

# HOME OF THE PANTHERS

## Mission Statement

The mission of Somerset Academy Charter is to provide an individualized, academically rigorous, and engaging curriculum focusing on the ever-changing needs of our learners. Our educational process encompasses the partnership among the school, family and community, in order to develop a life-long love of learning. We strive to develop students who are self-assured, well-rounded, and prepared for future success.

## **SOMERSET ACADEMY CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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### **School Administration**

*Bernardo Montero, Head Master*  
*Angel Chaisson, Principal*  
*Donyale McGhee, Assistant Principal*

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Future and Returning Panthers:

The Faculty and Staff at Somerset Academy Charter realize that middle school is an important step in your school career. This Curriculum guide has been developed to help you understand the middle school curriculum and to guide you in selecting appropriate academic programs and elective classes. Somerset Academy Charter Middle School is committed to providing a rigorous and exciting academic experience to help our students prepare successfully for the future.

This year Somerset Academy Charter Middle School is collaborating with College Board to provide a rigorous and relevant curriculum by offering Pre-Advanced Placement courses. These courses are designed to prepare students for the Honors and Advanced Placement high school level courses.

Your teachers will provide you with many opportunities to explore new and exciting concepts. They will also expect you to work hard and try your best. It is your future; we are here to provide you with guidance, structure, and support. You are expected to study will and learn. I encourage you to contact your guidance counselor with any questions you may have regarding choosing your courses. Through your experiences at Somerset Academy Charter, we know that you will grow academically, personally, and socially.

It is my sincere hope that your experience at Somerset Academy will prove to be a memorable one.

Yours in Education,

*Angel Chaisson*

**Angel Chaisson**  
**Principal**



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## SCHOOL SCHEDULE

### DAILY BELL SCHEDULE 2008-2009

PERIOD	TIME
1	7:30 - 8:25
HOMEROOM	8:30 - 8:40
2	8:45 - 9:40
3	9:45 - 10:40
4	10:45 - 12:45
<b>READ 20 MIN</b>	<b>READ 20 MIN</b>
LUNCH A	10:45 - 11:25
LUNCH B	11:25 - 12:05
LUNCH C	12:05 - 12:45
5	12:50 - 1:45
6	1:50 - 2:45

### EARLY RELEASE BELL SCHEDULE 2008-2009

PERIOD	TIME
1	7:30 - 8:10
HOMEROOM	8:15 - 8:25
2	8:30 - 9:10
3	9:15 - 9:55
4	10:00 - 10:40
5	10:45 - 11:25
6	11:30 - 12:10
LUNCH	12:15 - 12:35

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## Course Selection Procedures

The curriculum guide has been prepared to assist Somerset Academy Charter Middle School students and their parents with course selections for the 2008-2009 school year. Please make sure to read all of the information that is contained in this guide.

1. Review and read the curriculum guide carefully.
2. Review which courses need to be taken for this upcoming year.
3. Talk to your parents and teachers about your selections and appropriate academic levels.
4. Select courses that will correspond with your goals for the future and have teachers sign appropriate levels.
5. Parents must sign the course selection sheet.
6. Student must sign the course selection sheet.

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## Guidance Department

The Somerset Academy Guidance Department works with students, parents, and the community to foster a positive and supportive learning environment. The guidance department office is located in the Middle/High administration building. The essential role of the counselor is to be a student advocate. Counselors assist with personal, academic, social, and post-secondary concerns that can aid the student in order to reach their full potential. Support systems such as individual/group counseling are an integral part of the counseling program at Somerset Academy. When a student is upset, a counselor is always available for them for support. Classroom activities and presentations are developed throughout the year to assist students with their personal, social, career, and educational development.

### WHAT DOES YOUR COUNSELOR DO?

- Administers all standard state-wide testing
- Assists with conflict resolution.
- Conducts individual and group counseling.
- Carries out schedule and class changes.
- Conducts Parent/Teacher conferences.
- Assists in the process of transitioning from childhood to adolescence.
- Assists with career, personal/social, and academic development.

### ESOL

### EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

The screening and placement of Limited English Proficient (LEP) students will be met in accordance with district procedures. Limited English student's needs will be addressed on an individual basis. Contact the ESOL Coordinator for information.

The Exceptional Student Education Program (ESE) is implemented in accordance with Broward County District Procedures for Exceptional Education. Student exceptionalities will be addressed on an individual basis as needed. Parents and teachers work closely with the ESE Specialist to provide proper placement and to develop an individualized educational plan (IEP).

### FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Students are eligible to enroll the Florida Virtual School. The courses offered are teacher-facilitated and available throughout the state. Courses are based upon the same criteria as those taught in the standard high school program and, therefore, generate the same credit for students. Middle school students may earn credit only in those courses designated as "acceleration" courses by Florida Virtual School. Students may obtain more information about any of these opportunities for acceleration from their school counselors. Additional information on Florida Virtual School can be found at <http://www.flvs.net>

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## STI - HOME

Parents are encouraged to use Somerset's electronic grade book software (STI) to monitor their child's academic performance and progression. Somerset's software is called **STI-HOME** and is accessible via the internet on the Somerset Academy website ([www.somersetacademy.com](http://www.somersetacademy.com)).

On **STI-HOME** parents and students can view grades, class schedules, attendance records, discipline reports, activity announcements and notes from teachers. STI -HOME is an excellent tool to keep the parent aware of their child's day to day progress. In order to access your child's account, you will need a student ID number and a pin number. Each student will be assigned these numbers at the beginning of the school year. They will be distributed through homeroom during the month of August.

## Virtual Counselor

Virtual Counselor can be used to view your child's previous FCAT scores, attendance, and graduation credit information. Listed below are the instructions to access the data:

- go to <http://www.browardschools.com/virtual-counselor>
- Username - Enter student 10 digit ID number (not social security number)
- Enter password (Date of Birth MM/DD/YYYY)  
ex. 08/07/1989

## FCAT Explorer

FCAT Explorer can be used to help students prepare for the FCAT test. Students can work on practice tests to help identify areas of need and develop competence in all of the FCAT strands. Username and password can be obtained by the students English teacher.

- go to <http://www.fcatexplorer.com>
- Username - TBA
- Password - TBA

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## Middle School Curriculum

Students shall receive instruction in language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Instruction in health, physical education, exploratory, pre-vocational and special interest classes shall be in accordance with state statutes and rules. Instruction shall be focused on ensuring that all students shall demonstrate mastery of Sunshine State Standards (F.S. 1003.41). Courses are taught year long. Final grades (grade of record) are calculated by averaging all four quarters.

### Middle School Curriculum for Students Entering Sixth Grade in 2006-2007 and Thereafter

Students entering grade six in the 2006-2007 school year and thereafter will have to follow the new general requirements for middle grades promotion.

Three (3) middle school or higher courses in English. These courses shall emphasize literature, composition, and technical text.

Three (3) middle school or higher courses in mathematics. High-school-level mathematics course for which students may earn high school credit are offered to eligible students.

Three (3) middle school or higher courses in social studies, one semester of which must include the study of state and federal government and civics education.

Three (3) middle school or higher courses in science.

One (1) semester-long course in career and education planning to be completed in seventh or eighth grade.

As part of the newly passed requirements for middle grades promotion, each student should be enrolled in a career and education planning course in seventh or eighth grade. The course must include career exploration using CHOICES or a comparable cost effective program, and education planning using the online student advising system known as Florida Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students (FACTS), and shall result in the completion of a personalized academic and career plan. The purpose of the personalized academic and career plan is to provide each student with a plan based on individual aspirations and goals for postsecondary education and possible careers. The plan should include information such as short and long-term goals, results of personal assessments such as interests, values, skills, and aptitudes, careers/clusters of interest, and an electronic personalized education plan (ePEP). The plan must be signed by the student, the student's guidance counselor or academic advisor, and the student's parent, and should become a portfolio of information that students can update as they continue their education and the career decision making process.

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## Middle School Promotion

To be promoted, students in grade six, seven, and eight must meet FCAT Promotion Criteria and pass a minimum of 4 out of 6 courses (60% final cumulative grade). Students must also pass all core classes before being promoted to the 9th grade. The evaluation of each student's progress must be based upon classroom work, observations, tests, district and state assessments and other relevant information. Information regarding alternative promotion criteria is addressed in F.S. 1008.25

Grade and Subject	Passing Classes	Criteria #1	Or	Criteria #2
6-8 Language Arts  and  6-8 Mathematics	Pass a minimum of four subjects plus meet criteria #1 or criteria #2	Level 2 or higher on FCAT-SSS Reading  and  Level 2 or higher on FCAT-SSS Mathematics	Or  Or	At or above the 25th percentile on the FCAT-NRT  At or above the 25th percentile on the FCAT-NRT

### Academic Improvement Plans

Somerset will develop and implement an Academic Improvement Plan, in collaboration with the student's parents, for any student who does not meet specific levels of performance in reading, writing, science and mathematics.

### Reporting Student Progress

Report Cards and Interim progress reports will be issued every quarter. Parents also have access to an electronic grade book software (STI) which allows daily academic monitoring. Student performance will be evaluated and reported based upon mastery of standards.

LETTER GRADE	DESCRIPTION	NUMERICAL
A	SUPERIOR PROGRESS	90 - 100
B	COMMENDABLE PROGRESS	80 - 89
C	AVERAGE PROGRESS	70 - 79
D	LOWEST ACCEPTABLE PROGRESS	60 - 69
F	FAILURE	0 - 59
I	INCOMPLETE	

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## **Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test**

The regular FCAT administration is conducted in March. Eighth graders are administered the FCAT Writing+ in February and the FCAT Science in March. Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders take the FCAT Reading, FCAT Mathematics, and FCAT NRT in March. Students may prepare for the FCAT by visiting [www.fcatexplorer.com](http://www.fcatexplorer.com). For additional information on the FCAT, please visit <http://www.firn.edu/doe/sas/fcat.htm>

## **Provision for Acceleration**

Based on FCAT scores and student progression, middle school students may qualify for accelerated instruction allowing them the opportunity to earn high school credits. These credits may be applied toward graduation, college admission, or Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program requirements.

## **Progress Monitoring Plan**

There are certain skills that students must learn at each grade level to be promoted at the end of the school year. If a student is not working at grade level, a Progress Monitoring Plan (PMP) will be developed in consultation with the parent. The PMP is intended to help students master the skills and concepts expected at their grade level.

A student who has been given a PMP in reading, writing and/or mathematics may have his/her regular curriculum suspended in areas other than reading, writing, and mathematics in order to provide intensive academic instruction.

A set of criteria is in place at each grade level and subject area for a Progress Monitoring Plan.

## **Good Cause Criteria**

Students will be given multiple opportunities to show that they have learned what they need to know in order to be promoted. If a student does not, at first, meet the promotion criteria, there are some additional options called "good cause" reasons for a student to be promoted. In special situations, students who have been previously retained, students who are disabled, and students who have limited English proficiency may be able to be promoted if they meet certain requirements. For more specific information about good cause options for promotion, please contact the guidance department.

## **Recommended Guidelines for Academic Placement**

Students will be placed in the appropriate math and reading classes according to their SSS and NRT scores from the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test and current teacher recommendation.

Students scoring Level One in on the Florida Comprehensive Test will be enrolled in an Intensive class as their elective.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKING HIGH SCHOOL COURSES**

Due to recent Florida legislation, middle school students who take high school courses (such as Geometry, Algebra, Spanish, French and Law Studies) will receive grades (A-F) for those courses. These grades and credits will be posted to the student's official high school transcript and will be used to calculate the grade point average (GPA) and class rank. A letter was sent home the first week of school regarding these changes in the grading policy. For additional information about the grading of high school courses, please contact your child's guidance counselor, or visit the District Website, [www.broward.k12/fl.us/advanceacademics/](http://www.broward.k12/fl.us/advanceacademics/)

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## Pre-Advanced Placement Program

The Pre-Advanced placement (Pre-AP) Program at Somerset Academy Charter Middle School is a program which gives students an opportunity to be a part of an enthusiastic community of students who are excited about learning. The courses that are offered are advanced courses designed to challenge and motivate students to understand rigorous content. Pre-AP middle school courses are designed to prepare students for high school Advanced Placement (AP) courses. AP courses are college-level courses taught in a high school setting. At the end of each AP course an AP Exam is given. Qualifying scores on the AP exams can enable students to receive college credit and/or advanced standing at a university or college. Application process is required for acceptance into this program. Please contact the Guidance Department for further details.

### Pre-Advanced Placement Courses

#### PRE-AP ENGLISH (all grade levels)

Students will become skilled readers in a variety of literature and in become skilled writers. Reading and their writing should make students aware of the interactions among ideas, voice, word choice, sentence and etc. **Please contact the Guidance Department for further details.**

#### PRE-AP SOCIAL STUDIES (all grade levels)

Students will have a more rigorous academic experience on the nations of Canada and Latin America, with an emphasis on history, geography, Civil War, culture and life today. **Please contact the Guidance Department for further details.**

#### PRE-AP SCIENCE (all grade levels)

Students will learn and study the human body system as well as the cell structure. Students will be performing numerous hands-on labs. Studies throughout the course will include purposeful observation, forming hypothesis. They will be required to go further in depth with their research and be held to more rigorous standards as they develop and conduct their experiments. **Please contact the Guidance Department for further details.**

### Course Descriptions

Students will choose 5 elective courses. Intensive Reading will be mandatory for all Level 1 FCAT students. However, only two will be chosen for the student. Every effort will be made to give students their first choice. However, scheduling conflicts may preclude the first choice. Due to enrollment fluctuations and the number of students choosing a course, some elective courses may not be offered. It is important, therefore, to consider alternative elective choices very carefully.

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## *Language Arts*

### **LANGUAGE ARTS (grades 6-8)**

The purpose of this course is to provide educational opportunities that incorporate reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. The content of the course combines the study of literary works and participation in the writing process. The Benchmarks for the Sunshine State Standards are sequentially repeated to increase the student's independence in understanding various literary forms and literary selections, as well as teaching strategies to interpret informational reading text. Students will be instructed to apply the Six Traits of Writing as they learn the importance of communication of information and ideas. Students will focus on developing vocabulary, elaboration of ideas, sentence structure, study skills, editing and revision skills. This course is designed to enable students to become life-long effective communicators of information and ideas.

### **ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS (grades 6-7)**

The purpose of this course is to promote academic excellence in reading, writing, and oral communication. Placement in the Advanced Language Arts class is contingent on a student receiving a 380 on the Sunshine State Standard assessment. Students that have been identified as Gifted will be placed in the advanced course. The content of this course will engage the learners in developing critical thinking and study skills. Students will analyze literature, develop the writing process in creative and expository pieces, and work on developing a writing voice to communicate their ideas. This course is designed to challenge and equip students to become life long effective communicators of information and ideas.

**\*Requirements: Level 4 or higher on the SSS FCAT Reading Score \*Prior placement in Advanced Language Arts does not guarantee placement. Teacher Approval required.**

### **ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS (grade 8)**

The purpose of this course is to promote academic excellence in reading, writing, and oral communication. Students that have been identified as Gifted will also be placed in the advanced course. The content of this course will engage the learners in developing critical thinking and study skills. Students will analyze literature; develop the writing process in persuasive and expository pieces, while working on developing a strong writing voice to communicate their ideas. Expanding vocabulary and elaboration of ideas will guide learners to discover the power in the written word. Students will be challenged to "think outside of the traditional box" and support their ideas. This course is designed to challenge and equip students to become life long effective communicators of information and ideas.

**\*Requires: Level 4 or higher on the SSS FCAT Reading Score \*Prior placement in Advanced Language Arts does not guarantee placement. \* Teacher approval required.**

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## *Intensive Reading*

### **INTENSIVE READING (grades 6-8)**

Intensive Reading is required for all 6th – 8th grade students who earn a level 1 on the reading portion of the FCAT. This course is designed to help students develop fundamental skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Students have the opportunity to explore different types of literature and understand how to construct meaning from these various types of literary, informational, and technical text. Students will become familiar with the various types of comprehension skills and be able to apply strategies to understand text. Students will also become familiar with the common features of a variety of literary forms and be able to respond critically to visual, oral, and written texts. This course is not a duplicate of Language Arts; instead, it's a component of the subject area which focuses instruction on phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. **\*Placement level is determined by a student's SSS FCAT scores.**

## *Mathematics*

### **MATH 1 (grade 6)**

The purpose of this course is to continue the development of mathematical concepts and processes that can be used to solve real world mathematical problems. The content will include, but not be limited to the following... Rational numbers Fractions, decimals and percents, primes, factors, multiples and number sequences, measurement, geometry, algebraic thinking, statistics, introduction to probability.

### **MATH 2 (grade 6 and 7)**

The purpose of this course is to delve deeper into mathematical concepts and processes that can be used to solve real world mathematical problems. The content will include, but not be limited to the following... rational numbers, geometry, fractions, decimals and percents, algebraic thinking, primes, factors, multiples and number sequences, statistics, measurement, and introduction to probability.

**Approval needed for incoming 6th Graders.**

### **MATH 3 (grades 6-8)**

The purpose of this course is to continue the development of mathematical concepts and processes that can be used to solve real-world and mathematical problems. **Approval needed for incoming 6th graders. Equivalent to GEM program in District Schools.**

### **PRE-ALGEBRA (grades 6–8)**

The content includes: Algebraic expressions and integers - linear functions and graphing - solving one-step equation and inequalities - spatial thinking - decimals and equations - area and volume - factors, fractions, and exponents - right triangles in algebra - operations with fractions - data analysis and probability - ratios, punctuations, and percents - nonlinear functions and polynomials - solving equations and inequalities All students in these courses are allowed to use calculators for the coursework. All concepts listed address the Sunshine State Standards. **Please see Placement requirements. Teacher approval required. High School Credit will be earned.**

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## **ALGEBRA I (grades 7- 8)**

The purpose of this course is to develop the algebraic concepts and processes that can be used to solve a variety of real-world and mathematical problems. Students have the opportunity to learn as mathematicians rather than memorizing facts and algorithms. The content will include, but not be limited to, the following: -structure and properties of the real number system -exponents, square roots, radicals, absolute value, and scientific notation -varied means for analyzing and expressing patterns, relations, and functions -variables, algebraic expressions, polynomials, and operations with polynomials -coordinate geometry and graphing of equations and inequalities -data analysis concepts and techniques -varied solution strategies, algebraic and graphic, for inequalities, linear and quadratic equations, and for systems of equations. The goal is for all students to become better technicians throughout the course and to apply learned skills to routine and non-routine problems. **\* Placement requires successful completion of previous math course with a “C” or higher and a 75% or higher on the mid-term and final exam. High School Credit will be earned. Teacher approval required.**

## **GEOMETRY (grades 7- 8)**

This is an advanced class and gains students a high school credit. Following successful completion of this course on entry to high school, students take up Algebra 2 or Algebra 2 honors. The class is an intensive one, requiring a sound knowledge of Algebra 1 before entry. The course covers: -tools of geometry -reasoning and proof -parallel and perpendicular lines -congruent triangles -relationships within triangles -area -similarity -right triangle trigonometry -surface area and volume -transformations -quadrilaterals. **\*Placement requires successful completion of Algebra with a “C” or higher and a 75% or higher score on mid-term and final exam. High School Credit will be earned. \* Teacher approval required.**

## *Science*

## **COMPREHENSIVE SCIENCE I (grade 6)**

This course is an introduction to the four major content areas of science. The students will explore Life and Environmental Science, Earth and Space Science, as well as Physical and Chemical Science. This course is designed to prepare the 6th grade student for further advancement in science by teaching the basic components of each science discipline. The curriculum is planned in accordance to the Sunshine States Standards 6th grade level of achievement. This course contains a lab component which utilizes the scientific method and scientific thinking skills to explore the world around us. **\* Comprehensive Science I Advanced requirement: Teacher’s signature and Level 3 or above on the FCAT.**

## **COMPREHENSIVE SCIENCE II (grade 7)**

This course provides a detailed investigation of the four major content areas of science. The students will further investigate Life and Environmental Science, Earth and Space Science, as well as Physical and Chemical Science. This course is designed to build on the 6th grade curriculum required by the State of Florida and it concentrates on 7th grade level of achievement

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for the Sunshine State Standards. At the 7th grade level the students must be able to utilize the mathematical equations which support our knowledge of physics and will be able to apply all the equations stated on the FCAT science reference sheet. This course contains a lab component which utilizes the scientific method and scientific thinking skills to explore the world around us. \* **Comprehensive Science 2 Advanced requirement: Teacher's signature and Level 3 or above on the FCAT**

## **COMPREHENSIVE SCIENCE III (grade 8)**

This course provides a rigorous investigation of the four major content areas of science. This course thoroughly investigates Life and Environmental Science, Earth and Space Science, as well as Physical and Chemical Science. Your child's academic responsibilities increase greatly now that they have entered the 8th grade therefore this course promotes analysis, synthesis and evaluation of all of the Sunshine State Standards required by the state of Florida. This course is designed to build on the knowledge gained by students throughout their middle school coursework and the course promotes independent scientific thought and appreciation. In addition, the course contains a lab component which utilizes the scientific method and scientific thinking skills to explore the world around us. \***Comprehensive Science 3 Advanced requirement: Teacher's signature and Level 3 or above on the FCAT.**

## *Social Studies*

### **WORLD GEOGRAPHY (grade 6)**

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop multicultural understanding, use geography concepts, actively seek and process information, and to apply decision making processes to real-life situations. Study will be guided by the five themes of geography: location, place, human/environment interaction, movement, and region. Students will use maps, globes, charts, and a variety of demographic/statistical tools to learn about diverse customs and cultures around the world. **Advanced World Geography requires the following: Teacher's signature and level 3 on the FCAT.**

### **CIVICS AND CAREER PLANNING (grade 7)**

The purpose of the course is to enable students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for active participation in a democratic society. Students will become informed citizens in regard to their local, state, and federal government. Students will also know different career options available to do them. \***Advanced Civics and Career Planning requires the following: Teacher's signature and level 3 on the FCAT.**

### **UNITED STATES HISTORY (grade 8)**

The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand the historical development of the United States and to prepare them to participate as members of our democratic society. Students will examine geographical, political, economic, religious, ethnic, and technological aspects of America's history and will also focus on America's role in the modern world. Special emphasis will be placed on America's diverse cultural heritage and on the key concepts of the U.S. Constitution and other important historical Documents. \***Advanced United States History requires the following: Teacher's signature and level 3 on the FCAT.**

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## *Foreign Languages*

### **SPANISH BEGINNERS (grades 6-8)**

The purpose of this course is to enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course.

### **SPANISH ONE (grades 7-8)**

This class is a continuation of Spanish beginners, with increased importance placed upon oral mastery and written communication. Students will continue to acquire proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. **\*Teacher approval required. High School Credit will be earned.**

### **SPANISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS Beginners (grades 6-8)**

The purpose of this course is to enable students whose heritage language is Spanish to develop, maintain, and enhance proficiency in their home language by reinforcing and acquiring skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, including the fundamentals of Spanish grammar. The values and practices of Spanish culture(s) will be reflected throughout the course.

### **SPANISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS I (grades 7-8)**

The purpose of this course is to enable students whose heritage language is Spanish to develop, maintain, and enhance proficiency in their home language by reinforcing and acquiring skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, including the fundamentals of Spanish grammar. The course content will reflect the cultural values of Spanish language and societies. The course will enable students to gain a better understanding of the nature of their own language as well as other languages to be acquired. **\* Teacher approval required. High School Credit will be earned.**

## *Enrichment Classes*

### **ART 2D (grade 6-7)**

Students will continue their studies in art. The students will communicate ideas and concepts through two-dimensional media using their basic knowledge of art.

### **ART 3D (grades 7-8)**

Advance level of Art. This course is to enable students to communicate ideas and concepts through three-dimensional media using fundamental knowledge of sculpture and assemblage techniques. **\*Successful completion of ART 2D Teacher approval required.**

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## **BAND I (grades 6 & 7)**

The Beginning Band class is for students who have limited or no musical experience. The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental basic skills of woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments through the study of easy to medium music. Students in this course choose a band instrument at the beginning of the year and are taught all the technical and theoretical skills necessary for basic music reading and performance.

## **BAND II (grades 7- 8)**

Students will continue to develop musically with more advance level music. Students will have performances. Students learn to read appropriate band music for their given instrument and learn about the theory and history relevant to the music they are performing. Evidence of advanced musical competence **Special Note: This course generally requires extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day. \*Teacher's approval required.**

## **BAND III/IV (grades 7- 8)**

Students will learn the advance techniques in music. Students in this course will perform solos and or ensembles and represent the school. **Special Note: This course generally requires extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day. \*Teacher's approval required.**

## **JAZZ ENSEMBLE (grades 7 - 8)**

Evidence of advanced musical competence is required. **This course generally requires extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day. \*Teacher's approval required.**

## **INTRODUCTIONS TO COMPUTER APPLICATION (grades 6-8)**

This course is designed to provide students with hand-on experience in using computer applications. Students will sharpen keyboarding, drawing, word processing, and database skills through the use of project based units.

## **DRAMA 1/ THEATER (grades 6-8)**

Students will be introduced to acting for performance, singling lyrics from a variety of musical genres, set design and construction, script writing, and etc. Students will be expected to participate in class activities using experiential skills relative to stage production.

## **DRAMA 2/THEATER (grades 7-8)**

Students will know the knowledge and skills in the elements of theatre arts. **This course generally requires rehearsals and performances beyond the school day. \*Successful completion of Drama/Theater I and Teacher's approval required.**

## **JOURNALISM I & II (grade 6 & 8)**

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop basic skills in the production of print with a focus towards TV productions/newspaper. **\*Journalism II requires Teacher's approval.**

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## **LAW STUDIES (pre-law grades 7-8)**

In this course the student will gain understanding of the foundations of the legal system in the United States. This course will have a strong emphasis on the U.S. Constitution and the courts. Students will watch actual trials and participate in a mock trial. Students will gain understanding of legislation (making laws), courts (interpreting laws), and law enforcement. This course is designed for the student who may have a career interest in law, politics, or criminal justice. **\*Placement in this course is based on FCAT scores.**

## **LET'S DANCE I (grades 6-8)**

So you think you can dance? Students will be able to learn the fundamentals of ballet, tap, and jazz. Students will develop fundamental knowledge, skills in dance styles, and dance vocabulary terms. **\*Participations in dance shows are required.**

## **LET'S DANCE II & III (grades 7-8)**

Students will learn the intermediate and advance level of Dancing. Participations in dance shows are required. **This course generally requires rehearsals and performances beyond the school day.\*Successful completion in part one and teacher's approval required. To enter level three, student must have a B or above, with teacher's approval.**

## **PEER COUNSELING (grades 7-8)**

Peer counseling class provides students with an understanding of self and others as well as the process of peer facilitation. Class content includes the development of positive self concept, interacting with peers, and intercultural relationships.

## **SPEECH AND DEBATE (grade 6-8)**

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental knowledge and skills in formal and informal oral communication and in debate.

## **CREATIVE WRITING (grade 6 - 8)**

Learn different styles of writing. Different topics will be explored.

## *Fitness & Health*

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (grades 6-8)**

This class focuses on the development of competence in body management skills as they relate to games and sports. Participation is required for this course. This also provides opportunities to learn and practice skills and behaviors that support healthy, physically active living.

## **HEALTH (grade 8)**

The purpose of this course is to examine comprehensive health issues that are important to adolescent development.

# **CURRICULUM GUIDE 2008-2009**

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