. We honor their time and communicate value of these enrichment classes by holding our students accountable for attendance and for performance.

Recent Elective Offerings:

Jewelry Making (onsite)
Cooking (onsite)
Bend Parade Float Design & Construction
Coding & Programing (onsite)
Pilates (onsite)
Rock Climbing at Bend Rock Gym (offsite; parent drivers)
Bend Hoops (offsite, parent drivers)

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are incorporated into every grade level and there are dozens of field trips taken by SPS student each year. Field trips are beneficial for many reasons, including building on classroom instruction, gaining a better understanding of topics studied in class, and increasing cultural understanding. With almost all field trips, parents are encouraged to join in as volunteer chaperones. 4th-8th grade students all take overnight field trips each year.

SERVICE LEARNING

As a means of promoting character development and social consciousness, all Seven Peaks students participate in service learning projects and learning core virtues. Each month a core virtue is emphasized. Virtues include things like respect, persistence, independent thinking, compassion, empathy, and generosity. All students also complete a variety of service learning projects. These experiences help students understand, apply, and reflect on many of our core virtues. To name a few, our service learning projects include the Bend Food Project Collection, the annual Turkey Trot which raises money to buy turkeys and other food for local, needy families at Thanksgiving, Backpacks for Bend, the Sparrow Club Garage Sale, the Red Cross Blood Drive, Earth Day clean-up all over Bend including parks and the Ronald McDonald House, the Empty Bowls Project, monthly singing and reading to seniors at Touchmark Retirement Community (fourth graders), and eighth graders complete a Community Project.