

LAKE MARY

PREPARATORY SCHOOL



MIDDLE SCHOOL
CURRICULUM
GUIDE

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Lake Mary Preparatory's Middle School offers students in 6th through 8th grade a safe, supportive, and academically challenging environment. The middle school years bring many changes as students leave the elementary school setting and prepare for their upper school studies. LMP teachers and administrators are familiar with the needs of this unique stage of life and foster an environment where our students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

A hallmark of our middle school program is our concerted emphasis on developing writing and critical thinking skills across all disciplines. Rigorous academic courses, paired with a variety of co-curricular activities help to develop a well-rounded student. Our middle school students take courses in language arts, math, science, social studies and world language, as well as, elective courses in the fine and performing arts, athletics and technology.

In addition to our extensive academic curriculum, LMP's middle school offers annual grade level trips, weekly advisory meetings, comprehensive athletic programs, and diverse extracurricular opportunities. We are proud of our unique, personalized middle school program and look forward to sharing it with you and your child.

MISSION & VISION

At Lake Mary Preparatory School, our goal is to ignite the full academic potential of every student. We use a whole-child approach to learning that promotes intellectual, emotional, and social growth while emphasizing problem-solving, critical thinking, and higher-order reasoning. This approach engages students in their development and encourages them to take ownership of their decisions and actions.

MISSION

To ignite the full potential of every student by preparing them academically, socially, and emotionally so they can succeed in an ever-changing world around them.

VISION

Create a safe learning environment surrounded by a culture of meaningful feedback, pedagogies, critical thinking, and challenging academics that inspire students to own their individual academic success and become responsible global citizens.

HONOR CODE

The Honor Code embodies the character values that are considered an integral part of Lake Mary Preparatory School's student education. The Honor Code of Lake Mary Preparatory School is as follows:

"Integrity, Respect, and Responsibility - Always"

INTEGRITY

Academic honesty is presenting only one's own work for evaluation (i.e. homework, tests, writing assignments, class assignments). This also includes adequately citing one's sources and not plagiarizing from any other sources, including the Internet.

RESPECT

Students are expected to show respect for themselves and others and exhibit proper behavior toward all members of Lake Mary Preparatory School, including teachers, administrators, parents and other students.

RESPONSIBILITY

Students are responsible for meeting all academic obligations, including classes, study halls, independent studies, appointments and homework in a timely manner. All students are expected to uphold their personal integrity and the integrity of the school environment; respect themselves, others and school property; exhibit responsibility for themselves and for the school. Just as Lake Mary Preparatory School holds a standard of academic excellence, similar standards of excellence must also apply to student behavior and proper care of individual and school property.

CORE VALUES

We believe in UNITY. We are a caring, compassionate, diverse community composed of different beliefs and traditions celebrating commonalities in our experiences. We embrace the FUTURE. We create a school-wide culture filled with new pedagogies for teaching, learning, and moving education forward. We embrace INTEGRITY. It is our moral compass, defining our character, behavior, and the origin of our decisions. We trust in TEAMWORK. Individually we achieve goals; collectively we accomplish exceptional results.

WE are Lake Mary Prep.



ADVISORY

We believe that character development is an important aspect of an adolescents' social and emotional development. Due to this strong belief, our Middle School students participate in weekly advisory classes. These classes, held every Monday, follow a written curriculum and focus on the character development of our students. LMP provides one-on-one support to all of our students both academically and socially, and this support comes from our teachers and administrators. Our advisory class environment, which is informal, fosters these student-faculty relationships.

Topics in our advisory program include respect, conflict resolution, bullying, coping with peer pressure, adolescent changes, digital citizenship, and more. Students are given mock situations to resolve and participate in various role-playing activities. Students are required to complete various assignments relating to the topics covered in the class.

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE PROGRAM

We believe that technology complements face-to-face instruction in order to enhance the learning experience. Lake Mary Preparatory School has identified the need to expand our laptop program into the middle school in order to equip our students with the skills needed to become proficient in our Six Pillars of Technology Framework which includes: professional-level publication, professional-level-presentation, original research, data analysis, statistics and probability, professional responsibility in a digital world, and engineering and design. These subject areas will prepare our students with skills that are expected of them when they enter Upper School.

Recommended Laptop Specifications:

- Operating System: Apple MacOS 11 or newer, Microsoft Windows 10
- Chromebooks or laptops running Chrome OS have been found to be incompatible with certain educational websites and are therefore not permitted
- Tablet computers are not permitted unless they are running Microsoft Windows OS
- Processor: Quad Core or better recommended
- Memory: 8 GB Minimum
- Hard Drive: 128 GB minimum, (SSD) Solid State Drive recommended
- Wireless Networking: 802.11n compatible

All computers must arrive on the first day of school with the following software:

- Anti-Virus Software with a current subscription that will not expire during the school year
- Anti-Malware Software with a current subscription that will not expire during the school year



For more information regarding Laptop and Technology Requirements, please contact Mr. Jeff Buyna via email at jeff.buyna@lakemaryprep.com or at 407-805-0095 ext. 338.

LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade Levels: 6 - 8

This course prepares students by strengthening critical reading, writing, speaking, listening and language competencies using literary and non-fiction texts from a variety of genres. Reading comprehension, fluency, and higher-order analysis are continually practiced for proficiency through various novel studies, book clubs, research, and authentic assessments. Formal writing skills are developed with logical structure, making claims, citing evidence, and producing reasonable inferences while elevating vocabulary in essays. Creative writing, through narratives, poetry, free writes, and reflections allow expression and deeper thought to flourish. Language awareness is enhanced by investigating context, connotation, literal, and figurative meaning of terms as well as utilizing proper grammar and mechanics. Speaking and listening abilities emerge through student presentations, performances, discussions, and peer-led conferences. Student voice is encouraged and praised in choosing how to convey knowledge and understanding of material and literary elements analyzed.



MATHEMATICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HONORS MATH 1

Grade Level: 6

Students will learn mathematical skills focusing on numerical reasoning using problem-solving, technological interaction, and critical thinking. This course concentrates on using concepts of ratios, rates and percent, understanding division of fractions, introducing expressions and equations, and understanding of statistical reasoning. The performance of all four operations will be explored with integers, positive decimals and fractions with procedural fluency.

HONORS MATH 2

Grade Level: 6-7

Students will learn mathematical skills recognizing that fractions, decimals, and percentages are different representations of rational numbers. Students will create equivalent expressions and will solve equations and inequalities. The application of proportional relationships in two variables will be practiced. The representation of categorical and numerical data will be developed with probability.

HONORS PRE-ALGEBRA

Grade Level: 6-8

Students will learn mathematical skills focusing on an integrated approach to Algebra and Geometry. The concepts include integers, fractions, rational numbers, scientific notation, functions, graphing, two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures. Critical thinking skills will be used to create linear relationships including modeling an association in bivariate data. Students will solve linear equations, inequalities, and systems of equations. The Pythagorean Theorem will be analyzed in triangles using distance and angles.

HONORS ALGEBRA 1

Grade Level: 7-9

This course begins the study of the structure of Algebra. Course topics include real numbers, solving and analyzing linear equations, graphing relations and functions, solving linear inequalities, polynomials, factoring, quadratic functions, radical expressions, and rational expressions.

HONORS GEOMETRY

Grade Level: 8-10

In this course, students study congruent segments and angles, circle chords, secants and tangent segments, parallel and perpendicular lines, angle measure in triangles, direct and indirect triangle congruence and similarity, proofs, logic, similar triangles, transformations, the Pythagorean Theorem, geometric constructions, coordinate geometry, and surface area and volume of solids.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HONORS ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

Grade Level: 6

Students will explore ancient civilizations from around the globe and learn how their past achievements continue to impact the world today. Students will study the geography, culture, history, economics, religion and relationships among cultures to trace the course of human advancement throughout history. The course will introduce students to the people of the Prehistoric era, Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece and Rome. Students will critically analyze the contributions from these past civilizations through hands-on projects, written assignments, and classroom discussions to bring history to life.

HONORS WORLD GEOGRAPHY

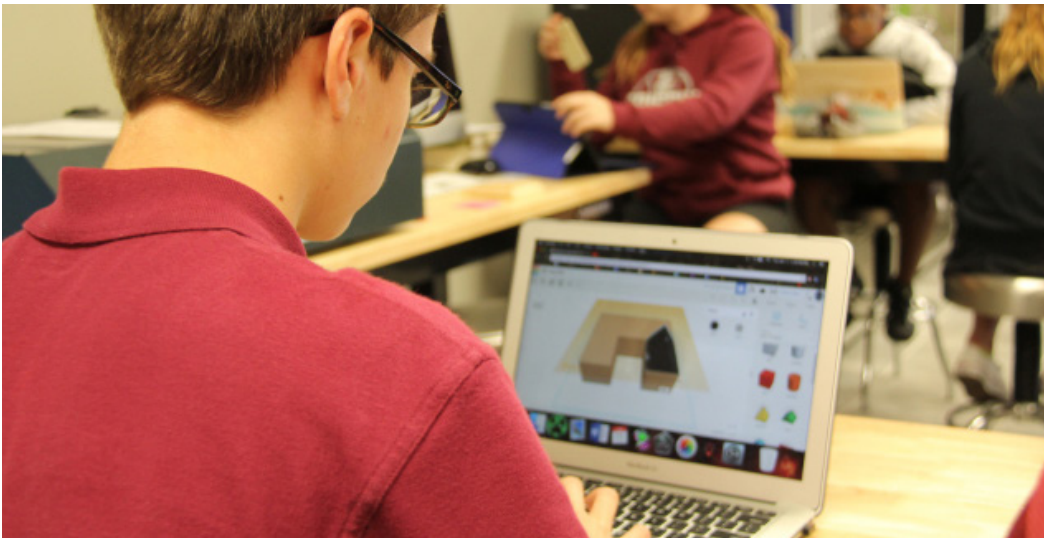
Grade Level: 7

Using a geographic inquiry approach, students will come to understand and appreciate their own place in the world among Earth's wide diversity of environments and cultures. Geographic reasoning rests on deep knowledge of Earth's physical and human features, including the locations of places and regions, the distribution of landforms and water bodies, and historic changes in political boundaries, economic activities, and cultures. Students will develop skills in asking and answering questions, be able to apply geographic representations through mapping and imagery, evaluate sources and use evidence to support their claims, effectively communicate conclusions, and take informed action.

HONORS AMERICAN HISTORY

Grade Level: 8

In this course, students will explore events that shaped our nation from the arrival of its earliest people to the Civil War. Students will examine periods of history from varying historical perspectives. An emphasis is placed on the development of research, writing, and presentation skills. Analysis of primary sources and documentaries as well as various projects and group activities reinforce key concepts. Students will participate in the National History Day Competition and will develop an indepth research project based around a National theme.



SCIENCE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HONORS INTEGRATED SCIENCE

Grade Level: 6-8

Teachers guide students' learning experience by revolving inquiry-based explorations around intriguing and engaging natural phenomena. Students learn key scientific concepts by investigating the relevant branches of science including Life, Earth/Space, and Physical/Chemical. Lessons are designed to generate student questions, explanations, and ideas for investigations that motivate learning. Students work together collaboratively as they develop the skills to design investigations and find solutions with the teacher working alongside as a facilitator; helping elicit ideas, coordinating collaboration, and supporting investigations, resulting in deep conceptual understanding. This storyline approach to learning science provides a coherent path toward building ideas piece by piece, anchored in students' own questioning.



WORLD LANGUAGE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CHINESE 6

Grade Level: 6

This semester survey course focuses on basic language skills for students to begin speaking and writing in Chinese. Students learn Chinese through pinyin, a Romanesque form of the language, and simplified characters. The course builds a familiarity with the language and students participate in activities to develop an awareness of Chinese customs and culture.

CHINESE 1A

Grade Level: 7

In Chinese 1A, students start to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. They will learn about 200 basic vocab words and practice how to use correct stroke order to write characters. By the end of this course, students will use basic sentences to introduce themselves and greet others.

CHINESE 1B

Grade Level: 8

In Chinese 1B, students will continue to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. This course focuses on themes that are relevant to everyday lives of students. The teaching of characters and character formation continues to be incorporated into lessons.

SPANISH 6

Grade Level: 6

This semester survey course exposes students to the Spanish language and culture. This course sets a foundation for students' comprehension skills in Spanish through listening, reading, writing and speaking activities. Students participate in collaborative projects to develop their oral and written skills.

SPANISH 1A

Grade Level: 7

This course develops comprehension skills in Spanish through listening and reading activities. The course will also develop students' ability to use Spanish to express themselves orally and in writing. Knowledge and appreciation of the diverse cultures of the Spanish speaking countries are emphasized. By the end of this course, students will begin to communicate with some phrases in Spanish and understand short texts when reading.



SPANISH 1B

Grade Level: 8

This course will develop students' comprehension skills in Spanish through listening and reading activities. By the end of the course, students will be able to understand ideas, grammatical details, and parts of speech. Students will be able to read and understand short texts. The course will also develop the student's ability to use Spanish to express themselves orally and in writing. The teaching of Hispanic culture, comparisons with the English language, and connections with other disciplines are also integrated into the curriculum. Eighth-grade students receive a high school credit for Spanish 1B.



ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ART

Grade Level: 6-8

In this course, students will be introduced to the elements of art and principles of design through studio practice and application of 2D/3D design concepts. Students will assemble a portfolio of artwork showcasing a high level of quality, content, technique, and process. Students will demonstrate their knowledge through projects using various mediums, peer and teacher critiques, class discussion, use of vocabulary, and written assignments. The culture of art is emphasized in this course through the study of various artists and techniques throughout history.

BAND

Grade Level: 6-8

This course focuses on the instrument selection process, music theory, fundamentals of music, and instrumental performance. Students in the beginning band class will focus on foundational skills during the fall semester and will transition to the development of more advanced symphonic band skills in the spring. Students will participate in a variety of on-campus performances each year. Attendance of after-school rehearsals and performances is part of the grading system for this class.

DEBATE

Grade Level: 7-8

This is a survey course in the fundamentals of informal and formal communication and public speaking. Each semester of the course will cover a different set of speaking events with an emphasis on developing and presenting effective arguments and speeches. This course will improve students' ability to conduct scholarly research, write with concision, and speak eloquently on their chosen topic.

DRAMA

Grade Level: 6-8

This course will introduce students to the theatrical properties of acting, design, and directing. Students will learn how to select and prepare pieces for auditions and public speaking in a comfortable, peer-reviewed environment. Creative exploration in costume, set, and light design will strengthen a student's aptitude in decision-making and artistic perspective. Throughout this course, students will have the opportunity to display leadership and production creativity, culminating in final skits directed and performed by students.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Grade Level: 6-8

This course introduces the fundamentals of 2D visual communication. Students learn to analyze designs they see all around them and apply their knowledge through projects relevant to individual interests. Image editing techniques in Adobe Photoshop, digital illustration skills in Adobe Illustrator, and page layout design in Adobe InDesign are utilized in this innovative project-based class.



ORCHESTRA

Grade Level: 6-8

This course is designed for students to learn or continue to play an orchestra instrument that includes: Violin, Viola, or Cello. Fundamentals of playing, music theory, music history, and performance techniques are emphasized. Techniques such as vibrato, shifting, and good tone production are taught. Students will perform in concerts to showcase skills learned throughout the year.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grade Level: 6-8

This course is designed specifically for the unique social, physical, and emotional needs of young adolescents. The rules and regulations for a variety of team sports are taught along with the proper skills needed to perform each sport. Qualities of respect, sportsmanship, inclusion, and teamwork are emphasized on a daily basis. Students will learn the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION - HOPE

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: None

In this course, students will gain an understanding of the body's systems and how their choices impact overall health and fitness socially, emotionally, and physically. HOPE will also address nutrition, the effects of drugs and alcohol, stress management, the musculoskeletal system's growth through adolescence, and basics of anatomy as it relates to sex-ed, HIV/STD prevention, and reproduction. The physical education component of HOPE will be fulfilled actively in the gym, on the field, and in the weight room as students learn and participate in a variety of sports and activities throughout the year. This course is a high school credit.

ROBOTICS & CODING

Grade Level: 6-8

This course emphasizes the development of computer science and engineering skills. Students will explore the origins of robots and robotics, learn to design and build various robotics components, learn basic computer programming skills, and create their own sophisticated robots using LEGO MINDSTORMS robotics kits. In the culminating unit of this course, students will demonstrate their acquired knowledge of coding and robotics through a final project of their own design.

TV PRODUCTION

Grade Level: 6-8

This course is an introduction to video storytelling, editing, and camera handling skills. Students will be instructed on how to produce, script, storyboard, shoot, and edit. These skills will be used to produce interviews, public service announcements, commercials, and music videos. Students will be taught to exercise proper critique, film etiquette, and video production protocol. Students will find this course to be a fun, creative, and technology-based environment. Projects will be shot and edited on a daily to weekly basis with respect for deadlines and an emphasis on the quality of the final production.

DESIGN LAB

Grade Level: 6-8

This course seeks to enhance student learning and initiative by providing innovative, student-led, cross-curricular, authentic problem solving opportunities. Throughout the year, students will collaborate in teams to solve real world problems connected to their core class standards resulting in professional public products showcased to the LMP community. Students will practice empathy, explore primary and secondary resources, engage in the design process, and learn how to use creative expression and unique materials to demonstrate their ideas. A focus on 21st century skills such as creativity, communication, critical thinking, collaboration, reflection and perseverance will be embedded within the course.

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Lake Mary Preparatory School (LMP) admits students of any race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. LMP does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, and national or ethnic origin in administration of its employment practices, educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic or other school-administered programs.

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