

Concord Academy Petoskey Middle School

Course Name	Course Description	Grades
Language Arts	Students in middle school Language Arts read and analyze various kinds of writing, including novels, short stories, informational texts, poetry, and plays. Through the analysis of written, spoken, and multimedia texts, students become more critical consumers of information and of various forms of media. Students synthesize and organize ideas to prepare narrative, persuasive, and expository essays, while learning and practicing techniques to more effectively communicate their thoughts and perceptions with others by means of collaborative discussions, journal writing, and presentations. Student's arts-inclusive writing projects include illustrated narratives, multimedia-enhanced analytical and persuasive essays, poetry cafés, and one-act plays. Special emphasis is placed on writings relative to the content areas of science and social studies (including text structures, word meaning in relation to roots and affixes, social and cultural awareness), as well as understanding and thinking critically about news and media sources. In addition, students study the relationship between poetic expression and language conventions (syntax, voice, sentence types, punctuation, figurative language, word connotations) and in writing one's own texts with these concepts in mind.	6-8
Mathematics	Students in middle school gain a deeper understanding of problem solving by working with fractions, percents and decimals. Students are introduced to algebraic concepts such as equations, formulas and variables. They continue to review number sense pertaining to real numbers, integers and rational and irrational numbers. Students work through abstract problems that lead them through probability, data analysis, and graphing. Lastly, students create projects, incorporate math into presentations, and use manipulatives to integrate STEAM education into content and make connections to real world applications.	6-8
Social Studies	Middle school social studies courses include: World Geography, where students will examine the world on a global scale while zooming in on distinct physical, cultural and environmental regions via the Five Themes of Geography, as well as the early halves of World History and United States History. There is an emphasis on mapping skills as well as hands-on learning via creative projects and simulations in all three courses with goals of gaining global awareness, human interactions and appreciation for the unique world around us.	6-8
Science	Middle school students pursue scientific knowledge that aligns with the NGSS science standards within the disciplines of Earth Science; including space, weather, plate tectonics, and geology; Life Science; including cell structure/function and genetics, plant and animal systems, Physical Science; including introductory physics, chemistry, electricity and energy. Students build knowledge through project-based and inquiry-based learning with a foundation in the scientific method.	6-8
Art	Students continue increasing their self-sufficiency in all aspects of the art making process. Studies include the history of art in relation to time, location, technology, and culture; local, national, and world arts, artists, and art movements; as well as art fundamentals, artistic behaviors and techniques, and meaning-making. Students strengthen their critical thinking, engineering, and communication skills - as well as their understanding of aesthetics, audience, and artistic vision - through skill builders, STEAM challenges, choice media explorations and projects, and collaborative art-making. Areas of focus include drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, sculpture, ceramics, architecture, engineering, fabric arts, and digital media.	6-8
Band	The middle school band course helps students develop techniques for playing brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments and their ability to perform a variety of concert band literature styles. These courses may emphasize rehearsal and performance experiences in a range of styles and also include experiences in creating and responding to music. Individual parts are more technically advanced as the student progresses to more advanced levels of play.	6-8
Choir	Choir develops students' vocal skills within the context of a large choral ensemble in which they perform a variety of styles of repertoire. These courses are designed to develop students' vocal techniques and their ability to sing parts and include experiences in creating and responding to music as part of a large vocal ensemble. Choir will also introduce musical theater concepts and performance skills as members of an ensemble for a musical production.	6-8