8th Grade Program

- English
- Math
  *(Algebra or Geometry series will count towards HS graduation)*
- Science
- Self & Society
- Physical Education
  *(unless taking MPSA Certificate Program)*

*Choice of World Language:*
  *(will count towards HS graduation)*
- Japanese
- Spanish
- Mandarin

*Choice of Elective:*
- Advanced Learning Strategies
- Japanese or Spanish Exploratory
- News Broadcasting I or II
- Digital Media Design I or II
- Design Thinking
- Advanced Design Thinking
- Performing and Visual Arts Workshops
- Theatre Arts Certificate Program
- Dance Certificate Program
- Contemporary Dance
- Orchestra
- Band

Eighth grade students are required to take seven courses each semester.

The 8th grade team is committed to engaging and supporting all students in learning. This is exemplified daily by their efforts to create learning environments that promote student autonomy, interaction, competence and choice. The team continues to provide an atmosphere that nurtures critical thinking skills, oral and written communication, and reasoning analysis. Students are encouraged to assume a greater responsibility for their learning as the year progresses and to advocate for themselves when they need help. This will transition to academic and interpersonal success in High School.
8TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

English 8 (M1200)  
Year course
English 8 integrates the study of literature, composition, and language to further improve students’ skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will develop their reading skills through novels, drama, and poetry and their writing skills through essays, journals, narratives, and poems. Students will also examine the structure of the English language through grammar and vocabulary instruction.

Science 8 (M4200)  
Year course
This is an inquiry-based course that integrates the various areas of science to develop each student’s ability to solve problems by applying scientific principles and concepts. Students are encouraged to design solutions to real-world problems by utilizing various resources while studying who we are and our place in the universe.

Self & Society (M5300)  
Year course
This course covers a variety of civics and guidance topics. Students will explore the challenges of adolescence and positive ways to deal with them. They will also gain an understanding of American government at the local, state, and national levels. Current events and social issues will be integrated throughout the units.

8th Grade Physical Education (M7200)  
Year course
The primary purpose is to encourage a positive attitude toward physical activities and develop habits for a healthy lifestyle. It is important for adolescents to learn terminology used in nutrition and health-related topics.

MATHEMATICS

Students will be placed in courses according to demonstrated knowledge, experience and ability.

Algebra I-A/I-B (M3080)  
Year course
This is a high school credit course and grade will be transferred to the student’s high school transcript.
This course is the first and second of a three-semester study of Algebra. The first semester covers the study of fractions and fractals, data exploration (bar graphs, dot plots, box plots, stem-and-leaf plots), matrices, proportions, probability, relative frequency graphs, direct and inverse variation, and an introduction to similar figures are included. Students are expected to actively participate as they learn these concepts. A graphing calculator and protractor are required. The second semester topics include graphing linear equations, writing equations of lines, solving systems of equations and inequalities and working with exponents and exponential models. The graphing calculator is used regularly.

Algebra I-1/I-2 (M3140)  
Year course
This is a high school credit course and grade will be transferred to the student’s high school transcript.
This course is intensive and rapidly paced. Those enrolling in the course must be recommended by their math teacher(s) and have demonstrated strong ability and motivation. The first semester topics include the fractions and fractals, data exploration, matrices, proportions, probability, relative frequency graphs, direct and inverse variation, an introduction to similar figures, and linear equations. Second semester topics to be covered include solving systems of equations and inequalities, working with exponents and exponential models, the study of functions and transformations, solving quadratic equations, working with quadratic models, and an introduction to geometry. Graphing calculator and a protractor are required.

Geometry A/B (M3180)  
Year course
This is a high school credit course and grade will be transferred to the student’s high school transcript.
This is a two-semester sequence in the study of Euclidean geometry. An investigative approach is taken to the study of geometric reasoning, lines, angles, symmetry, triangles, and polygons. Students learn geometric constructions and how to make conjectures. Students are expected to participate actively in problem solving and communicate effectively during this course. During the second semester, topics include area, volume, transformations, similarity, the Pythagorean theorem, the right triangle trigonometry. Students are expected to actively participate in the investigation of each topic and to learn the relationships that exist with circles and lines. Students learn to make connections between geometric and algebraic concepts. Geometry is studied as a mathematical system and the idea of proof is developed. Graphing calculators are used regularly.
JAPANESE I (M2260)  
*This is a high school credit course and grade will be transferred to the student's high school transcript.*  
This course provides students with a strong foundation of the Japanese language through the development of the four language skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Hiragana will be introduced at the beginning of the first semester and Katakana is introduced at the beginning of the second semester. This course focuses on useful expressions, practical Japanese conversation, and cultural awareness.

SPANISH I (M2600)  
*This is a high school credit course and grade will be transferred to the student’s high school transcript.*  
Learn about different Spanish-speaking worlds, ways of living, and cultures. Acquire practical skills in order to communicate in the target language: speaking (express simple meaningful messages), listening (understand a conversation), writing (write simple essays), reading (understand the meaning of a simple text).

MANDARIN I (M2800)  
*This is a high school credit course and grade will be transferred to the student’s high school transcript.*  
This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to pronunciation, reading, writing, and conversation in Mandarin. Students will acquire an understanding of the sentence structure, written language, the Chinese phonetic system, and idiomatic expressions as they relate to culture and communication.

THEATRE WORKSHOP (M6020)  
Semester course  
This course introduces the student to performance techniques through the ensemble approach. Students will work together as a group to increase their abilities and create their own theatre. Students will participate in warm-ups, theatre games and improvisations, as well as prepare monologues and short theatre pieces, both scripted and student-developed. Students will be evaluated, not only for their work, but also how well they contribute to the group dynamic – one of the most important (and enjoyable) aspects of creating theatre. By the end of the course, students will have a solid foundation for either the Acting I course or the Theatre Arts Certificate Program of the MPSA. Rehearsals and performances may be occasionally scheduled outside the school day and will be required for credit. Attendance at school and community performances may also be required for credit.

8TH GRADE VISUAL ART WORKSHOP (M6030)  
Semester course  
(see also YEAR course)  
The students will be provided opportunities to learn art concepts, gain knowledge of the historical context of art forms, develop and hone technical skills and gain a broad understanding and appreciation of visual art. The first half of the semester concentrates on 2-dimensional art: drawing, painting, and printmaking. Students will learn various techniques and experience using a variety of materials to create art. During the second half of the semester, the students will study 3-dimensional art forms and create sculptures utilizing clay, wire, and paper.

VOCAL ENSEMBLE (M6040)  
Semester course  
This course is designed to expose students to vocal ensemble through work on scenes and songs from traditional and contemporary musical theatre literature. Students will learn proper vocal technique and character development and they will develop an appreciation for individual expression in a situation that requires ensemble cooperation. This course provides a solid foundation for any of the performing arts courses in the Theatre Arts Certificate Programs of MPSA.
Advanced Learning Strategies (M1250)  
**Year course**
This course is designed to help students gain skills that will enable them to learn independently and within a collaborative environment, think critically, respond appropriately to novel situations and apply knowledge learned in a variety of conditions. Advanced Learning Strategies will place an emphasis on solving problems, collaboration skills, global awareness, inquiry, and proficiency in using technology. This course will emphasize project-based learning where students will be required to collaborate and work on authentic problems that they will encounter in the future.

Japanese Exploratory (M2261) OR Spanish Exploratory (M2601)  
**Year course**
This course will provide students with hands on experiences with language and culture introducing students to basic vocabulary, expressions and customs. This course is not for high school credit but intended to assist students in determining the world language course they will pursue for high school graduation credit. Mid-Pacific High School requires three years of the same language to graduate.

News Broadcasting I (M4520)  
**(Preference given to 7th grade students)**  
**Year course**
This course is designed to introduce students to the basic stages of video storytelling. Students will learn how to create Commercials, Public Service Announcements, News Stories and Graphics. This project-based class is hands-on and requires students to work as a team and collaborate with others. Commitment outside of class is often required.

News Broadcasting II (M4540)  
**Prerequisite: News Broadcasting I or Digital Media Design, and department approval**
**Year course**
Taught in Chew Technology Center, this production-based class will give students the opportunity to continue to develop their skills in news broadcasting by producing the Middle School news broadcast show. During the 2nd semester, students will have the opportunity to learn the equipment available in the high school's digital studio.

Digital Media Design I (M4640) or II (M4641)  
**(Preference given to 8th grade students)**
**Year course**
Digital Media Design is a course designed to teach digital media tools and techniques. Students will learn and conceptualize the process to story delivery in digital format, using text, graphics, audio, video, animation and interactivity. This course includes a survey of a variety of digital media applications including: Photoshop (photo editing), Flash (animation), and Final Cut Pro (stop-motion, video & audio editing). Students will also learn photo composition and will be required to draw their own images both using traditional and digital art techniques. Students will also create a digital portfolio that displays their work throughout the year. Regular presentation and discussion of work to peers in a large group setting is required. Commitment outside of class is often required.

**Required:** Digital Camera (Point-and-Shoot or DSLR) and 16GB SD Card  
**Optional:** Adobe Creative Cloud ($20/mo for access to all Adobe desktop apps)

Design Thinking (M4650)  
**Year course**
This exciting and interactive class will prepare students to develop an understanding of innovation and design thinking through the process of collaborative problem solving, visual thinking, hands-on activities, immersion and prototyping. Through direct instruction and hands-on projects, students will create possible design solutions to real world problems with the use of technology and prototyping. This project-based class is hands-on and requires students to work as a team and collaborate with others, and give presentation pitches to both students and adults in the Mid-Pacific community and receiving feedback. In addition to creating possible design solutions, a strong emphasis is placed on reflection of the projects through the creation of individual student portfolios on the iBooks Author software. **Required:** 16GB USB Flash drive

Advanced Design Thinking (M4651)  
**Prerequisite: Design Thinking**
**Year course**
This project-based course will give students the opportunity to continue to develop their understanding of design thinking by continuing to create possible design solutions to real world problems with the use of technology and prototyping. Students will continue to work within the design cycle and participate in an iterative design process. Students will have the opportunity to create and design 3D prototypes using photogrammetry, handheld 3D scanners and the MakerBot 3D Printer. This project-based class is hands-on and requires students to work as a team and collaborate with others, and give presentation pitches to both students and adults in the Mid-Pacific community and receiving feedback. In addition to creating possible design solutions, a strong emphasis is placed on reflection of the projects through the creation of individual student portfolios on the iBooks Author software. **Required:** 16GB USB Flash drive
8th Grade Visual Art Workshop (Traditional & Digital) (M6050)  
Year course
The first semester will cover curriculum as outlined in course M6030. In the second semester, Art turns Digital. Taking the traditional art concepts learned in the first half of Art Workshop, students will have hands on experience with various art software like ArtRage, the state-of-the-art paint software and Manga Studio, the ultimate Anime software. Students will also have the opportunity to work on a Cintiq interactive monitor.

Contemporary Dance I (M6230)  
Year course
This course is designed for the student who has had very little or no dance training. The basics of jazz dance as well as barre exercises will provide the technical foundation for the class. Students will also explore elements of improvisation and choreography.

**BAND COURSES**
*If you have previous experience, please contact Mr. Nii at 973-5050 for a placement audition.*

**Beginning Orchestra (M6280)**  
Year course
Beginning Orchestra students will learn basic string and musician skills for violin, viola, cello and bass through a combination of individual attention and class participation in order to select one instrument best suited for the student. Students are introduced to reading, fingering and bowing skills as they learn to play simple melodies from folk and classical repertoire. Performances will be required. *There will be a fee for renting an instrument.*

**Intermediate Orchestra (M6290)**  
Year course
Intermediate Orchestra is a continuation of the studies of the skills and techniques initiated in Beginning Orchestra. Special attention will be applied to developing vibrato and studying varied bow strokes. The repertoire will include some of the standards in the string literature in arrangements suitable for the class. Performances are required. *There will be a fee for renting an instrument.*

**Beginning Band (M6320)**  
Year course
Beginning Band helps the student examine various woodwind, brass and percussion instruments in order to select the one instrument best suited for the student. The development of basic principles of playing an instrument, such as embouchure, breath control, tone production, rhythm, note reading and other factors important to the development of good musicianship are covered in the course. Performances will be required. *There will be a fee for renting and instrument.*

**Concert Band (M6330)**  
Year course
Concert Band is a continuation of the study of the skills and techniques learned in Beginning Band. More emphasis is placed on the development of greater range, better tone production and technique. More individual practice is required in order for the student to master the more difficult music that is studied in class. A great variety of music and playing experiences is explored. Performances will be required. *There will be a fee for renting an instrument.*
MPSA CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Contact MPSA Office at 973-5071 for more information.

The Mid-Pacific School of the Arts Dance Certificate AND Theatre Arts Certificate programs are offered to students in grade 8 and continues into high school. MS Dance and Theatre Arts Certificate students fulfill middle school PE credit by taking ballet or theatre concurrently with contemporary dance. Class placement is by audition and/or department approval. Attendance at school and community dance concerts and/or theatre productions may be required for course credit. Students who begin Level I in grade 8 may be required to take a summer school dance course to advance to the high school level.

MPSA DANCE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The following courses are offered to the serious dance student and must be taken concurrently:

MPSA Dance Certificate I: Ballet I (M6100) AND Contemporary Dance I (M6110)  Year courses

These courses will introduce the student to the fundamental techniques of classical ballet and contemporary dance. These courses are designed for the student who has had very little or no previous training.

MPSA Dance Certificate II: Ballet II (M6120) AND Contemporary Dance II (M6130)  Year courses

These courses are a continuation of the fundamental techniques of classical ballet and contemporary dance at a beginning or intermediate level.

MPSA Dance Certificate III: Ballet III (M6140) AND Contemporary Dance III (M6150)  Year courses

These courses are designed to challenge the intermediate/advanced dancer in classical ballet and contemporary dance.

MPSA THEATRE ARTS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Theatre Workshop (M6020) AND Vocal Ensemble (M6040)  Semester courses

AND Contemporary Dance I (M6230)  Year course
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (Grades 9-12)

Language Arts
4 credits
(Enrollment in an English course is required each semester)

World Language
3 credits of one foreign language
(Credit will be given for Level I completed in Grade 8)

Mathematics
3 credits
Algebra I - Geometry - Algebra II
(Credit will be given for any of the above completed in Grade 7 or 8)

Science
3 credits Integrated Science (1 credit may be replaced by an IB science)

Social Studies
3 credits
(To include U.S. History)

Performing & Visual Arts
2 credits

Health
½ credit

Physical Education
1 ½ credits
(To include successful completion of swim test)

Technology
½ credit

Electives
4 credits

1 credit = Completion of one year of coursework
½ credit = Completion of one semester of coursework
All new students will be placed in an appropriate course, as determined by one or more placement tests and other criteria.

All courses are semester courses and are offered both semesters, unless specified otherwise.

*Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II are graduation requirements.

**With department approval, students may take Statistics, Mathematical Studies, or AP Statistics concurrently with Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus courses.
SCIENCE
SEQUENCE OF COURSES

Science 6

Science 7

Science 8

Integrated Science I

Integrated Science II

Integrated Science III

IB SL
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
AP Environmental Science (IB/SL)

Science Electives
Aquaponics
Environmental Science
Forensics
Oceanography

IB HL
AP Biology
Chemistry
AP Physics

Integrated Science III

IB SL
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
AP Environmental Science (IB/SL)

Science Electives
Aquaponics
Environmental Science
Forensics
Oceanography
**Student Name:**

This form is only to help you prepare for registration. You must submit your choices on the online registration form. Eighth graders are required to enroll in seven (7) classes – you choose two classes and the five remaining classes are automatically scheduled for you. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Matsumoto at 973-5029 and Mr. Espania at 973-5011.

You are automatically enrolled in:

1. Mathematics (Students will be placed in courses according to demonstrated knowledge, experience, and ability.)
2. English
3. Self & Society
4. Science 8
5. 8th Grade Physical Education (unless MPSA Certificate)

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<td>SEM 1 World Language or Elective</td>
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<td>SEM 1 Elective</td>
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<td>SEM 2 World Language or Elective</td>
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**MPSA CERTIFICATE ONLY:** Select course to replace PE

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**LIST OF COURSES**

YR M2260 Japanese I
YR M2600 Spanish I
YR M2800 Mandarin I
YR M1250 Advanced Learning Strategies
YR M2261 Japanese Exploratory
YR M2601 Spanish Exploratory
YR M4520 News Broadcasting I
YR M4540 News Broadcasting II
YR M4640 Digital Media Design I
YR M4641 Digital Media Design II
YR M4650 Design Thinking
YR M4651 Advanced Design Thinking
SEM M6020 Theatre Workshop
SEM M6030 8th Grade Visual Art Workshop
SEM M6040 Vocal Ensemble
YR M6050 8th Grade Visual Art Workshop (Traditional & Digital)
YR M6100 Ballet I (MPSA Dance Certificate only)**
YR M6110 Contemporary Dance I (MPSA Dance Certificate only)**
YR M6120 Ballet II (MPSA Dance Certificate only)**
YR M6130 Contemporary Dance II (MPSA Dance Certificate only)**
YR M6140 Ballet III (MPSA Dance Certificate only)**
YR M6150 Contemporary Dance III (MPSA Dance Certificate only)**
YR M6230 Contemporary Dance I
YR M6280 Beginning Orchestra*
YR M6290 Intermediate Orchestra*
YR M6320 Beginning Band*
YR M6330 Concert Band*

*BAND/ORCHESTRA – There will be a fee for renting an instrument. Students continuing band/orchestra will be placed at appropriate level. For students taking band for the first time and have had previous experience playing an instrument, please call Mr. Allen Nii at 973-5050 to schedule a placement audition.

**MPSA DANCE CERTIFICATE Register for:
Ballet and Contemporary Dance

MPSA THEATRE CERTIFICATE Register for:
M6020 Theatre Workshop
M6040 Vocal Ensemble
M6230 Contemporary Dance I

**MPSA CERTIFICATE PROGRAM – Dance and Theatre Arts Certificate students fulfill Middle School PE credit by taking ballet or theatre concurrently with contemporary dance.