

# 2025-2026 Kodiak Middle School

## Course Description Booklet

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

#### **Reading 6** *Grade Level: 6*

This class is a year-long class designed to make readers of us all. We will discover ourselves and our world by reading both far and wide - from game cards, cereal boxes, riddles and snail mail to news articles, song lyrics, recipes, magazine articles, plays, and all types of novels. We will learn how to read for pleasure and information, strengthening our understanding and appreciation of the written word and our capacity to relate to others and their respective ideas and perspectives. The aim of this class is to build a community of enthusiastic, empowered, committed, competent critical readers.

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#### **Writing 6** *Grade Level: 6*

This course is designed to develop students' growth specifically in the area of writing, as well as listening, speaking, discussion, and reflection. Students will explore different types of writing, including narrative, informative, and argumentative, while strengthening their grammar, sentence structure, and vocabulary. Through reading, discussion, and writing exercises, students will learn to express their ideas clearly and effectively. Additionally, students will focus on the organization of their writing to ensure logical flow, coherence, and clarity.

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#### **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.

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#### **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.

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### **Honors ELA 8** *Grade Level: 8*

This 8th Grade Honors English course is designed for students who have a strong passion for language, writing, critical thinking, and a willingness to read outside of class time. Throughout the year, students will engage in an in-depth study of classic and contemporary literature, exploring themes, character development, and literary devices. Writing assignments will include narrative, informational, argumentative, creative pieces, and research-based projects that challenge students to refine their writing skills.

Students will also develop their vocabulary, grammar, and public speaking abilities through discussions, debates, and presentations. Emphasis will be placed on higher-level thinking, textual analysis, and making connections between literature and real-world issues. This course is rigorous and fast-paced, preparing students for advanced high school English courses.

Participation, collaboration, and a willingness to engage with complex texts and ideas are key to success in this class.

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## **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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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## **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](#).*

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## **Science (Required Core Class)**

### **Science 6 Grade Level: 6**

Students will study an integration of Earth and Space science topics that address Alaska State and Next Generation Science Standards for Space Systems, Earth's Systems, Weather and Climate, Human Impacts on Earth's Systems, and History of Earth. Students will survey concepts related to astronomy, the solar system, the water cycle, weather, climate change, natural events, tectonic plates, and other related topics. These concepts will be reinforced with literacy, engineering and design practices, and scientific process skills.

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### **Science 7 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.

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### **Science 8 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.

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## **Social Studies (*Required Core Class*)**

### **Social Studies 6** *Grade Level: 6*

This course explores Alaska's physical environment, including its regions, natural features, history, and geohazards. It also examines Alaska's diverse populations, including Native groups, immigration, and colonization. Additionally, the course covers the state's resources, economic systems, and the roles and responsibilities of citizens, emphasizing community awareness. \*based on the newly adopted (2025) Alaska State Social Studies Standards.

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### **Social Studies 7** *Grade Level: 7*

Students will explore the geography and history of the world, fostering a deep understanding of diverse cultures and global events. This course will target students' growth in reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, and reflection, with an emphasis on developing reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and building vocabulary. Writing instruction will focus on informational, argumentative, and research writing, emphasizing essay organization and structure to enhance students' ability to convey their ideas effectively.

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### **Social Studies 8** *Grade Level: 8*

United States history from early Native American cultures through the Civil War. This course will target students' growth in the areas of inquiry, 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. Students will also complete a Citizenship Project that may be completed through volunteer hours or writing a research paper on the topic of Citizenship.

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## **Physical Education (PE) *Required Core Class***

### **PE/Health 6** *Grade Level: 6*

Sixth-grade students will complete nine weeks (one quarter) of health in a classroom setting during the school year as part of their PE class. 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.

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### **PE/Health 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. Seventh-grade students will also complete nine weeks (one quarter) of health in a classroom setting during the school year as part of their PE class.

#### **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/Health 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. Eighth-grade students will also complete nine weeks (one quarter) of health in a classroom setting during the school year as part of their PE class.

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:

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## 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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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**Skills Development 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.

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**Skills Development 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.

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**Skills Development 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.

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## 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).

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*

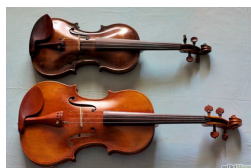
Students will study and perform a variety of orchestral literature in concerts. This course is intended to prepare students for the technical and musical skills required for continuation in the field of Orchestra. Through the practice of *Music Performance*, students will gain insight into the lives 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*

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*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 (pictured below).

Violin (top):



Viola (bottom):

Cello:



Bass:



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**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.

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

**Computer Apps & Design** *Semester long. Grade Level 6*

In this hands-on course, students will explore the world of computer applications and design. They will learn how to use popular software tools for creating documents, presentations, graphics, and more. Students will also dive into the basics of digital design, developing skills in creativity, problem-solving, and technology. This class encourages collaboration and critical thinking, helping students gain the digital skills they need for the future.

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### **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.

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### **Industrial Arts Semester long. Grade Level(s): 6, 7, 8**

The KMS Industrial Arts program is a class where students can 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. Students will learn the safe operation of hand tools (chisel, saw, utility knife, hammer), and power tools (miter saw, table saw, router, drill press) to create their projects. 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.

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### **Culture Quest Semester long. Grade Level 6, 7, 8**

In Culture Quest, students will explore the music, art, food, celebrations, and traditions of cultures in Kodiak and around the world. Through hands-on activities, creative projects, and engaging discussions, you'll discover what makes different communities unique and how culture connects us all.

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### **Coding & Design I Semester long. Grade Level 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.

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### **Piano Semester long. Grade 7**

Piano exploration is a semester-long course that introduces middle school students to the piano and the fundamentals of music. Through a blend of individual and group instruction, students will develop proper technique, music reading skills, basic music theory understanding, and creative expression. No prior piano experience is needed—just enthusiasm and a willingness to explore! The course culminates in a final performance and original student compositions.

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### **Outdoor Education Semester long. Grade Level 7 & 8**

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, hunter education, navigation, and first aid will also be addressed.

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## **Racquet Sport** *Semester long. Grade Level 7 & 8*

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.

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## **Coding & Design II** *Semester long. Grade Level 8*

A more in-depth course on coding and 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. This course is designed to be taken after Coding & Design I.

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