

Lawton Chiles Middle Academy
8th Grade Curriculum
2011-2012

As we continue on our journey to become an International Baccalaureate World School with an MYP (Middle Years Programme) focus, all of our courses will incorporate key IB concepts such as “internationalmindedness”, the ten characteristics of the Learner Profile, and an emphasis on the Areas of Interaction. We encourage parents and community members to visit our campus and share your cultural experiences with our students. Please contact Susie Kallan, IB MYP Coordinator Designee, to arrange these visits – Susie.kallan@polk-fl.net.

Required Courses

Students must earn a credit in language arts, social studies, science and mathematics by the end of the school year for promotion.

Language A 3 (Language Arts Advanced)

Building upon the sixth and seventh grade language arts courses, the eighth grade course will further develop the student’s ability to communicate through written and oral expression. Students will gather, manipulate, and use data from a variety of sources. Literal, inferential, and evaluative levels of reading skills will be developed through the use of various genres of literature. Tutorials and utilizing word processing to work through and polish the writing process will integrate technology into eighth grade language arts curriculum.

Physical Science Advanced

Through laboratory activities, students develop an understanding of the dynamic nature of the physical world. This course emphasizes the chemical nature of everyday substances and the interrelated forms of energy, magnetism, and electricity.

US History Advanced/Career Planning

This course is a combination of United States History, World History, and World Geography. Students will understand the breakup of the British Empire and how it affected the politics of India. Students will study the United States Constitution and how power is divided among the three branches of the government. The students will also understand the major political and social events that influenced the world from the 1950’s through the 1990’s. They will also look at how these events affected life in the United States. The students will realize that the geography of different locations around the world plays a large part in shaping their history. Knowing their past will help students with the decisions they will need to make in the future.

Mathematics 3 (Intensive)

All students scoring a Level 1 or 2 on the 2010 FCAT Mathematics will be placed in this class. This course is to enable students to develop mathematics skills and concepts through remedial instruction and practice. The content will include, but not limited to mathematics content that has been identified by screening and individual diagnosis of the student’s need for remedial instruction and specified in his/her Academic Improvement Plan (AIP); critical thinking, problem solving, and test-taking skills strategies.

Mathematics 3 Advanced

This course is an extension of advanced 7th grade mathematics and continues to provide a rigorous and in-depth development of the skills necessary for success in high school Algebra. The purpose of this course is to complete the transition from arithmetic skills to higher-level mathematical content with emphasis on problem solving. The student must have teacher recommendation to be enrolled in this course.

Algebra I Honors

This course provides a rigorous and in-depth study of algebra by emphasizing deductive reasoning skills. Topics shall include, but not be limited to: operations and properties of the real number system, algebraic/graphical solutions to 1st degree equations and inequalities, relations and functions, direct/inversional expression: quadratic equations/inequalities/functions. A semester grade of at least 80% in this course earns the student ½ weighted high school credit. The students must have teacher recommendation to be enrolled in this course.

Geometry I Honors

The purpose of this course is to develop the geometric relationships and deductive strategies that can be used to solve a variety of real world and mathematical problems. A semester grade of at least 80% in this course earns the student ½ weighted high school credit. The students must have teacher recommendation to be enrolled in this course. Pre-requisite 7th grade Algebra I

Spanish I Honors

The purpose of Spanish I, introduce students to the Spanish language and culture, while developing communicative skills and cross-cultural understanding. Specific content to be covered includes but is not limited to beginnings skills in listening and speaking with special attention on pronunciation. An introduction to reading and writing, as well as grammar and culture, is also included. Students will be expected to work at the high school level in this course.

OR

Reading

All students who score a level 1 or 2 on the 2010 FCAT Reading will participate in this year-long reading class, as required by state mandate. These students will be waived out of the Integrated Lab. In lieu of Electronic Portfolio, these students along with their parents will meet regarding their reading progress. The READ 180 program or the Compass Learning Odyssey program will provide progress monitoring throughout the year, along with appropriate remediation and instruction, to assist students in making gains when taking the FCAT in the spring of 2011.

Physical Education 3

This semester long course will develop competence in physical fitness. Body management skills, throwing, catching and skills related to striking with the body will be included. (*Physical education uniforms are available from the uniform company.*)

AND

Global Technology 3 (Integrated Lab)

8th Grade Global Technology students will use the design cycle while implementing projects that correlate with the Earth Science curriculum. Students will learn about building structures that can withstand natural disasters and figure out which Earth resources work best when designing gliders, hot air balloons and CO2 dragsters.

Electives

Beginning Band – 7th/8th Grade *

Prerequisite: Availability of a recommended band instrument and band textbook. Selection of band instruments will occur after testing the first week of school.

Course Emphasis: Provide instruction in the fundamental musical skills necessary for playing a band instrument.

Since the active participation of each student is crucial to the success of the band, all members are expected to participate in concerts.

Concert Band – 7th/8th Grades *

Prerequisite: Availability of a recommended band instrument and band textbook.

Course Emphasis: Continued instruction in the fundamental musical skills necessary for playing a band instrument in an ensemble. This class is designed for students with at least one year of playing experience.

Symphonic Band – 7th/8th Grades *

Prerequisite: Availability of a recommended band instrument and band textbook.

Course Emphasis: Continued instruction in the musical skills necessary for performing on a band instrument in a large ensemble. After school rehearsals will be necessary throughout the year. This class is designed for advanced students with one or more years of playing experience.

Instrumental Ensemble (Jazz Band) – 7th /8th Grades *

Prerequisite: Availability of a recommended band instrument and band textbook.

Course Emphasis: Continued instruction in the musical skills necessary for performing jazz and pop music on a band instrument. This class is designed for advanced students with one or more years of playing experience with an interest in jazz music performance.

Intermediate Chorus *

This class is designed for students that participated in a different music class in 6th grade and for those students who need a little more experience before joining the advanced chorus. Students are taught proper technique, how to read music, good tone production, how to sight sing and the basics of choral performing. This class requires daily participation and also participation in fall and spring concerts. Students in this class will need to purchase concert dress uniforms at the beginning of the year.

Advanced 7th & 8th Grade Chorus *

This is an auditioned group that competes, performs, participates in field trips and is asked to perform at special events as a large ensemble and sometimes in smaller groups. The ensemble performs classical, jazz, show choir literature and some contemporary pieces. This group sings two and three part pieces. To participate in this group, students need to have at least one year of experience in a choral ensemble. To audition for this group, please prepare to sing a solo. The audition will also include a sight singing, ear training exercises and a basic music theory test. Since the active participation of each student is crucial to the success of the choir, all members are expected to perform in concerts. Students in this class will need to purchase concert dress uniforms at the beginning of the year.

Intermediate Orchestra *

This class is designed for students that participated in a different music class in 6th grade and for those students who need a little more experience before joining the advanced orchestra. Students are taught proper technique, how to tune instruments, good tone production with and without the bow, ensemble and solo playing and how to play in first, second and third position. This class requires daily participation and also participation in fall and spring concerts. Students in this class will need to purchase concert dress uniforms at the beginning of the year.

Advanced 7th & 8th Grade Orchestra *

This is an audition group that competes, performs, participates in field trips and is asked to perform at special events as a large ensemble and sometimes in smaller groups. To participate in this group, students need to have at least one year of experience in a strings ensemble. To audition for this group please prepare the following literature: 2 octave scales C, G, D, A and F Major. Also be prepared to play a solo of your choice. Since the active participation of each student is crucial to the success of the orchestra, all

members are expected to perform in concerts. Students in this class will need to purchase concert dress uniforms at the beginning of the year.

Guitar *

Students will engage in the basic knowledge of playing a 6 string acoustic guitar. Students will learn the string names, how to read guitar tabs, how to read the treble clef and play these notes on the guitar. Music literature studied will include classical guitar playing along with contemporary literature. Students will play weekly in class and will be required to perform at fall and spring events.

Art Appreciation 3 *

The purpose of the art course is to build a foundation and appreciation for art. This will be achieved through history and a variety of art experiences. The student will be exposed to fundamentals, drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture and other aspects of art. Seventh and eighth grade students create more detailed works through these different media while advancing their skills. Computer graphics will be integrated into many areas of the art curriculum.

Critical Thinking

This course is designed to provide students with additional FCAT practice in an innovative and exciting way. Various reading skills and test taking strategies will be the emphasis with an integration of technology. Selected students will average a low 3 on the 2010 Reading FCAT test.

KTV 8 (must apply)

This class is for students that possess an understanding or deep desire to learn video productions. Students in this class will produce the morning news program that airs on the closed-circuit TV in all of the classrooms. Students should have a very out-going personality. Due to the size of the TV studio along with the limited numbers of cameras and computers, the class size will be limited to about 15 students. Students that wish to sign up for this year long elective must be able to deliver the news announcements in a clear, effective, and enjoyable manner. When a student is not "on the air" he/she will be editing or developing various segments for the morning broadcast. Students that apply for this class need to be self-motivated, creative, responsible, and entertaining. Every morning the students will work to develop PowerPoint slides, Photoshop elements, and other items to be used as creative essentials for the daily news program. This class will meet in the TV news studio, as well as the TV classroom. Students will produce a variety of other packages for the TV show as well as entries for the Polk County Video Awards program each April. Students will work together as teams to invest their creativity and hard work in order to develop competitive videos which include: movies, music videos, news reports, documentaries, and other items of interest. All students involved must demonstrate creativity, responsibility, and be self-motivated. Assignments will be worked on in groups of 3-4 students and deadlines will be established.

Digital Design

In this year long class, students will learn beginning photography techniques along with photo editing skills using Adobe Photoshop Creative Suite 4. Students need to have a basic understanding of the computer and should have access to a digital camera and flash drive at home. Digital cameras will be provided on a limited basis to students while in class. With a signed parent permission note, students will also be able bring their own digital camera for use at school.

Additionally, students will learn to use various software programs such as Microsoft Word, Publisher, Excel, and PowerPoint as tools for writing, analyzing and presenting information.

Beginning/Advanced Robotics

LCMA Robotics aspires to motivate students to become leaders in the fields of science, engineering and technology. Through the use of **LEGOs** and **Mindstorms**, students will build and program an autonomous robot that will perform various challenges. LCMA Robotics fosters the development of teamwork and leadership skills; research and communication skills; life skills and self-confidence. With these, students will discover the excitement and rewards of science, engineering and technology.

Latin I Honors

Students will learn the fundamentals of Latin grammar along with the history of the ancient world including Rome, Greece, Egypt, and northern Europe. We will also look at English derivatives and how Latin is used today, which will help the students planning on taking the SAT or ACT. **The student must have at least “B” average in language arts and teacher recommendation to apply. A semester grade of at least 80% in this course earns the student ½ weighted high school credit.** Students will be expected to work at the high school level in this course.

Yearbook (must apply)

In this year long course, the student will learn the skills of effective verbal and visual communication. They will also be involved with time and money management. Through teamwork, the students will produce a quality yearbook. **The student must have a 3.0 GPA, three teacher recommendations, and complete an application for this course.**

***According to IB MYP mandates each student must participate in at least one music or art class as noted by the asterisks above.**

Alpha/Gifted Program

Gifted students are clustered by ability in their math, science, language arts and integrated lab courses. L.C.M.A. uses a team-teaching approach: both the classroom teacher and the teacher of gifted are actively engaged in the planning and the teaching of the curriculum. Various creative approaches are used to best meet the needs of individual gifted students. This model provides an opportunity for gifted students to engage in higher-level thinking activities that are more challenging than those in the general education classroom; allows teachers of gifted to meet students' specific goals as identified on their Educational Plans; and affords the opportunity to infuse the latest technology into classrooms.