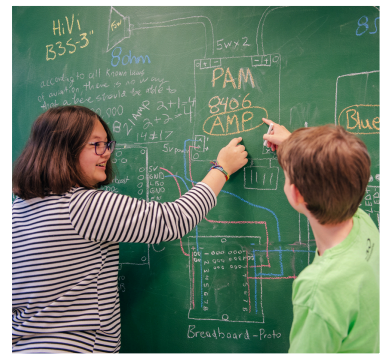


Learn. Grow. Become.™



Woodinville Montessori School

# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG 2024-2025



NWAIS  
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*Middle School students in the Innovation & Design Lab*

# MONTESSORI EDUCATION

## MULTI-AGE LEARNING

The Middle School curriculum is intentionally designed as a two-year cycle, referred to as Year A and Year B, where 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have all of their classes together. All middle school students will take both Year A and Year B classes, but not in the same order. Academic expectations rise as students progress through the program from Grade 7 to Grade 8.

- Year A classes are offered in academic years ending with an odd number, such as 2024 - 2025.
- Year B classes are offered in academic years ending with an even number, such as 2025 - 2026.

## LEADERSHIP

There are multiple opportunities for students to build leadership skills in all classes, such as leading community meetings and lab groups, collaborating in group projects, managing student jobs, planning field trips, and engaging with the whole school community through Middle School Student Business activities.

## FREEDOM OF CHOICE

Students experience freedom of choice by demonstrating their knowledge in core classes through a variety of methods. Students select elective classes, decide on their level of participation in honors work, and set personal goals. Additionally, students are supported in finding work that is meaningful and authentic based on their individual interests within the current curriculum. Freedom of movement continues to be understood and honored as an adolescent need of independence.

**“Our graduates leave WMS with strong academics, a strong sense of self, the ability to confidently self-advocate in college, and the ability to work collaboratively with people whose learning style, work flow, and views may differ from their own. While we are a small school, our students come back from colleges and universities, both large and small, and tell us they were very well-prepared.”**

- Sunita Pailoor, *WMS Head of School*

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

All courses help students develop real world skills in an academically rich, prepared environment. Emphasis is consistently placed on high-quality work, organization and time management, balancing individual workloads, and preparing for the transition to high school. Each quarter, students may choose to challenge themselves beyond the regular classroom work by completing additional honors work in their humanities and/or science classes. The Honors designation on the Progress Report serves as an acknowledgement of a student's intrinsic motivation to learn more or dive deeper into a subject.

## SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

As we aim to support our students on their journey from childhood to adulthood, the psychosocial, emotional and physical well-being of early adolescence is a major focus of the Middle School curriculum. Topics on peace and wellness are intentionally integrated into various areas of the curriculum, including community meeting discussions, humanities activities, guided reflection in classes, one-on-one advisory check-ins and solo time. Throughout the Middle School program, students discuss and explore social topics including identity, peer pressure, belonging and friendship, as well as mental health topics such as balanced living, and peace education. The school's mental health counselor provides mini-workshops to the whole class on topics including mindfulness, stress management, and emotional intelligence; the counselor also meets with individuals and small groups to provide additional social emotional and organizational support.



*Middle School students on a trip to Camp Killoqua in fall 2024*

# COURSE CATALOG 2024-2025

**Our Montessori Middle School Program offers an integrated curriculum, where students' experiences in humanities and science courses are connected through eight quarterly themes: including Identity, Connections, Systems, Interdependence, Force & Power, Structure, Change, and Our Place. Each year, students take classes in Math, Science, Humanities, Culture, Physical Education, Student Business and two elective choices of Studio Art, Music, Cooking, or Innovation and Design Lab.**

## **HUMANITIES (English & Social Studies)**

**Middle School humanities courses combine elements of both English language arts and social studies, enabling students to think critically about what it means to be human. Students explore quarterly themes in the context of history, geography, civics, economics and culture. In addition, literature, art, poetry, non-fiction texts, film, speeches, and other media provide differing perspectives and allow students to engage with each time period, writer, and concept in different ways. Students learn about topics as a whole class and also do independent research into more specific areas of interest. Studies are intentionally centered around themes, not necessarily in chronological order, allowing students to make connections across various times and places.**

**Skill building includes reading analytically, finding their voice as a writer, public speaking, and respectful discussion in Socratic Seminars. Students learn specific writing structures and styles (expository, narrative, persuasive, creative) and grammar is emphasized through small lessons and the revision process. Vocabulary building is incorporated during lessons and readings as students incorporate new word knowledge into their written texts and Socratic Seminar discussions. Opportunities for collaboration and group work are presented throughout the quarter, and students are given challenging texts to annotate and analyze.**

### **Humanities Year A**

The Humanities curriculum focuses on Immigration (Identity), Enlightenment (Connections), the American Civil War (Systems) and 1945-1975 (Interdependence).

### **Humanities Year B**

The Humanities curriculum focuses on revolutions (Force and Power), types of government, civics, and the US Constitution (Structure), 1914-1945 (Change), and the Pacific Northwest (Our Place).

## SCIENCE & LAB INVESTIGATIONS

The science curriculum focuses on scientific investigations and project-based learning opportunities that allow for hands-on interactions with the subject matter. Students engage in individual and group work, participate in discussions, create written and visual works reflective of their understanding, practice using inquiry to guide the scientific method, and take quizzes and tests. Lab groups are structured to promote a collaborative investigative experience. Students write scientific research papers and then design and implement experiments that are presented at the annual Science Fair.

### Life Science (Year A)

The Life Science curriculum includes the study of evolution and classification (Identity), cell biology (Connections), and environmental science (Systems and Interdependence).

### Physical Science (Year B)

The Physical Science curriculum includes the study of motion and forces (Force and Power), matter (Structure), and chemistry (Change). The fourth quarter is integrated with Pacific Northwest Studies.

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST STUDIES

This course is an integrated humanities and science class that has been designed to meet the Washington State History High School graduation requirement. All topics are viewed through the theme of Our Place and include Pacific Northwest biology, geology, geography, and ecoregions, the history of Native peoples, migration patterns, and earthquake mechanisms and detection. A culminating activity of this course is a week-long trip touring many sites in Washington and Oregon. Pacific Northwest Studies is offered in Quarter 4 of Year B.



*Middle School students on a trip to Camp Killoqua in fall 2024*

## **MATH**

**Student placement in math classes is based on careful consideration of prior experience, teacher recommendations, and assessments.**

*All math classes are offered every year.*

### **Math 7**

Math 7 is a highly interactive course focused on the mastery of fractions, decimals, percentages, integers, and solving equations. Special emphasis is given to the development of number sense, pattern finding, multiple representations, and problem-solving skills through activities that require deep, creative thinking. Students learn through active participation in whole-class discussions, working collaboratively on open-ended problems, repeated practice of skills on individual assignments, and introductory experiences with summative assessments. A wide variety of hands-on materials are used to help students bridge from a concrete level of understanding to abstract representations of mathematical concepts.

### **Pre-Algebra**

Pre-Algebra is a course designed to reinforce students' skills in fractions, decimals, integer operations, and problem-solving, while learning how to apply them in new contexts. The year begins with a brief review of skills, then shifts into applying them to solve increasingly complex equations and inequalities. Other units include proportions, probability, geometric shapes and angles, applying percentages to real-life uses such as calculating interest, linear functions and graphing, data analysis, and polynomials. Students also research careers that use the math they study in class, as well as take part in group tasks designed to sharpen their mathematical communication skills while building awareness of real-world applications for the math they study in class.

### **Algebra I**

Algebra 1 is a High School Math class available to qualifying Middle School students. Students in this class receive High School credit. More information can be found in the High School Course Catalog.

### **Geometry**

Geometry is a High School Math class available to qualifying Middle School students. Students in this class receive high school credit. More information can be found in the High School Course Catalog.

## HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Students participate in Physical Education and Health each year.**

### Health

Health is intentionally offered in Quarter 4 each year, after students have had an opportunity to build a comfort level with faculty. Students explore health topics including pathways of disease, nutrition, and sexuality. We incorporate lessons from the OWL (Our Whole Lives) curriculum for sexuality education, and the 7th-8th grade level of the Family Life and Sexual Health curriculum (FLASH) developed by the King County Department of Public Health.

### Physical Education

Middle School Physical Education (PE) consists of a variety of exercises including but not limited to running (distance and sprints), calisthenics, abdominal workouts, and various sports such as soccer, baseball, and frisbee. Students regularly travel off-campus to participate in the sport of Orienteering, a combination of map-reading, walking/running, and a scavenger hunt.

## WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURE

**Students take one semester of Japanese Culture and one semester of Spanish Culture every year.**

### Japanese Culture

Students learn multiple aspects of Japanese culture including customs, lifestyle, music, art, food, folktales, history, holidays, and festivals. Class projects allow for hands-on learning and include cooking, art appreciation, singing, and special presentations. Some useful Japanese conversational expressions are also introduced.

- In Year A, the Japanese Culture curriculum emphasizes history, poems, festivals and traditional society.
- In Year B, the focus is on school, literature, geography and modern society.

### Spanish Culture

This class introduces students to the vast variety of experiences that comprises Spanish-speaking cultures. Students learn about some traditions of the indigenous peoples in Spanish-speaking countries as well as Spanish and Latin-American art (including music), food, literature, history, holidays, and festivals. Some useful Spanish conversational expressions are also introduced.

- In Year A, the Spanish Culture curriculum focuses on the cultural experiences of Latinx people in the United States.
- In Year B, the emphasis is on the geography of Latin America.



## ELECTIVES

**In Middle School, in-school electives are semester-long classes, with specific projects and activities changing from year to year.**

***Students take two elective classes every year.***

### **Cooking**

Students work in groups in the WMS Teaching Kitchen to learn how to make simple parts of a meal from scratch, design their own recipes, and plan multi-course meals. Students learn how to break down a cooking activity into step-by-step tasks and how to work collaboratively. This hands-on class is aimed to increase students' confidence with trying new recipes and cooking on their own. Students build skills in reading recipes, become comfortable using a diverse set of kitchen tools, and sample new foods. Examples of their tasty work include pies, cookies, soups, types of salad dressings, and more.

### **Innovation & Design Lab (STEM)**

Hands-on work with materials such as leather, cardboard, wood, vinyl, and adhesives help students develop an understanding of the properties of different materials and appropriate tool use. Students engage with various types of technology such as circuits, robotics, 3D modeling, and 3D printer operation. Adobe Illustrator software is used to help students learn vector design for laser engraving, laser cutting, and vinyl cutting. Throughout the semester, students are encouraged to be creative and to use their newfound skills in projects in cross-curricular subjects. Past integrated opportunities have included the creation of a chess set and a foosball table for the Middle School.

### **Music History**

Students will learn about the development of music through the centuries from the Middle Ages to the 20th Century across Europe, Africa, Asia and North and South America. Lessons include listening activities, music analysis, composition, class discussion, and student-led group projects. Students will become familiar with influential composers and their works and play a few iconic pieces in an ensemble setting. As the students explore the music of each era, they will discover how history helped shape that era's music and how music shaped history.

### **Studio Art**

As students explore artists and create visual art, they learn to transform spaces through learned techniques and materials while using creative problem-solving skills and cultivating compassion and empathy. Throughout the semester, students are guided through each project as they delve into their artistic processes and practice skills in drawing, painting, 3-D artworks, mixed media, land art, collaborative group projects, and more. All artworks are presented at the all-school Art Walk in the spring, showcasing each student's creative skills and unique artistic ability.

## **STUDENT BUSINESS**

### **Students participate in Student Business each year.**

Student Business is a yearlong program that provides opportunities for direct experience with the development and running of micro-economies. Middle School students engage in meaningful production and exchange through three components: Pizza Delivery, Kids Night Out, and Farmer's Market. All money raised from these Student Business ventures offsets the costs of student overnight trips and activities.

For Pizza Delivery, students learn about basic safe food handling practices and procedures for delivering pizza in teams to all WMS elementary and secondary classrooms.

Kids Night Out (KNO) is a bi-monthly themed event where students plan, prepare activities, and provide childcare for the greater school community.

The Middle School Farmer's Market allows students to brainstorm ideas for handmade products, then work within teams to create supply lists, marketing plans, and prototypes before launching into larger-scale production for their winter and spring markets.

## **ROTATING BLOCK**

### **Students participate in Rotating Block each year.**

This flexible time in the Middle School schedule is reserved each week for rotating activities including discussions surrounding special topics or current events, media and information literacy, math enrichment, and student presentations.

# WMS GRADE 7 SAMPLE WEEKLY SCHEDULE (2024-2025)

*Blue-shaded blocks are in separate Alder/Ginkgo classes, green-shaded blocks are mixed-class groups*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 - 9:25	Art <sup>1</sup>	Science Launch	Humanities Solo Time Work Time	Comm. Meeting Work Time	Rotating Block
9:30 - 10:25	Pre-Algebra <sup>2</sup>	Pre-Algebra		Pre-Algebra	Pre-Algebra
10:30 - 11:25	Spanish Culture <sup>3</sup>	PE	Lunch	Spanish Culture	PE
11:30 - 12:15	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch/Recess	Student Business Pizza Delivery + Lunch
12:15 - 1:25	Community Meeting & Weekly Launch Humanities Launch	Circle and Solo Time Humanities	Art	Humanities (Small Groups)	Comm. Meeting Solo Time & Reflection Work Time
1:30 - 2:25			Student Business or Orienteering		
2:30 - 3:20	Work Time + Study Support	Group Work Time	Jobs	Science Labs (Small Groups)	Work Time Emails Home
3:20 - 3:30	Jobs	Jobs		Jobs	

**Alternate Options:**

1. Cooking, Music, ID Lab
2. Math 7, Algebra 1, Geometry
3. Japanese Culture