

# **THE BOYS' LATIN SCHOOL OF MARYLAND**

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG (GRADES 6-8)**

### **Decision Making 6**                      Full Year Prerequisites: None                      Credits: N/A

At the first level of the middle school decision-making curriculum, students will be introduced to the basic elements of the program and encouraged to develop skills in responsible, safe, and healthy decision-making. These skills will help them to choose behaviors that promote character development, leadership, and good citizenship. A team approach is used to employ the expertise of faculty members, and the course is divided into several units: Drugs and Alcohol, Bullying, Interpersonal Relationships, Communication Skills, Human Development, and Technology. Students will engage in role-play, discussion, research, and group work.

Texts/Materials/Resources: A Decision Making folder supplied by the School, and writing utensils.

### **Decision Making 7**                      Full Year Prerequisites: None                      Credits: N/A

Students will develop skills in responsible, safe, and healthy decision making; skills to help them choose behaviors that promote character development, leadership, and good citizenship. A team approach is used to employ the expertise of faculty members, and the course will develop concepts introduced in Decision Making 6 and introduce further topics including, Media, Comprehensive Health, and Leadership. Students will engage in role-play, discussion, research, and group work.

Texts/Materials/Resources: A Decision Making folder supplied by the School, and writing utensils.

### **Decision Making 8**                      Full Year Prerequisites: None                      Credits: N/A

Students will develop skills in responsible, safe and healthy decision making; skills to help them choose behaviors that promote character development, leadership and good citizenship. Eighth grade Decision Making is an expansion upon concepts introduced in the seventh grade. A team approach is used to employ the expertise of faculty members, and the course is divided into several units: Drugs and Alcohol, Bullying, Interpersonal Relationships, Communication Skills, Media, Comprehensive Health, Leadership and Human Development. Methods used in lesson delivery include lecture, discussion, cooperative learning, role-playing, and the research and presentation of material.

Texts/Materials/Resources: A Decision Making folder supplied by the School, and writing utensils.

### **Technology - Program Philosophy**

Boys' Latin provides students, faculty and staff with technology to fulfill the School mission of offering a competitive and technologically current K-12 college preparatory education. The primary objective of the Technology Department is to prepare students for success within the highly technology-driven competitive academic environment they enter upon graduation from Boys' Latin.

### **Pedagogical Objectives**

In alignment with the ISTE National Educational Technology Standards (NETS), BL offers a combination of technology classes, embedded lessons, and collaborative project-based learning opportunities allow students to fuse 21st technology skills such as communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, and digital citizenship to practical applications. Dedicated professional development opportunities assist faculty integration of 21st century technology skills in the curriculum.

While the use of technology remains constant throughout the Boys' Latin experience; it is cyclical with facets being revisited and expanded as necessary. What does change as students progress through Boys' Latin is the level of expectation and the sophistication of resources used to produce the final result.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Throughout the academic day, technology is integrated into classroom instruction in the middle school. Using project-based learning, boys practice 21st century skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving while complementing their subject area knowledge and developing lifelong technology skills. Web 2.0, word processing, presentation, data analysis, audio, video and programming applications are utilized throughout the middle school curriculum as well as integration of proprietary math and science software and a multitude of Internet subscription and non-subscription resources. In all grades, students are involved in discussions and activities to raise awareness on technology's impact in their lives. The middle school Technology Coordinator and the middle school librarian use a team approach to supplement the curriculum

with research techniques as well as proper bibliographic citation methods and additional foundations for 21st century learning. In addition, sixth grade students receive dedicated time throughout the year for general orientation, video production and game design using Scratch.

### **EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Language Lab 7** Full Year Prerequisites: Grade 6 and departmental approval  
Credits: N/A

Language Lab is designed for students who would benefit from work in English-related skills in addition to their seventh grade English class. Students improve in reading fluency and vocabulary by learning prefix and root word meanings. Reading comprehension instruction includes word meaning, sentence meaning, paragraph meaning, and reasoning skills practiced both in isolation and through the reading of short stories. Students apply writing strategies through developing improved sentences, through editing exercises, and through the writing of creative short stories. Increased confidence and pleasure in handling reading and writing assignments are the goals of the class.

Texts/Materials/Resources: *Timed Readings - Level 7* (Jamestown Publishers), *Reasoning and Reading - Level 2* (Educators Publishing Service), *Writing Skills* (Educators Publishing Service), *Intermediate Prefixes, Roots, and Suffixes Word Book* (Educational Tutorial Consortium), *Reading Drills* (Jamestown Publishers), *Best Short Stories -Middle Level*, (Jamestown Publishers)

**Language Lab 8** Full Year Prerequisites: Grade 7 and departmental approval  
Credits: N/A

Language Lab is designed for students who would benefit from work in English-related skills in addition to their eighth grade English class. A study of suffix meanings and a continuation of the study of word parts improve the fluency of the students as readers. Reading comprehension is strengthened through a focus on higher level reading skills in isolation, as well as through the analysis of short stories. Students become meta-cognitive as they practice varied study skills and apply these strategies to their content classes. Writing practice incorporates and reinforces the grammar being taught in eighth grade English.

Texts/Materials/Resources: *Timed Readings -Level 8* (Jamestown Publishers), *Study Strategies Made Easy* (Specialty Press), *Reading Skills* (Amsco Publications), *Thirteen Steps to Better Writing* (Amsco Publications), *Solving Language Difficulties* (EPS), *Intermediate Prefixes, Roots, and Suffixes Word Book* (Educational Tutorial Consortium), *A Book of Short Stories - Book One*, (Holt, Rinehart and Winston)

### **ENGLISH**

The Boys' Latin English department fosters literacy in its fullest sense. Students develop reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills resulting in a confident command of college level competencies. This literature-based curriculum addresses the developmental growth of students' analytic, synthetic, and aesthetic powers, producing life-long learners. Intellectual self-reliance and curiosity make Boys' Latin graduates positive contributors to the greater community.

Honors Placements in English classes are subject to departmental approval and are based on writing proficiency, discussion contributions, and a willingness to read challenging texts critically. For Advanced Placement courses, students must schedule conferences with the A.P. teacher upon receiving the initial placement recommendation and may be required to submit writing samples.

**Reading 6** Full Year Prerequisites: Grade 5 Credits: N/A

Reading is half of a required two-period English program in the sixth grade. Students will develop an understanding of literary elements, sharpen their comprehension skills, increase their vocabulary, and foster a love of good literature through reading and analyzing novels, short stories and plays. Students respond to their reading through class discussion, writing assignments, and group activities. One independent reading book is required to be read each quarter, and the students will complete a creative project to demonstrate mastery of the book that they have selected to read.

Texts/Materials/Resources: *The Giver*, *Nothing But the Truth*, *The Red Kayak*, *Wringer*, *Al Capone Does My Shirts*, *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*, *Vocabulary Workshop A* (Sadlier-Oxford)

**Language Arts 6** Full Year Prerequisites: Grade 5 Credits: N/A

Language arts class is half of a required two-period English program in the sixth grade. Grammar and writing are the focus of the class. The students learn the parts of speech and their function in a sentence, and sentence diagramming is presented as a way to gain a visual representation of a sentence. Personal, descriptive, narrative, persuasive, and informative writing is used as a model to instruct the process of writing an expanded paragraph. Students learn to peer-review the work of fellow students and in doing so, they improve their ability to edit their own writing. Natural Reader and Kurzweil software are tools taught to enhance proofreading skills.

Texts/Materials/Resources: *Grammar & Composition Grade 6 Handbook* (Glencoe)

**English 7** Full Year Prerequisites: Grade 6 Credits: N/A

Seventh grade English focuses on improving reading skills, building a stronger vocabulary, solidifying knowledge of principle parts of speech, and discussing plot, theme, characterization, symbolism, and literary devices in the novels, short stories, and poetry read by the students. Writing workshops will largely focus on analytical essays and formal writing. The study of the parts of speech and the parts of a sentence will help to increase the students' knowledge of how the English language is structured and used by writers.

Texts/Materials/Resources: *Outsiders, Lord of the Flies, To Kill a Mockingbird, Grammar & Composition Grade 7 Handbook* (Glencoe), *Vocabulary Workshop B* (Sadlier-Oxford), *Reading and Understanding Short Stories Level 1* (Jamestown), *Best Poems* (Jamestown)

**English 8** Full Year Prerequisites: Grade 7 Credits: N/A

Eighth grade students continue to develop the reading, writing, and discussion skills that will enable them to meet the demands of the upper school curriculum. Students read a variety of genres as they learn to analyze, discuss, and appreciate a range of literary voices. Writing expository essays that effectively employ excerpts from the original text is a central and sustained activity. Throughout the year, students continue to build their grammar and vocabulary skills through both direct study and in frequent writing activities.

Texts/Materials/Resources: *The Hobbit, Julius Caesar, and Walk Two Moons* as well as selected short stories and poetry, *Grammar & Composition; Grade 8 Handbook* (Glencoe), *Vocabulary Workshop C* (Sadlier-Oxford)

**FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS**

The Fine and Performing Arts department provides students with a diverse range of experiences in art, music and theater. Students display their progress through performance opportunities, exhibitions and shows, and community-outreach experiences. Students receive individualized instruction and participate in hands-on activities to find their own talents in making art and developing artistic skills. Whether a student is painting, acting, manipulating clay, singing or playing an instrument, he is guided in developing the essential skills necessary to produce high quality work for an audience of his peers, family, and the larger community.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Music 6** Full Year Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

In the first year of middle school music, students focus on singing as a class in unison and in two-part harmony. There will be an emphasis on matching pitch, dynamics, breath control, phrasing, articulation and harmony, all the while gaining an understanding of the changing male voice. The students will perform at concerts, assemblies and recess mini-concerts. Students will learn to identify the basic elements of music, rhythm, dynamics, tone color, texture and form both through the songs they sing and through listening to various musical art forms. As it applies to their singing, they will learn basic music theory with an emphasis on note recognition along with understanding the symbols of music; grand staff, meter, dynamics and beat values. Students will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate the designated vocal skills and on their understanding of the elements of music.

**Music 7** Full Year

Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

Students will learn to play the guitar and piano, as well as continue with basic music notation and music theory. They will read and play chords on guitar and single note melodies on piano. Students will perform for concerts, assemblies and recess mini-concerts. Seventh graders will sing repertoire from several genres such as pop, rock and blues with expression appropriate for that genre. In addition to basic music notation, the seventh grade students will learn whole and half steps, intervallic relationships, chord construction, and basic composition techniques. Students will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate designated guitar and piano skills, as well as their music theory requirements.

**Music 8** Full Year Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

In this course, students learn to play and read music using handchimes. They perform as a hand chime choir for concerts, assemblies and recess mini-concerts. Basic theory knowledge will continue from sixth and seventh grade and through written and vocal ear training. Students will be able to identify and construct major/minor chords, along with scale development and recognition. Students will continue their vocal training by learning to sight sing. Students will develop the skills to write and perform a piece in ternary form. Students will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate the designated handchime and theory skills.

**Chorus** Full Year Grades 6-8; Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

Students will learn performance techniques for the small vocal ensemble. They will also learn score reading and voice blending techniques. Students will sing a variety of musical styles from classical to contemporary. Students will develop their abilities to perform vocal exercises and will master the natural changes of middle school voices.

**Art 6** Full Year Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

Students will study fine art as a means for intellectual stimulation. Students practice hand-eye coordination and examine the basis for creativity. Projects include drawing-intensive explorations of graphite, ink, charcoal and pastels. Instruction is facilitative to engage students and provide opportunities for them to share ideas. Students learn about master works for referential context. Books, periodicals, slides, videos, computers, and museum trips are incorporated into the program. Students will showcase their work in an annual springtime art and music show.

**Art 7** Full Year Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

The seventh grade course continues from the sixth grade program of fine art with studies in design. The students learn the important skill of critique to understand how to discuss art intelligently. Students continue to focus on the important skill of drawing using still-life arrangements and a progressive shift toward drawing from observation. The design process also teaches students how to plan and execute work from the 2D to 3D phase where understanding the principals and element of design are crucial. The students will have their art projects displayed at an annual art and music show.

**Art 8** Full Year Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

The eighth grade students will prepare for the upper school art studio setting. Following the seventh grade program, the students will study and work from observation. Students will begin to create art from life with a focus again on drawing using various mediums with a focus on self-portraiture that asks student to focus on proportions, light, and color theory. Clay sculpture is introduced to students. Research writing is also an element of the on-going critiques process. Students will learn how to articulate in writing the thoughts and ideas behind their process. Students continue the critique process with open dialogue from their peers. The students will have their art projects displayed at an annual art and music show.

**MS Jazz Band** Full Year Grades 6-8; Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

In this course, students will receive instruction in music performance by playing a variety of repertoire from many diverse musical genres. The main focus will be on reading music, expression, scale studies, improvisation and accurately playing together as an ensemble. Over the course of the year, students are required to play in two school concerts, along with any other performance venues that occur, at the teacher's discretion. Students are expected to attend all ensemble rehearsals and group sectional rehearsals, unless they are excused by a school event or by parent permission. Students will have to bring their own instrument to every rehearsal and all participants will be encouraged to take private lessons on their applied instrument.

**WORLD LANGUAGES**

Foreign and classical languages both stress the culture and civilization of their respective linguistic areas, past and present, at all levels. Awareness and appreciation of literary and contemporary aspects of the Roman, French, and Hispanic worlds are fostered. World language study aims to provide the student with a high degree of linguistic proficiency. Written self-expression is valued, while oral/aural skills are developed more in modern languages. Boys' Latin students are expected to complete three\* consecutive years of world language study while in the upper school.

**French I** Full Year Prerequisites: Grade 8 and above Credits: 1

French I is an elementary course in which the communicative skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing are introduced. Students learn to express (both verbally and in writing) fundamental vocabulary and structures in the target language. The scope and sequence of this course includes greetings, the calendar, colors, numbers, adjectives, the family, clothing, the present indicative of regular verbs, and the future proche (near future tense). Geographical and cultural components include the French provinces, education in France, and shopping and dining in France. Student progress is assessed through tests, quizzes, homework, class work, and daily participation.

•Texts/Materials/Resources: Allez, viens! (Holt, Rhinehart, Winston), Allez, viens! Student Activity Book, Supplementary materials provided by instructor.

**Latin Grade 7** One Semester Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

In this course, students learn the fundamentals of the Latin language. Some of this foundation is composed of the nominative, dative, and accusative noun cases in three declensions; the present, imperfect and perfect verb tenses; as well as copious vocabulary lists. The primary goal of the course is to develop in the student a linguistic reflex to these basic structures of Latin grammar and syntax. Along the way, students also consider ancient history, how Latin tethers to our own English language, and salient themes in Roman culture. A topic throughout the semester is the archaeology and wealth of knowledge that surrounds Pompeii and the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 CE.

•Texts/Materials/Resources: Cambridge Latin Series: Unit 1 (Cambridge University Press)

**Latin I** Full Year: Grades 8-12 Prerequisites: None Credits: 1

In this course, students learn the fundamentals of the Latin language. Our primary goal is to develop a linguistic reflex to the basic structures of Latin grammar and a foundation in Latin that will prepare students to pursue further study at a college prep pace. Along the way, students will also investigate important aspects of Roman history, geography, and culture, and practice English word derivation.

Following the reading-based approach, students move through the first two units of the series.

Upon completion of this course, students will know three noun declensions, regular and irregular verbs in all indicative tenses, and a significant amount of vocabulary.

•Texts/Materials/Resources: Cambridge Latin Series: Units 1-2 (Cambridge University Press)

**Spanish Grade 6** One Semester Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

In sixth grade, students' backgrounds in Spanish range from none to extensive, should they have studied Spanish or another language in earlier years, or should they study/speak a second language at home. Topics include the alphabet, greetings, expressions of courtesy, numbers, telling time, the calendar and weather, infinitives, gustar and encantar, the gender of nouns, an

introduction to the subject pronouns, and how to conjugate a regular, -AR verb in the present tense. Foreign language study skills are developed, including flash card use, drill work, listening and speaking.

•Texts/Materials/Resources: Realidades A (Pearson/Prentice Hall)

**Spanish Grade 7**                      One Semester Prerequisites: Departmental approval                      Credits: N/A

In the seventh grade Spanish course, students will expand their vocabulary to include a wider range of adjectives and words to discuss school life. The boys will master the subject pronouns and regular -AR, -ER, and -IR verb conjugations in the present tense. Grammar topics include interrogatives and question formation. Students will learn to ask and answer questions in a conversational manner and to use and recognize key classroom expressions. They will also strive to master the spelling and pronunciation rules that will, in turn, enable them to determine whether or not any given word requires a written accent.

•Texts/Materials/Resources: Realidades A (Pearson/Prentice Hall)

**Spanish I**                      Full Year                      Prerequisites: Grade 8 and above                      Credits: 1

The Spanish I course introduces students to listening, speaking, writing, and reading Spanish using the Standards for Foreign Language Learning. The course approaches language through organized topics and situations, allowing students to use Spanish that is relevant to their lives. Students will engage in communicative tasks with readings, presentations, skits, video programs, art, and Internet links to experience the Spanish-speaking world. Vocabulary includes greetings and introductions, leave-takings, numbers, body parts, classroom items and furniture, time, date, weather and seasons, activities, prepositions of location, foods, adverbs of frequency, adjectives, places in the community, and family. Grammar includes definite and indefinite articles, word order, adjective agreement, the near future and present tense verbs, and the verbs gustar and encantar. Geographical and cultural components highlighting Spain and Latin American countries are integrated throughout the curriculum. Students are assessed on their listening, reading, and writing skills through quizzes, tests, written compositions and their verbal communication skills through oral presentations. The teacher will utilize spoken Spanish as much as possible in regular instruction and class management.

•Texts/Materials/Resources: Realidades 1 (Pearson/Prentice Hall), and supplementary resources provided by the instructor.

## **HISTORY**

The study of humanity's global inter-relationship is examined on sociological, political, economic, historic, and geographic scales. It is the history department's belief that the study of the past will enable an understanding of society's present day challenges.

The curriculum of the department is founded upon the principle that a developing set of values, an understanding and appreciation for the past and a tolerance and acceptance for divergent ideals, beliefs, and opinions are essential for the formation of responsible, well-rounded citizens.

The history department encourages the use and development of communication skills in order to enhance the student's ability to comprehend humanity's development in and out of the classroom. Research, critical thinking, and creativity are deemed to be of equal importance. The organization and synthesis of information in both written and verbal forms is stressed.

The graduation requirements for the History department are the three core courses: World Cultures, European History, and U.S. History. While only three full credits are required, students are highly encouraged to broaden their understanding of the discipline through a variety of elective classes available in the Junior and Senior years.

**Global Studies**                      Full Year

Grade 6; Prerequisites: None                      Credits: N/A

In this course, students will learn about the contemporary world. The course will focus on four regions of the globe and their current politics, cultures, and religions. By looking at the modern Middle East, Africa, the Indian Subcontinent and China, students will learn how current global dynamics have been established, and how developments in these regions shape everyday life in the United States. Skill development will be a central focus of this course: note-taking, critical reading and writing, research, and map skills will be emphasized. Students will be working throughout the year with both the technology and library departments to develop appropriate skills sets and learn proper usage of available resources.

**Ancient Mediterranean History and Culture** Full Year

Grade 7; Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

This course will examine the history and culture of the Ancient Empires of the Mediterranean, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Focus will be placed on the development of these cultures, their rise to prominence and accomplishments, and the factors that led to their demise. Students will also learn how these empires have shaped modern western philosophy and governments. This course will provide a solid background in the development of ancient peoples, their cultures, religions, and governments. Skill development will feature prominently, with increased emphasis on critical reading and writing, and use of primary documents. Students will also work throughout the year with both the technology and library departments to develop appropriate skills sets, and learn proper usage of available resources.

**Modern American History and Civics** Full Year

Grade 8; Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

This course will be separated by semester, the first featuring a survey of American civics and government, the second featuring modern American history. Students will examine the founding documents of the nation, as well as those documents instrumental to the founding of the state of Maryland. They will understand the branches of government, as well as the governing principles of the nation. By the end of the first semester, students will have a comprehensive understanding of the way in which the government works, and what the role of a citizen is within the government. The second semester will feature a survey of American history from 1940-1980. Emphasis will be placed on the Civil Rights movement, the Second Red Scare and Cold War, the Vietnam conflict, and the economic developments of the 1980's. The course will examine developments in American society and culture, as well as the influence of foreign policies on the international community. Skill development throughout the year will focus further on primary document analysis, research skills, and critical reading and writing. Students will also work throughout the year with both the technology and library departments to develop appropriate skills sets, and learn proper usage of available resources.

**LIBRARY**

The Boys' Latin School libraries are designed to support the educational goals and mission of the school. The library department has three main goals in its mission statement: to provide a resource center for students to gain answers to their informational questions and develop their ability to analyze and evaluate information acquired through both print and digital sources; to instill in students the desire to become lifelong readers; and to create a diverse collection and program that promotes intellectual freedom for all students and staff.

**Independent Reading 7** Full Year

Grade 7; Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

This course offers students an opportunity to develop reading habits that will encourage them to become lifelong readers. The class will meet in the library. During this time the boys will choose and read a book that is appropriate for their reading level. Book talks will be given and class discussions will be held to encourage the boys to choose a variety of genres.

**Independent Reading 8** Full Year

Grade 8; Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

This course is designed to continue fostering and nurturing the independent reading habits that the students began developing in seventh grade. Throughout the year students will read and respond to their reading through projects, reading journals, and discussion. This course will allow the students choice in selection of their reading materials, and continue to encourage the creation of lifelong readers.

**MATHEMATICS**

The mathematics program strives to provide each student with the opportunity to reach his own level of excellence. Learning proceeds from concrete levels to symbolic and abstract levels, developing all varieties of computational skills. Our goal is to facilitate mathematical literacy at all levels—from basic problem solving to standardized test skills to abstract reasoning performed at a post-secondary level. Students apply mathematical concepts in other academic areas and appreciate the purpose and power of the world's most precise natural science.

**Mathematics 6** Full Year Prerequisites: Mathematics 5 Credits: N/A

While reinforcing basic computational skills, this course extends the students' understanding into pre-algebra topics. Additionally, enrichment topics such as math history and probability and statistics are included to help the student gain an appreciation of the study of math. Evaluative criteria include tests and quizzes, homework and board work, math as written language through vocabulary and journal development, individual projects, class participation, and problem solving skills.

Texts/Materials/Resources: *Transition Mathematics* (Prentice Hall), *Middle Grades Math: Tools for Success Course 2* (Prentice Hall), *Progress in Mathematics* (Sadlier Oxford) text support materials and software, *The Arithmetic Teacher* and *Mathematics Teacher* magazines, *Scholastic Math* magazine, TI-34 calculator classroom sets with overhead model.

**Mathematics 7** Full Year Prerequisites: Mathematics 6 Credits: N/A

In this course the student is introduced to manipulative techniques of variables. While strengthening problem solving and computational skills, the students will experience the fundamentals of mathematics-exploring vocabulary, estimation, and mental computation, and enrichment activities. Evaluative criteria include tests and quizzes, homework and board work, math as written language through vocabulary and journal development, individual projects, class participation, and problem solving skills.

Texts/Materials/Resources: *Middle Grades Math: Tools for Success, Course 3* (Prentice Hall), text support materials and software, *The Arithmetic Teacher* and *Mathematics Teacher* magazines, *Scholastic Math* magazine, TI-34 calculator classroom sets with overhead model.

**Pre-Algebra** Full Year Grade 7; Prerequisites: Mathematics 6 and departmental approval Credits: 1

The pre-algebra course is designed for those students who have demonstrated a readiness to approach the abstract concepts of basic algebra. In addition to working with variables, factoring, and solving equations, students are offered a variety of enrichment activities which prepare them for Algebra I. Evaluative criteria include tests and quizzes, homework and board work, math as written language through vocabulary and journal development, individual projects, and class participation.

Texts/Materials/Resources: *Prentice Hall Pre-Algebra*, text support materials and software, *The Arithmetic Teacher* and *Mathematics Teacher* magazines, *Scholastic Math* magazine, TI-34 calculator classroom sets with overhead model.

**Algebra I** Full Year Grade 7; Prerequisites: Pre-Algebra and departmental approval Credits: 1

This course is designed for students who are able to master abstract algebraic principles. Students will study linear equations, graphs, and systems of equations, and explore three new concepts: polynomials, rational algebraic expressions, and irrational numbers. Evaluative criteria include tests and quizzes, homework and board work, math as written language through vocabulary and journal development, individual projects, and class participation. Students recommended by the math department enter geometry honors in the eighth grade. Texts/Materials/Resources: *Algebra: Tools for a Changing World* (Prentice Hall), text support, materials and software, overhead visuals, TI-83 graphing calculator required.

**Algebra I** Full Year Grades 8 or 9; Prerequisites: Pre-algebra or departmental approval Credits: 1

Students will translate English into algebraic symbols and equations, and solve word problems. They also will manipulate integers and rational numbers while studying the properties of these sets. Students will study linear equations, graphs, and systems of equations, and explore three new concepts: polynomials, rational algebraic expressions, and irrational numbers. Students will also factor algebraic expressions and investigate inequalities.

Texts/Materials/Resources: *Prentice Hall Algebra: Tools for a Changing World*, text support materials and software, overhead visuals.

**Geometry** Full Year Prerequisites: Algebra I Credits: 1

After an introduction to the basic figures of geometry, students will explore the properties of points, lines, planes, angles, and solids. Plane figures to be studied in detail include triangles, quadrilaterals, right triangles, and circles. Students also investigate similarity and the geometry of transformations. Logic and reasoning are stressed through the study of formal and informal deductive reasoning.

Texts/Materials/Resources: *Discovering Geometry* (Key Curriculum Press), TI-83+ graphing calculator, computer software *The Geometer's Sketchpad* (Key Curriculum Press).

**Geometry with Trigonometry (Honors)** Full Year Prerequisites: Algebra I (B or above) or departmental approval Credits: 1

This course consists of topics outlined in the geometry course with a focus on formal deductive reasoning. In addition, a substantial amount of trigonometry will be introduced including the six trigonometric functions. Performance in this course will determine placement in future accelerated courses.

Texts/Materials/Resources: *Discovering Geometry* (Key Curriculum Press), TI-83+ graphing calculator, computer software *The Geometer's Sketchpad* (Key Curriculum Press).

**Algebra II/Trigonometry** Full Year Prerequisites: Geometry (successful completion or concurrent enrollment) Credits: 1

Students in Algebra II study the following concepts: operations, manipulation and problem solving of linear, absolute value, quadratic, rational, irrational, polynomial, exponential and logarithmic equations; inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities including linear programming, and imaginary numbers operations. The trigonometry concepts that students explore are definition and applications of six basic trigonometric functions, the solving of right and non-right triangles. Students utilize TI-83+ calculators, and prepare for the PSAT/SAT tests. A TI-83+ graphing calculator is required.

Texts/Materials/Resources: *Algebra 2* (Prentice Hall), TI-83+ graphing calculator

**Algebra II/Trigonometry (Honors)** Full Year

Prerequisites: Geometry (A- in Geometry or B in Geometry Honors) Credits: 1 and departmental approval

Students in Algebra II-H study the following themes, with an emphasis on abstract manipulation: operations, manipulation and problem solving of linear, absolute value, quadratic, rational, irrational, polynomial, exponential and logarithmic equations; inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities including linear programming, and imaginary numbers operations. The trigonometry concepts that students explore are definition and applications of six basic trigonometric functions, the solving of right and non-right triangles. Students utilize TI-83+ calculators, and prepare for the PSAT/SAT tests. A TI-83+ graphing calculator is required.

Texts/Materials/Resources: *Algebra and Trigonometry: Structure and Method, Book 2* (McDougal-Littell), TI-83+ graphing calculator.

Credits: 1

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The philosophy of the Boys' Latin physical education department is based on the premise that all children, no matter what age, need and desire physical activity in order to maintain physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

The cornerstone of the program is student participation. It is believed that every child, no matter what his ability, should have an equal opportunity to participate in daily activity. Through participation in physical education, boys learn a multitude of life long skills: basic and complex motor skills, sportsmanship, enjoyment in movement, positive self image, overcoming physical limitations, cooperation, teamwork, dedication, and leadership. By providing a well-rounded, positive, safe, and coordinated program where all boys can succeed, the Boys' Latin physical education program aids in the health, education and development of the whole child.

**Middle School Athletics** Full Year Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

Students participate in soccer, football, or cross country during the fall season. During the winter they have their choice of basketball, ice hockey, or Junior League wrestling. In the spring, they have the option of playing baseball, lacrosse, or tennis. Each student participates in one of the above activities Monday through Friday for one hour each day. If a student does not play on an interscholastic team, he participates in physical education.

**SCIENCE**

The continuing advances in today's science require students to prepare themselves to make informed decisions. As citizens, students share in the responsibility for deciding issues that will affect an entire society. Among these issues are questions related to pollution, genetic engineering, energy uses, population control, and personal health. Students at Boys' Latin will be prepared to face these questions with the knowledge they gain through their scientific study. Upon graduation they will be able to function as scientifically literate citizens and succeed in college level courses. The Boys' Latin science program tries to instill in its students a scientific curiosity about the world around them. The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of a diverse student population, taking into consideration a variety of learning styles and abilities. From measuring and exploring to developing and testing hypotheses, scientific knowledge is pursued and critical thinking is developed.

**Science 6** Full Year

Grade 6; Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

Sixth grade science students study life sciences—from the cell to the entire organism—looking for patterns and unique ways to survive. The students explore what is needed for life and how living organisms address the needs of survival, reproduction, and nutrition through laboratory activities, readings, and viewing videos of organisms in their environments. By examining how members of each kingdom and various phyla are adapted to survive, students begin to identify patterns in morphology and behavior as well as discovering unique organisms, which have found unusual ways to live in their environment.

**Science 7** Full Year

Grade 7; Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

In the great astronomer Carl Sagan's book *Cosmos* he says, "Understanding where we live is an essential precondition for improving the neighborhood. Knowing what other neighborhoods are like also helps." In this course, we study our neighborhood (earth) and the many forces like weather and plate tectonics that make it such a fascinating place. The "other neighborhoods" like the sun, moon, planets, and the rest of the universe will be studied. Since those forces of weather that create violent storms and plate tectonics that are the root cause of earth quakes and volcanoes are happening EVERYDAY on our planet, there is a considerable emphasis placed on current event related earth science topics. The middle school science program emphasizes the exploration of science concepts utilizing technology, lab experimentation, simulations, and special projects.

**Science 8** Full Year

Grade 8; Prerequisites: None Credits: N/A

This course is designed to help students appreciate the concepts of the physical world around them. In general, physical science consists of four broad areas: astronomy, physics, chemistry, and Earth sciences. However, science in the eighth grade, examines the chemistry of substances and the physics of everyday phenomena. The first semester involves the following topics: properties of matter, phase changes, elements, compounds, mixtures, atomic theory, electron configuration, periodic properties of elements, writing formulae, balancing chemical equations, identifying chemical reactions, acids and bases. The second semester examines measurements, speed, velocity, acceleration, Newton's Laws of Motion, forces, gravitation, work, energy, power, machines, sound waves, light waves, and electricity. In addition, the middle school science program emphasizes the exploration of science concepts utilizing technology, lab experimentation, simulations, and special projects. By the end of the school year, the student will be able to infer that energy and matter are interrelated and that they help to shape the physical world in which we live. Texts/Materials/Resources: *Physical Science Concepts in Action*(Prentice Hall, 2009)