

Renaissance Academy Middle School Courses 2020-21

Welcome to RA Middle School! Please see below for a list of required and elective course options for 6th-8th students in 2020-2021. All students will be automatically registered for all required courses. Students will be placed in Math Honors courses upon recommendation by their math teacher in 2019-2020. If your student did not attend Renaissance in 2019-2020 and you would like them to be considered for Math Honors, please email Stephanie Avery directly at savery@renacademy.org Please note, elective courses are only available to students in 7th and 8th-grade.

Please email all completed course request forms to Mrs. Avery at savery@renacademy.org as soon as possible. All forms are due by Friday 24th July. MS student schedules will be available for collection from the office from Monday 10th August 2020.

6th-8th REQUIRED COURSES

6th Chinese Immersion Students - Language Arts, Math, Science, Chinese Literature, Social Studies (Chinese), Music, Art, PE and Typing.

6th Non-Immersion Students - Language Arts, Math, Science, World Language (Arabic or Spanish), Social Studies, Music, Art, PE and Typing.

7th Chinese Immersion Students - Language Arts, Math, Science, Chinese Literature, Chinese Culture, Utah Studies (0.5), Health (0.5), PE (0.5), Character Education (0.5), and one elective course per semester.

7th Non-Immersion Students - Language Arts, Math, Science, World Language (Arabic or Spanish), Utah Studies (0.5), Health (0.5), PE (0.5), Character Education (0.5), and two elective courses per semester.

8th Chinese Immersion Students - Language Arts, Math, Science, Chinese Literature, Chinese Culture, US History, Digital Literacy (0.5), College & Career Awareness (0.5), and one elective course per semester.

8th Non-Immersion Students - Language Arts, Math, Science, World Language (Arabic or Spanish), US History, Digital Literacy (0.5) and College & Career Awareness (0.5), and two elective courses per semester.

7th & 8th ELECTIVE COURSE REQUESTS

Please rank in order from 1-10 your students preferred elective courses for 2020-2021. Students should not request subjects they have already taken. All elective courses offered will be dependent upon student interest. If we do not receive enough student interest, a course listed below may be cancelled. Placement in highly sought after elective courses will be determined on a first come/first served basis.

Prerequisite courses - Musical Theatre 2 requires students to have already taken Musical Theatre 1. Space Tech 2 requires students to have already taken Space Tech 1.

# Preference	Course Name	Teacher	Course Description
	Art Foundations 1	Tess Cook	This course places emphasis on the 'Elements of Art' while exploring a variety of materials and techniques that include charcoal drawing, watercolor painting, and tape sculpture. Students will also be working in a sketchbook to develop creative thinking, and technical drawing skills.
	Art Foundations 2	Tess Cook	This course places emphasis on the 'Principles of Design' showing students how to organize the 'Elements of Art' to create effective compositions to communicate their ideas with an exploration in materials such as acrylic painting, cardboard sculptures, and mixed media projects. Students will also be working in a sketchbook to develop creative thinking and technical drawing skills.
	Musical Theatre 1	Dorian Kinder	This class focuses on individual and group performance techniques for skits and plays. Units include focus on staging terminology, physical movement (body, gesture, expression), vocal elements (projection, rate, diction, inflection), and playwriting. The semester typically culminates in a larger group performance. This is a very active class and requires some daily physical participation, teamwork, and some creativity.
	Musical Theatre 2	Dorian Kinder	This class reviews and builds upon the skills built in Musical Theatre

			1. There will be a brief review of staging terminology, physical movement, and vocal elements. This class has a stronger emphasis on playwriting and group performance, typically culminating in a whole-class production from a class playwright, such as Shakespeare or Moliere.
	Stagecraft	Dorian Kinder	This course focuses on all of the non-performance aspects of theater. Students enrolled in this class will help create sets, props, lighting, and sound elements for a production. Students in this class will be held to a higher standard of participation and work-ethic: they must be responsible, willing and independently capable of working with expensive equipment.
	Concert Choir	Dorian Kinder	Emphasis placed on ear-training and in-tune singing. Ear training is practiced daily through small doses of note-writing, sight-reading, and musical dictation. Vocal practice includes a daily warm-up, singing in rounds, and a strong focus on part-singing. Singing will be done in unison, in rounds, and in three part harmony. Choir pieces are selected from a broad variety of genres to teach proper elements of voice such as diction, vocal quality (light/dark), group intonation, proper projection, and musical mood. The semester typically culminates in a group performance.
	Coding	TBA	Students will learn basic coding skills.
	Yearbook (Semester course)	TBA	Students in this course will learn all the skills necessary to help design and produce our 2020-2021 Renaissance school yearbook.
	Yearbook (Full-year course)	TBA	Students in this course will learn all the skills necessary to help design and produce our 2020-2021 Renaissance school yearbook.
	American Sign Language (ASL)	Melissa Covey	Mrs. Covey was raised in a bilingual home and speaks both English and ASL. She is so excited to share her love and knowledge of this language and culture. This course is designed for students with no or minimal sign language experience to develop basic skills in use of ASL and knowledge of Deaf culture. Emphasis will be placed on comprehension and interactional skills using basic grammatical features.

	PE 2	Sarah Tekulve	This PE class can be taken as an elective in addition to any required PE courses.
	Speech & Debate	Camden Robinson	Public speaking is a necessary tool for everyone, it is also one of the most common fears among adults in America. This course helps students prepare and overcome the fear of public speaking through preparation and research, ultimately making them better, more confident public speakers. In the second term, students will learn how to approach a debate, creating arguments that are prepared and well thought out, proving their own point, rather than attacking their opponent. Proper debate techniques teach students that the art of a well structured argument isn't about attacking your opponent, it's about proving your own point, better than they do.
	Space Tech 1	Camden Robinson	Students will learn the basics of many different areas of the Voyager Spaceship and the Space Academy as a whole. This class allows students to learn the 'ins and outs' of being a part of the space academy, from how to volunteer, writing stories or scenes to be told in the ship, acting, stage makeup, and creating their own project to improve the overall experience.
	Space Tech 2	Camden Robinson	Only students who have taken Space Tech I will be allowed to take this course. This course is for those students who are very driven and active within the Space Academy. This course is almost entirely student driven and allows the student to create larger, in depth, projects of their own choosing, building on what they learned in Space Tech I and using that to create their own project, supervised by the teacher.
	Student Success & Study Skills	Camden Robinson	This course is designed to teach students how to be successful when approaching their own learning. This isn't just a "free homework class" it teaches students how the brain absorbs information, different learning styles, how the brain develops, basic note taking skills, academic research, how to be more organized, etc. This class is designed to give students of all skill levels a challenge and allow them to grow into successful, lifelong learners.
	Creative Writing	Jessy Feveryear	This elective allows budding writers the chance to write and share

			their stories and poems. The class is taught in workshop style, and students work on assignments and pieces of their choice guided by the teacher. The class includes creative writing exercises, possibly visits from professional writers, and practice in giving constructive feedback. The class will also help publish a collection of student work.
	'Who done it?'	Jessy Feveryear	Do you like to write creatively and with suspense? Do you like to watch suspenseful movies and shows? Do you know what a red herring is? Well, this mysterious elective might be just the thing for you! This elective will explore the elements of the mystery genre. We will read some mentor texts and watch movie and television clips to understand the mystery genre. We then will develop our creative writing skills to tackle writing and publishing a mystery by the end of the quarter.
	Comics & Graphic Novels	Jessy Feveryear	In the Comics & Graphic Novels elective, students will read a selection from a variety of comics and graphic novels, and craft their own collection of comics and/or graphic stories.
	Best Selling Books	Jessy Feveryear	This elective will highlight best-selling young adult literature in a fun casual book club environment with good conversation/discussion. Books chosen will be advanced reading and content levels to help challenge some readers. Together, we will choose books to read, and discuss. We will also do a few writing assignments that require students to critically think and compare the texts from the course.
	Science Fiction/Fantasy Genre Study	Jessy Feveryear	From <i>The Hunger Games</i> , & <i>Divergent</i> to <i>Harry Potter & Eragon</i> , the Sci-Fi/Fantasy genre has a huge following at Renaissance Academy. Fans of this genre will have the opportunity to read short stories and novels that explore the pillars of sci-fi/fantasy writing. This elective is focused on reading Science-Fiction & Fantasy as mentor texts for discussion, analysis, and as examples to help develop our own original stories.
	Language Arts Club	Jessy Feveryear	Students will receive additional support and instruction on topics covered in their required Language Arts class. This is a remedial

			course for students who require supplemental Language Arts instruction.
	Math Club	Chelsea Smith	Students will receive additional support and instruction on topics covered in their required Math class. Students in Math Honors courses will not be placed in this course.