

2026-2027 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, and critical readers.

Writing 6 *Grade Level: 6*

This course is designed to develop students' growth specifically in 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.

Reading 7 *Grade Level: 7*

This course will focus on students' growth in reading comprehension, critical thinking, and vocabulary development. Reading strategies and analytical skills comprise the main elements of instruction. Through fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, students will practice close reading strategies, build vocabulary, and strengthen their ability to analyze and interpret texts. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the author's purpose, identifying themes, making inferences, and citing textual evidence to support analysis. Students will learn how to locate relevant textual evidence and effectively use it to support their analytical thinking in both written and verbal responses. The overall goal of the class is to increase students' literacy skills and deepen their understanding of a variety of texts.

Honors Reading 7* Grade Level: 7

This course will challenge students to deepen their reading comprehension, critical thinking, and academic vocabulary. Through complex fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, students will practice close reading, analyze author's craft, and examine themes, purpose, and perspective. Emphasis is placed on making strong inferences and supporting ideas with precise textual evidence in both written and verbal responses. The goal is to develop independent, thoughtful readers who can analyze challenging texts with depth and clarity.

** Students must maintain a 70% or higher to stay enrolled in Honors Reading 7. Students who fall below this threshold may be placed on probation. Continued difficulty may result in reassignment to grade-level Reading.*

Writing 7 Grade Level: 7

This course focuses on strengthening students' writing skills while also developing their abilities in speaking, listening, discussion, and reflection. Students will practice writing across multiple genres, including narrative, informational, argumentative, and research writing. Throughout the course, students will learn how to plan, draft, revise, and edit their work to improve clarity, organization, and effectiveness. Instruction will emphasize developing strong paragraphs and essays, using evidence to support ideas, and choosing precise language and sentence structures. Grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary will be reinforced as students continue to build confidence as writers. The goal of Writing 7 is to help students communicate their ideas clearly, thoughtfully, and effectively while preparing them for the increasing writing expectations of middle school and beyond.

Honors Writing 7* Grade Level: 7

Honors Writing 7 is designed for students who demonstrate advanced language skills and a readiness for sustained challenging writing. This course focuses on developing students' ability to communicate ideas clearly and effectively through a variety of writing forms, including narrative, informational, argumentative, and research-based writing. Students will engage in the full writing process—planning, drafting, revising, and editing—to produce polished compositions for authentic audiences. Instruction emphasizes strong organization, use of evidence, precise vocabulary, sentence variety, and effective revision strategies. Students will also explore creative and real-world writing opportunities such as speeches, editorials, and multimedia writing. The goal of Honors Writing 7 is to help students develop confidence and skill as writers while preparing them for advanced middle school and high school coursework.

** Students must maintain a 70% or higher to stay enrolled in Honors Writing 7. Students who fall below this threshold may be placed on probation. Continued difficulty may result in reassignment to grade-level Writing.*

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,

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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.

Honors ELA 8* Grade Level: 8

This 8th Grade Honors English course is designed for students who have a passion for language, writing, critical thinking, and a willingness to read outside of class time. Throughout the year, students will engage in a study of literature, 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.

** Students must maintain a 70% or higher to stay enrolled in Honors ELA 8. Students who fall below this threshold may be placed on probation. Continued difficulty may result in reassignment to grade-level ELA.*

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.

Honors Math 7* Grade Level: 7

Honors Mathematics 7 is an accelerated course for students who are ready for advanced mathematical study. The course covers both 7th and 8th grade math standards in one year, preparing students for Algebra I in 8th grade. Students will develop strong problem-solving skills, mathematical reasoning, and deeper conceptual understanding through rigorous coursework.

** Students must maintain a 70% or higher to stay enrolled in Honors Math 7. Students who fall below this threshold may be placed on probation. Continued difficulty may result in reassignment to grade-level Math*

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 must maintain a 70% or higher to stay enrolled in Algebra I. Students who fall below this threshold may be placed on probation. Continued difficulty may result in reassignment to Math 8.*

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

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.

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.

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.

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.*

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.

Social Studies 8 Grade Level: 8

United States History: Early cultures to 1877. Instruction focuses on learning vocabulary and applying reading, writing, and critical thinking skills through a series of projects, written assignments, and tests. Students will also complete a Citizenship Project that may be completed through volunteer hours or writing a research paper on the topic of U.S. Citizenship.

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.

PE/Health 7 Grade Level: 7

7th Grade Physical Education at Kodiak Middle School provides students with a wide variety of physical activities that progress from gross motor skills to more refined sport and fitness skills. Through participation in a cooperative and positive learning environment, students will have opportunities to improve their physical fitness, develop sport-specific skills, practice leadership and sportsmanship, and build healthy habits that can carry into adulthood.

Students participate in physical education for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year and will have health $\frac{1}{4}$ of the year in a classroom setting. During this time, students will focus on topics related to personal health, safety, wellness, and healthy decision-making.

PE/Health 8 Grade Level: 8

Students in PE/Health 8 will 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 ($\frac{1}{4}$) of health in a classroom setting during the school year as part of their PE class.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

Band II *Year-long. Grade: 7, 8. Level: Intermediate/advanced*

Band I and II are both year-long ensemble courses. Students develop their instrumental technique, music reading skills, and musicianship through daily practice and rehearsal. These courses cover the fundamentals such as tone production, rhythm, dynamics, and music theory, while building the listening and collaboration skills essential to performing as part of a group. Students will prepare and perform a variety of repertoires throughout the year, including concerts each semester. No prior experience is required for Band I — just a willingness to learn and a commitment to the group. Band II requires prior music knowledge and foundational skills. While not always required, it is recommended to complete Band 1 prior to enrolling into Band II. Popular instruments include flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion.

Orchestra I *Year-long. Grade: 6, 7, 8. Level: Beginning/intermediate*

Orchestra II *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, 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. (Instruments include: Violin, Viola, cello, bass, etc.)

Choir I *Year-long. Grade: 6, 7, 8.*

Choir I is an introductory vocal music class designed for 6th grade students and 7th–8th grade students who are joining choir for the first time. In this class, students will learn the fundamentals of singing in a group while developing healthy vocal techniques, confidence, and musicianship.

Students will explore proper breathing, posture, tone production, and pitch matching while learning how to sing together as an ensemble. The class will also introduce basic music reading skills, rhythm, and simple vocal warm-ups. Throughout the year, students will learn a variety of songs from different styles and cultures and will have opportunities to perform in school concerts and events.

No previous singing experience is required—just a willingness to learn, participate, and work as part of a team. Choir 1 focuses on creating a positive, supportive environment where students can grow as musicians and build confidence in their voices.

Choir II *Year-long. Grade: 7,8*

Choir II is designed for students who have demonstrated developing to strong vocal skills and a commitment to choral singing. This ensemble focuses on refining vocal technique, tone quality, pitch accuracy, and musical expression while strengthening students' ability to sing independently within a group.

Students will perform more challenging choral repertoire that may include two-, three-, and four-part harmony, as well as music from a variety of cultures, styles, and historical periods. Emphasis will be placed on ensemble blend, listening skills, sight-reading, and musical interpretation.

Students are expected to show consistent participation, responsibility, and leadership during rehearsals and performances. Throughout the year, the choir will prepare for school concerts and special performances, helping students grow in confidence, teamwork, and artistic expression.

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

Art: Semester long. Grade Level 6, 7, 8

Students will be introduced to fundamental art terms, materials, and techniques through stepped, outlined projects using a variety of mediums. Building on this foundation, they will expand their understanding of self and self-expression in visual art while developing knowledge of historical and contemporary art and artists, and exploring different approaches to engage viewer attention. As students advance, they will create individual project proposals that reflect the studio habits of mind, using their accumulated skills to produce highly sophisticated and communicative works of art. Throughout all levels, students will explore the importance of self and place by choosing relevant and meaningful subjects, with projects spanning both 2D and 3D formats.

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.

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 using HTML and CSS for webpage creation, and JavaScript for app creation. They will write and test their own code using the approaches real programmers use in the field.

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 using JavaScript to design animations and games. Also, students will use JavaScript to explore the relationship between hardware and software by developing prototypes that mirror existing innovative computer platforms. They will write and test their own code using the approaches real programmers use in the field.

Culture Quest Semester long. Grade Level(s) 6,8

Culture Quest is a semester-long Alutiiq Studies class that immerses students in the rich cultural heritage of the Alutiiq people through hands-on activities, projects, and field trips. Students will engage directly with community members who will serve as guest speakers and instructors, bringing authentic cultural knowledge and traditions into the classroom. Grades are based on work habits, projects, and classwork.

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.

Intro to Agriculture *Semester long. Grade Level: 8*

Introduction to Agriculture is a foundational course that explores the science, business, and technology behind modern agriculture. Students learn about plant and animal systems, natural resources, and agricultural careers while developing problem-solving, leadership, and hands-on skills relevant to the industry.

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