

**Course Descriptions**  
**Monday/Wednesday Middle School Classes**  
**(8th graders are also invited to sign up for Tae Kwon Do on Tuesdays & Thursdays)**

**MS Life Science**

Students will explore Life Science topics through lab investigations, research, readings, and discussions. Students will complete labs in class two days per week and homework assignments at home three days per week. Students will need internet access to complete homework assignments and will need to check a school issued email weekly.

**MS Earth Science**

This Earth Science program utilizes the FOSS NGSS (New Generation Science Standards) based curriculum for Life Science. The class will be a hands-on, class run program where students could interact with the Earth. The focus of the classwork and homework will be on Earth's history, and weather and water.

**MS Physical Science**

This class will cover all of the concepts expected of a middle school physical science class, including: The Structure of Matter, Interactions of Matter, Force and Motion, and the Universe. We will use Holt Physical Science Book, and students will be expected to read and answer questions found in this book each week at home. Class time will be spent almost entirely on lab activities, review of complicated concepts, and exams. In addition, students will be assigned one project (such as a model or written report) and one presentation each semester. Regular attendance, internet, and the ability to work at home in a textbook is what is needed to succeed in this class!

**Math 6**

Students will be introduced to prior learned and new math content including: ratios and proportions, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry and introducing statistics and probability. We will be using Glencoe Math Course 1 curriculum.

**Math 7**

This is a continuation of our Onsite Math 6 course, using Glencoe Math Course 2 curriculum. Students will be introduced to prior learned and new math content including: Ratios and Proportional Reasoning, Percents, Integers, Rational Numbers, Algebraic Expressions, Equations and Inequalities, Beometric Figures, Measure Figures, and Probability.

**Math 8**

This course is designed to prepare students for a rigorous college preparatory high school mathematics course using the CPM Core Connections Course 3 curriculum and various teacher generated projects and activities.

**MS Writing Performance Task FREE!**

Do you feel confused when you read the performance task directions for the end of the year CAASPP Test? Join this class and you will know what to do when the time comes. Practice reading articles and writing creative stories and essays in response. Learn to use transitional phrases and cite your sources. Practice performance task writing with friends and peers to have fun and learn from one another. We will be using Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Online: Performance Assessment: Grade 6-8 Workbooks as well as Google classroom. This is an academic middle school class and as such requires an hour of work each day of the week. Students will complete a writing project every two weeks. Students receive regular progress reports and grades using Jupiter Grades online. Students benefit from parent participation with homework. After testing the class will explore poetry writing and spoken word poetry.

**MS Spanish**

This full-year class will introduce students to the Spanish language through development of receptive and productive vocabulary, conversation, writing, cultural awareness and introductory grammar concepts. Students sometimes find they are challenged beyond their comfort level when they begin study of Spanish in high school, as a significant amount of material is presented fairly quickly. This class provides students with skills and practice that builds confidence for heading into High School Spanish 1 at Alder Grove or elsewhere. A curriculum appropriate for Middle School is followed, with an emphasis on interactive, hands-on activities. Weekly homework to reinforce content and commit vocabulary to memory is required.

**Monday Classes**

**Group A Math & P.E.**

In this class we will play movement games while exploring basic math concepts such as skip counting, number order, counting on, even/odd, and patterns on the hundreds chart.

**Group A Playing at Reading & Writing**

Language arts made fun with games such as Fishy Fishy, triangle tag, and Mail Bag. Students rotate through rug time reading, reading games and Big Books, and writing groups. Students will use a Write Source Text and practice writing many genres such as informative/expository, argumentative, literary review, and narrative writing. Students will spend a month or more on each project slowly adding to it and taking it through the writing process. Students will practice penmanship while writing using Handwriting Without Tears materials in class.

### **Group A Plant & Herb Science**

This class will be learning about herbs, health benefits of herbs, making things with herbs and creating Herb Fact books. We read books and discuss key ideas and then students write their information in their books with illustrations. Students will also make various items with herbs. The students will have to do a great deal of writing in this class, since they will be making a Herb Fact book. We will also play herb games while learning about the health benefits of herbs.

### **Group B Plant & Herb Science**

This class will be learning about herbs, health benefits of herbs, making things with herbs and creating Herb Fact books. We read books and discuss key ideas and then students write their information in their books with illustrations. Students will also make various items with herbs. The students will have to do a great deal of writing in this class, since they will be making a Herb Fact book. We will also play herb games while learning about the health benefits of herbs.

### **Group B Math & Logic**

This class will teach foundational math concepts and critical thinking skills. I use the AIMS curriculum in weekly lessons where students will work as a whole group, small group and independently to solve logic problems and play games reviewing core math concepts.

### **Group B Hand Sewing**

This class will introduce students to hand sewing materials and how to use them. Students will learn how to thread a needle and tie a knot, as well as a variety of stitches and their purpose. Class projects will include creating a stitch book and making a stuffed chicken as a final project.

### **Group C Lego Mindstorms**

Students will work in collaborative groups to build and program robots using Lego curriculum.

### **Group C Hand Sewing**

This class will help students to develop skills in hand-sewing. While hand stitching may appear simplistic, there is much to be considered. Students will learn (or review) threading, knot-tying, and different types of hand stitches and their purpose. Students will engage in a variety of projects, including a final project of the creation of stuffed creature of their design.

### **Group C Music Appreciation**

What is Music? Beethoven once said that it is "A higher revelation than all of Wisdom and Philosophy" and Louis Armstrong said that "all music is folk music. I ain't never heard a horse sing a song." Whatever it is, I believe music is an important part of the human experience. This class will survey music from early times up through Jazz and the Modern Era. Students will learn basic musical terminology to allow them to describe and understand music more thoroughly. Both Western "Classical" music and "World" music will be discussed in an attempt to expand our notion of what music is. Students will be familiarized with the instruments of the Orchestra as well as non-Western instruments. We will also explore how music affects a culture and how cultures and worldviews affect music. Classes will involve looking at the historical context of musical pieces and actively listening to them. Hopefully, we will be able to go listen to the Eureka Symphony live during the Schools to Symphony performance.

### **MS Go Strengths NEW!**

Join this middle school class to learn how to support your strengths, reduce stress, increase relaxation, bounce back from a hard day, and enjoy your life. We will watch a series of short cartoons geared to middle school viewers, engage in discussions and do activities all designed by Gozen. This program will give you ideas that you can use right away. The program introduces itself saying that some people "think of well-being as overcoming all the challenges they face. What science shows is that to live a great life, you have to do more than just get rid of the "bad stuff." Well-being also includes finding fulfillment, purpose, meaning, and joy in your life. Yes, true well-being includes increasing the "good stuff" too! Learn about the negativity bias that people are born with and how to balance it out. Learn about resilience and how to bounce back from disappointment. Learn what contributes to happiness. Explore many other concepts such as how to change your mindset and how to foster optimism.

## **Wednesday Classes**

### **Parent Workshop FREE!**

For students in TK-1st grades and their parents. This is a fun, free, weekly workshop where parents get pointers and support on the earliest fundamental skills for learning. Months 1, 3 and 5 will be focused on reading and writing skills and months 2, 4 and 6 will be exploring math skills.

### **Group A Yoga & Science**

Students will learn beginning yoga poses through games, songs and group activities. We will learn about the human body, animals, seasons and habitats as we move through poses and play games.

### **Group B Yoga & Life Skills**

Students will learn beginning yoga poses through games, songs and group activities. Discussion of life skills such as calming, focus, health and teamwork will be incorporated into yoga lessons.

### **Groups A, B and C Fun With Art**

We will experiment with a variety of art materials to learn skills and techniques, and also just to have fun. Our inspiration will be famous artists, literature, and the projects themselves. Returning students are welcome!

### **Group C Spanish**

*¿Hablas español?* This class introduces the Spanish language through activities that engage students to listen and speak in a supportive atmosphere where playful, communicative games and activities are emphasized. Through an Interactive Notebook process, students also read and write in Spanish, creating a personalized book throughout the semester that contains their vocabulary lists, pictures/drawings, and conversational questions/replies. Appropriate for students with no or minimal Spanish experience, as well as for those who already know some Spanish and want to keep going with it.

### **Group C Digital Art**

Students will learn new ways to get creative with a computer. Our main goal is to bring traditional drawing, painting and photography techniques together with digital tools. We will cover the fundamentals such as color, value and shape to make personal art. Students will be expected to draw comics, manipulate photos/videos, make art using code blocks and bring a positive attitude to the computer lab each week.

### **Grades 7-8 Reproductive Health & Well Being During Puberty**

This course will cover pertinent aspects of adolescent health including, but not limited to; basic anatomy and functions of the reproductive systems, pregnancy, birth, gender, sexuality, abstinence, making safe choices regarding intimacy and dating, accessing clinical services, condoms, birth control, STD prevention, testing and treatment and communicating with trusted adults. Social and personal issues, creating healthy relationships with peers or romantic interests, recognizing abuse or unhealthy patterns, accessing helpful resources, navigating social settings, using social media safely, managing stress and finding tools to navigate stress will also be included in the curriculum. This class is offered to give young teens vital information regarding their reproductive and general health during puberty and in many facets of their teen life, as well as prepare them for making healthy choices as they become older teenagers. The course will include lecture, display models, demonstrations, video, and class participation. Assignments will be given to complete at home including some reading assignments, talking with parents or guardians, and web related content. Having access to the internet will be helpful in completing several of the courses. Due to the nature of the class and the opportunity for question and answer session, some topics may be addressed that aren't listed here. I always reinforce that teens talk to their parents and trusted adults when they ask questions about topics such as abortion, time of sexual debut, dating etc. I will answer questions regarding all the above issues and remind teens that all families have varying opinions about all topics regarding sexual and overall health, and the importance of respecting family values.

### **MS Intro to Coding**

Students learn the basics of coding while gaining advanced problem-solving skills. Projects will include designing a video game, building a mobile app and programming really big buttons. Class meets in the computer lab once a week. Materials list will be provided.

## **Tuesday/Thursday High School Classes**

### **Algebra 1 Basics**

This is an algebra course recommended for high school students who are not on the 4-year college track. It covers much the same content as Algebra 1 but with shorter units and homework problems that do not go much beyond the basic algebra skill level.

### **a-g Integrated Math 1**

Math 1 following common core state standards using CPM Integrated I text and various teacher generated projects and activities.

### **a-g Financial Literacy**

Students will explore units in banking, saving, investing, borrowing, insurance, and credit among others. Students must be prepared to check email daily and complete homework assignments online. Students who complete both of these classes onsite with a grade of B- or better will have the option of earning three (3) CR college units. If student is not meeting this criteria by the first progress report period, students will be withdrawn from the college portion of the course with a "W" on their college transcript. They will still be able to earn high school credits if they pass the course.

**\*\*Please take into consideration and discuss this option with your students' to establish commitment to the college credit option.**

Registration for college course will take place during the first two weeks of class, so a commitment must be made at that point.

**\*\*If students DO want the 3 college unit option for CCR/Personal Finance, please add CR General Studies 7 to their masters.**

**\*\*If students DO NOT want the 3 college units, just put the standard a-g College and Career Readiness or a-g Personal Finance. The personal finance class is an a-g ELECTIVE. It will count as ADDITIONAL MATH for GRADUATION, but NOT FOR CSU/UC MATH requirement.**

### **a-g Biology**

Using the Oak Meadow curriculum, this class starts the first semester with the fundamental theories and basic understanding of biology. The second semester is a more in-depth focus of the biological world starting with prokaryotes and eukaryotes and working all the way through to human physiology. There isn't necessarily a prerequisite for this program, but it is a college-readiness based class. There *will be* at least 3 hours of homework a week.

### **a-g Algebra 2**

Algebra 2 following common core state standards using CPM Integrated III text and various teacher generated projects and activities.

### **a-g Spanish 1**

This college-prep course is an introduction to the Spanish language and Spanish-speaking cultures. Students will learn to Spanish vocabulary and grammar through imitation and repetition in speech and in writing. Students are expected to participate in all class activities and show a willingness to speak Spanish daily. Students are expected to complete oral, listening, and written practices independently and must have access to a computer for online work.

### **a-g Chemistry**

**Prerequisite: Algebra 1 completed with a grade of C or better, regular HS-level English required**

This year-long Chemistry class will cover all of the concepts expected of high school student planning to attend a four-year college. Students will attend class on site for 2 days each week, with 3 days of work completed by the student at home. Class time will be spent almost entirely on lab activities, review of complicated concepts, and exams. Students will write two lab reports and give one presentation each semester, in addition to weekly homework. Regular attendance, internet, and the ability to work at home in a textbook is what is needed to succeed in this class!

### **a-g Integrated Math 2**

Math 2 following common core state standards using CPM Integrated II text and various teacher generated projects and activities.

### **a-g Spanish 2**

This college-prep course is a continuation and expansion of the students' vocabulary, grammar, and understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures learned in Spanish 1. Classroom time will be focusing on speaking and listening, utilizing new and old vocabulary, through activities, games, presentations, and projects. Students are expected to complete oral, listening, and written practices independently and must have access to a computer for online work. This course moves quickly. Students must be prepared to do homework.

### **a-g Speech Communications TUESDAYS ONLY (offered for Fall Semester only)**

This once a week course will count for 2.5 credits of CP English. Students will learn the art of public speaking. Students will be required to complete weekly homework assignments and prepare for weekly presentations. Students will learn how to present a variety of speeches: autobiographical, informative, and persuasive formal speeches, along with poetry memorization, mock interviews, and many informal assignments.

### **a-g English 9-10**

English 9-10 is a course in the development of college-level reading, writing, and critical thinking skills, emphasizing literary analysis and critique. Students analyze ideas and structure in assigned readings and compose essays which explore historical connections and intellectual response. The in-class component of the course is scheduled in the AGCS computer lab, where students will receive individualized instruction in critical reading, the conventions of standard written English, and in all stages of the writing process. Note **this class is designed for students who are college-bound**, as the level of critical reading, writing, and thinking is designed to prepare them for the rigors of academic work in higher education. In addition to course lectures, students will be expected to read out loud with and to the class as we explore the various novels, stories, and documents which comprise the content of the course. This means *students should be able to read at or above their grade level*, and have some practice in reading aloud to themselves or family members. English 9/10 will introduce students to the joys of literary expression and analysis, so avid readers and thinkers are welcome!

### **a-g Evolution of Art**

This course will focus on the artistic traditions of the Western World from the ancient period to today. Students will consider a variety of forms including paintings, drawings, sculpture, architecture and printmaking and will draw on their skills of critical visual analysis and historical context to understand the ever-evolving nature of art throughout human history. This course will incorporate a variety of issues in art history, including politics, gender, religion, patronage, function and audience. Throughout the year the students will be guided by Essential Questions: **What is art and how is it made? Why and how does art change? How do we describe our thinking about art? This course seeks to hone historical thinking and English writing skills and can be counted toward fulfillment of Visual and Performing Art, English and Elective credits.**

### **a-g College & Career Readiness**

In this class, students will develop important skills which will help them reach their post-secondary education and career goals. Students work through a process that answers the questions: Who Am I? What Do I Want? How Do I Get It? Students follow up with research and workshops that will help develop positive attitudes & aptitudes that promote College & Career Readiness and Financial Literacy.

### **Tae Kwon Do (grades 8-12)**

Students will learn basic strikes and blocks, how to escape common dangerous situations and learn conceptual self-defense, including how to use body language and voice. Students will also learn the basic stances and kicks of Tae Kwon Do, as well as some Korean language and culture.

### **CR English 1A**

The 2019-20 school year is the first year we will offer English 1A from College of the Redwoods as a dual enrollment course at Alder Grove Charter School. The course offers the Alder Grove students who pass full transfer-level credits (4.0) in college English, which will be

awarded to them once they enroll in CR and take/pass classes there for at least ONE semester. **The course is thus designed for college-bound/college ready students in the 11th and 12th grades, and will extend over the entire school year.** It is recommended that *students who are interested should be writing and reading at or above grade level.* English 1A is a transfer-level course in critical reading and reasoned writing. Students analyze issues and claims presented in visual, oral, or written arguments and write analytical and argumentative essays based on those issues. Research and source-based writing, along with the employment of correct MLA documentation, is required. In addition, students will take in-class exams, write an extended research project, and present an end-of-term portfolio that showcases their best writing over the academic year. Student are required to have familiarity and facility with computers and the programs Microsoft Word, Google Docs/Slides, or PowerPoint, and a learning management system (Google Classroom) will be used to assign and submit essays and readings. This exciting course offers much potential for students who are looking to enter higher education with a cohort of Alder Grove students, and is taught by an instructor who teaches at CR and Alder Grove. Please refer qualified, college-bound students to English 1A, being taught for the first time at Alder Grove!

### **Health & Wellness Course; Reproductive, Social & Personal Well Being NEW! (THURSDAYS ONLY)**

This course will comprehensively cover issues pertinent to teen health; basic anatomy and function of the reproductive systems, sexual health including making informed choices about sexual activity, abstinence, birth control, condoms, pregnancy, accessing clinical services, STD prevention, testing and treatment and the ever important issue of consent and open communication. Gender, sexuality, healthy relationships, recognizing unhealthy patterns and abuse, managing stress, navigating social settings and challenges, and navigating social media safely will be addressed as well. General health and nutrition will be covered regarding choosing nutritious foods, balancing meals, incorporating exercise and stress relieving activities.

This class is offered to give teens vital information regarding their sexual and general health in many facets of their teen life, as well as prepare them for making healthy choices after high school. The class will include lecture, video, demonstrations, display models and participation from students. Take home assignments will be given, and access to internet will be beneficial in completing several of the assignments. Due to the nature of the class and the opportunity for question and answer sessions, some topics may be addressed that aren't listed here. I always reinforce that teens talk to their parents and trusted adults when they ask questions about topics such as abortion, time of sexual debut, dating etc. I will answer questions regarding all the above issues and remind teens that all families have varying opinions about all topics regarding sexual and overall health, and the importance of respecting family values.

### **CTE Game Design**

This course combines three major topics: Game Theory, Animation and Programming. Students will be given weekly assignments and classroom activities designed to inspire creativity. This is the first course in a 2 year (4 semester) CTE Games and Simulations. Graduating high school students must have completed one course in visual or performing arts, foreign language, or CTE.

## **Friday Classes**

**Please note appropriate grade levels.**

### **Beginning Piano (grades 4-12)**

In this class we will cover beginning, basic piano technique and theory(note and rhythm reading, dynamics), using short pieces of music as well as written exercises. There will be an optional opportunity at the end of the semester for students to perform one of the pieces we learned solo at the end of term performance. Students who sign up for this class should have had little to no piano experience.

### **Building Math Minds (sign up with your CT only!) - grades 6-8**

Building Math Minds is a weekly 55-minute Math Intervention course that will be team-taught with 2 other instructors. The class will focus on number sense, fluency, problem solving, and math-confidence. Students, in groups up to 10, will circulate through two to three stations, including Math Games, Rich Tasks/Number Talks, and Assessment. **This year-long class is invite-only with priority given to students on Academic Support.**

### **Intermediate/Advanced Piano (grades 4-12)**

In this class we will focus on more advanced levels of piano playing as well as advanced scales and theory. Students will learn all major and minor scales in both hands as well as chords. Students will play at least 2 intermediate to advanced piano pieces, one that I choose and one the students will choose. We will focus time in class to learning these pieces. There will be an option for each student to perform one of the pieces at the end of term performance. Students signing up for this class should have some experience in playing piano.

### **Rock Band (grades 5-12; or instructor approval)**

This class focuses on introducing students to the genre of Rock music. Students will play songs which typify the genre and will also explore other types of music. Although students are encouraged to have some background playing an instrument or singing, it is also open to students who are willing to dive in and fully participate to the best of their ability. Skills taught are basic chord progressions, song structure, actively listening to each other and successfully collaborating as a group. Students will work as a group and increase their ability to creatively collaborate for a group performance held at the semester's end. Open to guitar, bass, vocals, keyboards, drums, horns, in addition to other instruments.

### **Intermediate/Advanced Choir (grades 4-12)**

In this class we will work on advanced vocal technique, harmonization, choral technique, and performance technique. The students will learn 3-5 songs throughout the semester and will perform at the end of term show.

**Dance (grades K-5)**

In this class students will learn line dances, partner dancing, hip-hop moves, multicultural dances, freestyle and dance steps to various songs.

**Advanced Rock Band (grades 5-12; by audition only!)**

This advanced class will have students working on refining their abilities as well as their ability to creatively coordinate with peers. For students who have previous experience (2 years is recommended) and are willing to work on their craft. Instruments played can extend past the traditional "Rock Band" instruments. Contact [hilson.parker@aldergrovecharter.org](mailto:hilson.parker@aldergrovecharter.org) for details regarding tequauditions.

**Flute (grades 4-12)**

Students will learn the parts of a flute, proper finger placement, posture, pitch, tone, technique, scales, proper care, how to play various songs, and how to read sheet music, transcribe sheet music.

**Musical Theater (grades K-3)**

Students will develop musical theater skills through a variety of activities: musical and theater games, singing songs and learning choreographed movements, singing stories and listening to dramatic stories with choral reading parts, and developing performance skills. Students will perform a musical theater show for their families on the final class.

**Intro to Music (grades 4-12)**

This class will focus on developing basic musical concepts. This will include listening to music and learning the fundamental concepts of pitch and rhythm through singing, games and practice. We will use more drums and percussion instruments once core skills have been developed. The focus will be on developing key musical concepts, including listening and broadening their appreciation of various music styles from across the globe. In a nutshell the class involves listening, singing and playing music.

**CTE Health Careers 1 (grades 9-12)**

Students focus on day-to-day skills and expectations for health professionals, which include promoting wellness, maintaining a safe environment, creating medical records, and practicing good communication, collaboration, and leadership. In addition, students will expand their understanding of health and safety systems, how to address emergency situations, and deal with infection control issues. Students will also explore topics in medical science, terminology, procedures, and regulations - including an overview of physiology and medical measurements. Using real-life scenarios and application-driven activities, students learn the responsibilities and challenges of being health care professionals and deepen their knowledge of various career options.

**Beginning Choir (grades K-3) - offered for Fall Semester only**

In this class we will focus on beginning vocalization through short songs and warm ups as well as games. The students will learn how to sing as a group as well as basic singing technique and rhythm. We will learn many songs, of which we will choose 2-3 to be performed at the end of term show.

**Tai Chi (grades 4-12)**

Students will learn the Yang Short form of Tai-Chi, most commonly used throughout China. Tai-Chi is a form of martial arts that is used to increase focus, balance, grace, and flexibility. Students will need to wear comfortable clothing to stretch and practice the forms easily.

**Beginning Guitar (grades 4-12)**

The class will introduce students to the basic techniques of playing the guitar. This entails correct hand position for body posture. Students will learn how to read guitar chord charts, tablature and will be introduced to the basics of reading music. Focus of the class is on playing popular songs which utilize skills being taught. Students will work as a group and perform as a group performance at the semester's end. In my experience students on the younger end may need to practice slightly more to keep up with the curve, but are more than welcome to join.

**Student Council (grades 6-12) FREE!**

Student Council meets weekly to plan school events and fundraisers.

**Songwriting (grades 5-12)**

Make your own songs!! Goals of this class are to increase your understanding of the songwriting process. We will look at basic song formats and structures. You'll also increase your understanding of how to use chords and make progressions. No instrumental experience required. By playing our original songs together you will increase your ability to collaborate with others in a creative group setting. By recording our songs you will increase your understanding of multi-tracking musical software. No experience necessary! Only requirement is a willingness to participate and create!