

2024-2025 Kodiak Middle School

Course Description Booklet

English/Language Arts (ELA) *Required Core Class*

ELA 6 *Grade Level: 6*

This course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, and reflection. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instruction. Through fiction, non-fiction, and poetry reading, students will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. The focus in writing will be on narrative and informational writing with a focus on paragraph structure and organization. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students.

ELA 7 *Grade Level: 7*

This course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, and reflection. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instruction. Through fiction, non-fiction, and poetry reading, students will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. The focus in writing will be on narrative, informational, argumentative, and research writing with an emphasis on essay organization and structure. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students.

ELA 8 *Grade Level: 8*

This course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, analysis, and reflection. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instruction. Through fiction, non-fiction, and poetry reading, students will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. The focus in writing will be on narrative, informational, argumentative, and research writing. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students in preparation for advancing to the high school level.

Mathematics (*Required Core Class*)

Math 6 *Grade Level: 6*

A course covering grade-level standards in the areas of ratios and proportional relationships, the number system (with a focus on fluency in decimal and fraction operations, understanding negative numbers, and absolute value), expressions and equations, geometry, statistics, and probability.

Math 7 *Grade Level: 7*

A course covering grade-level standards in the areas of ratios and proportional relationships, the number system (with a focus on operations with rational numbers), expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics and probability.

Math 8 *Grade Level: 8*

A course of grade-level standards which include, but are not limited to, working with radicals and integer exponents, scientific notation, geometric transformations, Pythagorean Theorem, and an emphasis on linear relationships.

Algebra I* *Grade Level: 8*

Topics include but are not limited to, linear, exponential, and quadratic functions, scientific notation, linear systems and inequalities, the Pythagorean Theorem, and function notation.

Students are accepted into Algebra I based on high-level district and/or State-wide assessment scores, student and parent desire for the student to be in Algebra, completion of prerequisite work, and recommendation of the 7th-grade teacher. Students will fill out applications in 7th grade to be eligible for Algebra I in 8th grade.

**Students who take Algebra I may be eligible to receive 1.0 credit of Algebra I at the high school level, and may be eligible to enroll in Geometry once in high school. For specific guidelines to earn early high school credit, please refer to [Administrative Regulation \(AR\) 6146.2](#).*

Science *(Required Core Class)*

Integrated Science I *Grade Level: 6*

Students will study an integration of Earth and Space science topics including Geology, Hydrology, Meteorology, and Astronomy. Students will survey concepts related to earthquakes, volcanoes, tectonic plates, weather, water cycle, climate change, the solar system, and other astronomy-related topics. These concepts will be reinforced with engineering and design practices, scientific literacy, and science process skills.

Integrated Science II *Grade Level: 7*

Students will study a range of life science topics including Biology, Genetics, and Ecology. Students will survey concepts related to cell structure and function, photosynthesis and cellular respiration, stimulus and response, reproduction, heredity, body systems, natural selection and evolution, ecological succession, and food webs. These concepts will be reinforced with engineering and design practices, scientific literacy, and science process skills.

Integrated Science III *Grade Level: 8*

Students will study an integration of physical science topics in their 8th-grade year including Chemistry, Physics, Energy, and Properties of Waves. Students will survey concepts related to properties of matter, atomic theory, molecular composition, chemical change, energy, forces and interactions, and properties of waves. These concepts will be reinforced with engineering and design practices, scientific literacy, and science process skills.

Social Studies *(Required Core Class)*

Western Hemisphere *Grade Level: 6*

Students will explore the geography and culture of places in the Western Hemisphere and how the two are closely connected. Reading strategies for Informational Text are emphasized.

Eastern Hemisphere *Grade Level: 7*

Students will explore the geography and culture of places in the Eastern Hemisphere and how the two are closely connected. Reading strategies for Informational Text are emphasized.

United States (U.S.) History *Grade Level: 8*

Students learn United States history from early Native American cultures through the Civil War. U.S. history will look at how geography affects settlement and culture, how the U.S. government works, and why people did what they did as the U.S. grew to become a powerful Republic. More than dates, names, and events, this course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, analysis, and reflection. Reading strategies for Informational Text, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instruction.

Physical Education (PE) *Required Core Class*

PE/Health 6 Combo *Grade Level: 6*

Sixth-grade students will begin the first six weeks of school in a classroom setting focusing on Health. The four main areas of study during Health include social, mental, physical, and emotional health.

Sixth-grade students will have Physical Education for the remainder of the school year. During PE, students further develop their foundational skills through cooperative participation in group and individual activities. The four main areas of activities include physical fitness and exercise, individual sports/activities, team sports/activities, and aquatics.

PE 7 *Grade Level: 7*

Philosophy & Objectives:

The KMS 7th Grade Physical Education provides a wide variety of physical activities that progress from gross to fine motor skills. Through participation in a cooperative and positive environment, the students will have the following opportunities:

1. To improve their level of overall fitness.
2. To develop skills basic to games and sports.
3. To develop qualities of leadership; and sportsmanship.
4. To gain lifetime skills that will carry over into adult life.

List of Activities:

Frisbee, Speedway, Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, Badminton, Flag Football, Line Dancing, Fitness, Life Skills, Swimming/Water Safety. This is a tentative list and is subject to change by the teacher.

Grading:

The PE grade is based on the following components:

1. Daily Participation
 2. Effort
 3. Sportsmanship
 4. Preparedness
 5. Attendance.
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PE 8 Grade Level: 8

PE taught to 8th-grade students. Students further develop their foundational skills through cooperative participation in group and individual activities. The four main areas of activities include Health-related physical fitness; Individual sports/activities; Team sports/activities; and Aquatics.

The individual and team activities include Basketball, Ultimate Disc, Line Dancing, Swimming/Water Safety and Survival, Volleyball, Ice Skating, Speedway, Badminton, and Track & Field Events. In addition to these activities, students will also participate in the Presidential Physical Fitness Testing exercises to assess their level of fitness compared to other students around the nation within their age group.

The essential learning targets for 8th grade PE in Alaska include:

- PE.K-2.A · Demonstrate competency in motor and movement skills needed to perform a variety of physical activities:
- PE.K-2.B · Apply movement concepts to the learning and performance of physical activities:
- PE.K-2.C · Participate regularly in physical activity:
- PE.K-2.E · Exhibit personal and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity settings:
- PE.K-2.F · Value physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction:

Health (Required Semester Class for 7th & 8th Graders)

Health. Semester Long. Grade Levels: 7 & 8

Seventh and eighth-grade KMS students will have one semester of Health each school year. There are four units of study identified in the KIBSD Health curriculum: Healthy Relationships & Living, Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Use & Prevention, Nutrition & Fitness, and Sexual Health & Wellness. The major emphasis in Health is establishing and maintaining healthy relationships with peers, using effective communication strategies to avoid and reduce health risks and conflict, understanding sexual health and personal wellness, and the use of goal setting and decision-making to enhance overall personal health.

English Language Acquisition Program (ELAP)

English Language Arts (ELA) 6. Year-long. Grade Level: 6. Placement determined by ELAP teacher.

Students will focus on the 6th Grade State of Alaska Standards related to reading literature and informational text, writing, language, and speaking and listening. Support in the English language and students' heritage languages will also be provided with the goal of maintaining and strengthening student bilingualism and multiculturalism. Writing instruction will include narrative, informative, argumentative, and poetry units.

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Study Skills 6. *Semester or year-long. Grade Level: 6. Placement determined by ELAP teacher.*

Skills development is designed to provide general academic and English language support with the goal of student success in all classes and a smooth transition to middle school. Students will build their organizational skills, goal-setting abilities, English and heritage language literacy skills, knowledge of the Kodiak community, and learning strategies, focusing on strategies that can be applied in multiple content areas. Academic vocabulary from core content area classes will also be emphasized.

Study Skills 7. *Semester or year-long. Grade Level: 7. Placement determined by ELAP teacher.*

Skills development is designed to provide general academic and English language support with the goal of student success in all classes. Students will build their organizational skills, goal-setting abilities, English and heritage language literacy skills, knowledge of the Kodiak community, and learning strategies focusing on applications in multiple content areas. Academic vocabulary from core content area classes will also be emphasized.

Study Skills 8. *Semester or year-long. Grade Level: 8. Placement determined by ELAP teacher.*

Skills development is designed to provide general academic and English language support with the goal of student success in all classes. Students will build their organizational skills, goal-setting abilities, English and heritage language literacy skills, knowledge of the Kodiak community, and learning strategies, focusing on strategies that can be applied in multiple content areas. Academic vocabulary from core content area classes and student career explorations will also be emphasized through regular field trips and guest speakers.

Year-Long Elective Class Options *(Elective Classes)*

Band 1 *Year-long. Grade: 6, 7, & 8. Level: Beginning/intermediate*

Band 2 *Year-long. Grade: 7 & 8. Level: Intermediate/advanced*

An introduction to band for beginners or intermediate players with options for more advanced music players (Band 2). Popular instruments include flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion (pictured below).

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Saxophone:



Trumpet:



Flute:



Clarinet:



Trombone:



Percussion:



Orchestra 1 Year-long. Grade: 6,7, & 8. Level: Beginning/intermediate

Orchestra 2 Year-long. Grade: 7 & 8. Level: Intermediate/advanced

Students will study and perform a variety of orchestral literature in concerts. This course is intended to prepare students for the technical and musical skills required for continuation in the field of Orchestra. Through the practice of *Music Performance*, students will gain insight into the lives and experiences of people very similar and very different to themselves. The intense cooperation required for ensemble performance will also develop strong teamwork skills that will prepare students for success in any area of life. Western music has evolved to communicate meaning through patterns that are found in all music. Through the study of *Music Theory*, students will develop skills of deep listening which they will use to hear music more completely for the rest of their lives. Each piece of music gains meaning from who wrote it, when where, and why. Through the study of *Music History and Culture*, students will understand the cultural power of music and how they can use it to bring people together.

Popular instruments include violin, viola, cello, and bass.

Choir Year-long. Grade: 6,7, & 8.

Students will study and perform a variety of choral literature in concerts. No previous experience is required. We will focus on learning through vocal performance (singing), music theory, music history, and music composition. Students will learn how to work on their own through practicing music outside of classes, and with others as a class and in small groups.

Semester-long Elective Class Options (*Elective Classes*)

Art Semester long. Grade Levels 6,7, & 8

An introduction to creating visual art with an emphasis on basic drawing skills, color theory, and two-dimensional works. Students in this class will have experience navigating the social and academic expectations of Middle School.

STEAM Semester long. Grade Level(s): 6,7, & 8

STEAM is based on the idea of educating students in five specific disciplines- Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math- in an interdisciplinary and applied approach. Students learn how these five core subjects connect to real-world situations. Students in STEAM classes learn how to problem solve, work as a team, and learn technology skills necessary for the 21st-century workplace. Students learn proper lab procedures and lab safety rules. Students are introduced to various computer skills and programs, including Windows 11 and AutoCAD. Students will acquire skills that meet industry standards. Many STEAM lessons involve building models and simulating situations. There is an emphasis on the engineering design process.

Industrial Arts Semester long. Grade Level(s): 7 & 8

The KMS Industrial Arts program is a class where students can put to use the skills they have been developing since kindergarten. Students use math, geometry, and art to create a wide variety of projects out of wood, metal, composite, and any other material deemed appropriate. Possible projects might include smokers, chairs, desks, household items, keepsake boxes, and other things approved by the instructor. Safety, quality, cleanliness, work ethic, and accountability are all characteristics taught, and practiced, in the KMS Industrial Arts program.

Greenhouse & Agriculture Semester long. Grade Level: 7 & 8

KMS Agriculture provides instruction within a greenhouse environment. Plant anatomy, growth and reproduction, propagation, and production are covered throughout the course. Students learn how to prepare soil, plant seeds, transplant, artificially pollinate, fertilize, prune, and harvest crops. Students also learn about the requirements of plants, the importance of insects to agriculture, and how to test the soil to improve growing conditions. Students will learn how to grow lettuce hydroponically. Students will also learn how to start plants indoors under grow lights and transplant them into the greenhouse. Students will be working in the classroom, the plant room, and in the greenhouse.

Quarter-Long Elective Class Options (*Elective Classes*)

Visual Arts *Quarter long. Grade Level 6 & 7*

This exploratory course is a creative journey into the foundations of making visual art. Students will study and understand the elements of art and principles of design and will also explore self-expression while learning basic techniques for drawing, painting, designing, and producing three-dimensional projects such as miniature Alutiiq masks, miniature Alutiiq wooden headgear, and miniature Alutiiq Barbie beaded headdresses. Students will collaborate with their peers, showcase their artwork, and take pride in their work and school by designing eye-catching bulletin boards that blanket the hallways.

Outdoor Education *Quarter long. Grade Level 6 & 7*

A course is designed to offer non-traditional activities that are less competitive and emphasize problem-solving and team building in the outdoors. Outdoor survival, navigation, and first aid will also be addressed.

Coding *Quarter long. Grade Level 6 & 7*

Introduction to Coding covers a basic introduction to the principles of programming, including algorithms and logic. Students engage in hands-on programming tasks in a programming language as they write and test their own code using the approaches real programmers use in the field.

Spanish: *Quarter long. Grade Level 6 & 7*

Spanish is a nine-week course designed to get students using everyday Spanish in meaningful ways. Students will be able to chat each other up and sound good doing so. Students will also learn how widespread Spanish is around the world. Activities include charades, group storytelling, and pop songs and videos, often featuring the Notorious Señor Wooly.

Racquet Sports: *Quarter long. Grade Level 6 & 7*

This course will explore multiple racquet sports, including both individual and doubles table tennis, badminton, pickleball, and others. Students will gain physical, social, and mental skills in addition to learning how to effectively play a variety of racquet sports.

Discover Guitar *Quarter long. Grade Level 6 & 7*

Discover Guitar introduces students to the guitar, covers fundamental techniques, chords, basic music theory, and essential instrument care. This beginner-friendly program aims to spark musical interest and build a strong foundation for playing favorite songs. Through hands-on practice and collaborative activities, students develop both technical skills and a love for playing the guitar in a fun and supportive learning environment.

Industrial Arts *Quarter long. Grade Level(s): 6 & 7*

The KMS Industrial Arts program is a class where students can put to use the skills they have been developing since kindergarten. Students use math, geometry, and art to create a wide variety of projects out of wood, metal, composite, and any other material deemed appropriate. Possible projects might include

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smokers, chairs, desks, household items, keepsake boxes, and other things approved by the instructor. Safety, quality, cleanliness, work ethic, and accountability are all characteristics taught, and practiced, in the KMS Industrial Arts program.

Art *Quarter long. Grade Level 6 & 7*

An introduction to creating visual art with an emphasis on basic drawing skills, color theory, and two-dimensional works. Students in this class will have experience navigating the social and academic expectations of Middle School.

Textile Arts *Quarter long. Grade Level 6 & 7*

A project-based class where students will learn about industry standards in the design and production of textiles. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of hand-sewing and machine-sewing techniques while designing and completing their own sewing projects. This creative and practical skill serves to introduce and reinforce topics studied in Mathematics, especially Geometry, including: Measurement, Rigid Geometric Transformations (reflections, translations, and rotations), and Symmetry.

Greenhouse & Agriculture *Quarter long. Grade Level 6 & 7*

KMS Agriculture provides instruction within a greenhouse environment. Plant anatomy, growth and reproduction, propagation, and production are covered throughout the course. Students learn how to prepare soil, plant seeds, transplant, artificially pollinate, fertilize, prune, and harvest crops. Students also learn about the requirements of plants, the importance of insects to agriculture, and how to test the soil to improve growing conditions. Students will learn how to grow lettuce hydroponically. Students will also learn how to start plants indoors under grow lights and transplant them into the greenhouse. Students will be working in the classroom, the plant room, and in the greenhouse.

Intro to Music *Quarter long. Grade Level 6 & 7*

In this introductory music course where participants will delve into the fundamentals of music, the essential elements through engaging activities and interactive learning. Students will learn to identify rhythm, melody, harmony, dynamics, and form, while also honing their ability to read basic musical notation and discern different instruments and styles through listening exercises.

Learning Lab *Quarter long. Grade Level 6, 7, & 8*

Learning Lab is a course designed to provide additional academic support for students struggling in core classes. This class takes the place of a student's elective and is used as time in school to gather assignments, complete missing work, and/or makeup assessments. Learning lab can take place as a quarter long class or temporarily as requested.

Math Lab *Quarter long. Grade Level 6, 7, & 8*

Math Lab is an intervention course designed to help students master foundational math skills needed to be successful in the field of mathematics. Enrollment into Math lab will take place at the start of each quarter and will be based on the student's current mathematical skill level, test scores, and teacher/staff/parent recommendations.

Reading Lab *Quarter long. Grade Level 6, 7, & 8*

Reading Lab is an intervention course designed to help students master foundational reading skills needed to be successful. Enrollment into Reading lab will take place at the start of each quarter and will be based on students' current reading skill level, test scores, and teacher/staff/parent recommendations.

8th Grade Quarter-Long Elective Class Options (*Elective Classes*)

**** Quarter-long elective classes for 8th grade students will take place at Kodiak High School****

Education *Quarter long. Grade Level 8*

Topics include motivations for becoming an educator, personal learning styles, values, beliefs, and ethics as they relate to teaching, human development and developmentally appropriate practices, educational careers and professional organizations, teacher certification requirements, diversity issues, historical perspectives, laws, and policies governing education.

Welding *Quarter long. Grade Level 8*

This course introduces the basic principles of welding, welding of mild steel, and thermal cutting. It includes welding safety, oxyacetylene welding (OAW), brazing, and silver soldering, electrode identification and selection, basic joint design, and welding practices on carbon steel plates. Standard industrial safety procedures and gear are required.

Programming *Quarter long. Grade Level 8*

This class covers a basic introduction to the principles of programming, including algorithms and logic web design, writing, media arts, and digital Art.

Engines & Outboards *Quarter long. Grade Level 8*

An exploratory class designed to investigate the world of small engines and marine maintenance.

Business *Quarter long. Grade Level 8*

This course introduces students to key business principles. Students explore strategies that allow companies to compete in today's complex global marketplace. Students discuss the primary functions of business, including management, marketing, finance, accounting, and information systems.

Digital Media *Quarter long. Grade Level 8*

This course will introduce students to the world of digital media production through a combination of creative projects and technical exploration. Students will develop skills in various multimedia disciplines, including *graphic design, digital photography, video editing, and audio production*. This course aims to foster creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and technical proficiency.
