BRIGHT HORIZON ACADEMY

LEARNING TODAY FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

MIDDLE SCHOOL

CURRICULUM GUIDE

WELCOME BRIGHT HORIZON ACADEMY

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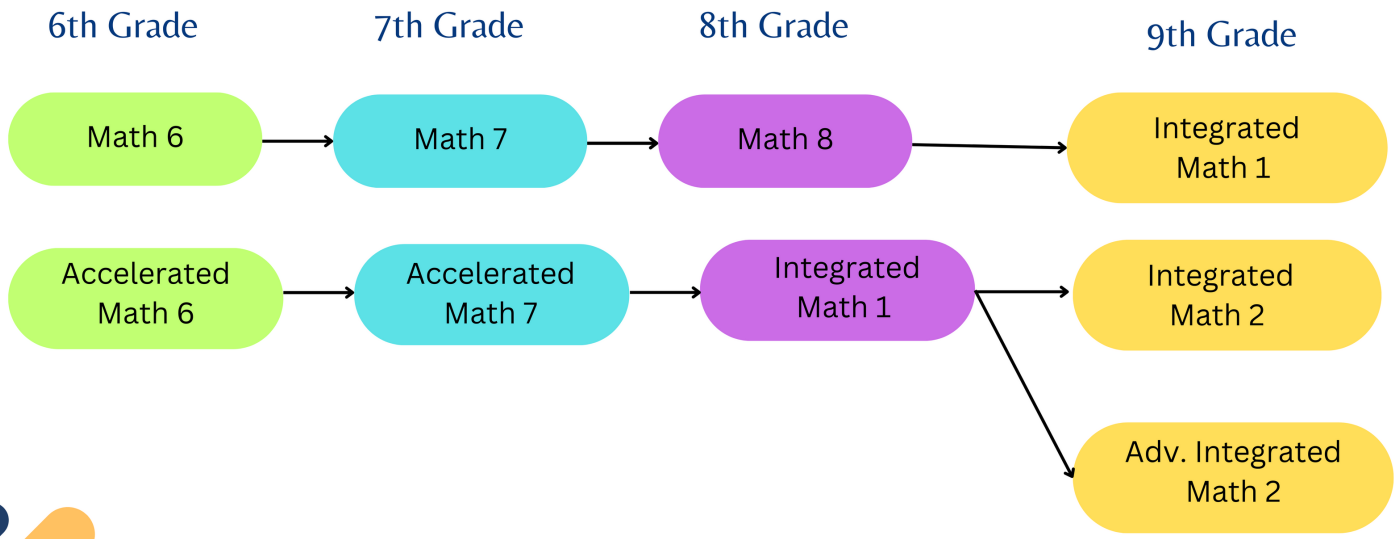
Middle School Curriculum

Overview

Our middle school curriculum at Bright Horizon Academy seamlessly combines the best of traditional and innovative educational practices, providing students with a holistic and enriching learning experience. Beyond its comprehensive approach, our curriculum stands out by allowing students to earn high school credits in key subjects like math, Arabic, and Quranic studies. Some of these courses are designated as honors, giving students the opportunity to start building a robust college portfolio as early as 7th grade. Additionally, our leveled math courses for grades 6th-8th empower students to excel in their math proficiency, offering a pathway to reach Calculus Level 2 by their senior year of high school. This distinctive curriculum prepares students for academic excellence, offering a blend of foundational knowledge and advanced opportunities. Our comprehensive, college-preparatory program is enriched and balanced by co-curricular and extra-curricular offerings built into the school day and yearly calendar. Guided by caring and experienced teachers, students are encouraged to discover their passions, develop their authentic voice, and apply their learning out in the world.

Middle School Math Pathway



Sixth Grade

1 English

This language arts course enhances students' reading skills, emphasizing citation of textual evidence, theme identification, and plot analysis. It covers text structure, point of view, and comparison of various text consumption experiences. The course also explores informational texts, teaching students to decipher central ideas and understand word meanings. Writing components focus on constructing arguments, informative texts, and engaging narratives. Technology integration aids research and collaboration for effective communication. The course encourages active participation in discussions, interpretation of diverse media, and adept presentation skills. Language standards cover grammar, punctuation, spelling, and vocabulary acquisition, fostering critical thinking and nuanced text understanding.

2 Math 6

6th grade math instruction is aligned with Common Core State Standards. Major topics include: understanding ratio concepts and using them to solve problems, applying and extending previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions, computing fluency with multi-digit numbers and finding common factors and multiples, applying previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers, adding and subtracting rational numbers, representing addition and subtraction on a horizontal or vertical number diagram, applying previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions, solving one-variable equations and inequalities, representing and analyzing relationships between dependent and independent variables, solving real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume, developing understanding of statistical variability, and summarizing and describing distributions. Placement in the Advanced level of this course will be determined by the current math teacher using multiple measures including MAP and IXL scores.

3 Accelerated Math 6

The Math 6 Accelerated course offers an accelerated learning path, encompassing all Grade 6 Common Core State Standards and half of the Grade 7 Common Core State Standards within a single academic year. Students who successfully complete Math 6 Accelerated will seamlessly transition to Math 7 Accelerated in seventh grade and subsequently advance to HS Integrated Math I in eighth grade. The curriculum for the sixth grade emphasizes key mathematical concepts, including connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division, extending understanding of division to fractions and the system of rational numbers (including negative numbers), writing and interpreting expressions and equations, and fostering statistical thinking. The seventh-grade focus builds upon this foundation by delving into the development of proportional relationships, operational proficiency with rational numbers, and the application of skills in working with expressions and linear equations. This accelerated pathway ensures students are well-prepared for advanced mathematical concepts in subsequent grades.

Sixth Grade

4 Science

In this Integrated Science course, aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards, students explore the cross-cutting concepts of structure and function, patterns, systems and system models while learning about weather and climate, energy, and the organization of living things. The year begins with an introduction to weather and climate, including the underlying causes of Earth's weather patterns. Next, students embark on an inquiry of global climate change and engage in engineering activities to explore ways in which to minimize human impact on the environment. The second half of the year focuses on learning about the structure of living things from cell to organism. Students discover the ways in which behavior, environment, and genetic factors impact the survival and growth of organisms.

5 Social Studies

Students in grade six expand their understanding of history by studying the people and events that ushered in the dawn of the major Western and non-Western ancient civilizations. Geography is of special significance in the development of the human story. Continued emphasis is placed on the everyday lives, problems, and accomplishments of people, their role in developing social, economic, and political structures, as well as in establishing and spreading ideas that helped transform the world forever. Students develop higher levels of critical thinking by considering why civilizations developed where and when they did, why they became dominant, and why they declined. Students analyze the interactions among the various cultures, emphasizing their enduring contributions and the link, despite time, between the contemporary and ancient worlds.

6 Arabic I

This course will provide the students with the fundamental skills in: Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing, and Culture. The course begins with an introduction to Arabic sounds and letters, and is proficiency-based. All activities are aimed at placing the learner in the context of the native-speaking environment from the very beginning focusing on listening and speaking in a basic context so that students can learn to initiate a conversation. Students learn frequently-used sentence patterns that allow them to communicate and which support their development in both reading and writing. A major goal of the course is to enhance students' knowledge and understanding of multicultural perspectives and to expand their educational and career opportunities. This course may be used to meet the UC/CSU “E” or “G” requirement.

Seventh Grade

1 English

7th grade English will incorporate the English Language Arts Standards as identified in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).The seventh grade English curriculum emphasizes the development of a good foundation in basic literary analysis, grammar, vocabulary, and writing skills. Students will read core literature selections, including short stories, novels, drama, essays, and poetry. Writing, grammar and public speaking requirements derived from the literature teach creative, innovative, and analytical thinking. Latin roots and words taken from the literature provide the basis for spelling/vocabulary units. Throughout the year, students work independently and cooperatively with differentiated opportunities for achievement.

2 Math 7

This course focuses on 7th grade Common Core State Standards. Major topics include: developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two-and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Placement in the Advanced level of this course will be determined by the current math teacher using multiple measures including MAP and IXL scores. current math teacher using multiple measures including MAP and IXL scores.

3 Accelerated Math 7

Math 7 Accelerated is an intensive course that consolidates half of the Grade 7 Common Core State Standards and the complete set of Grade 8 Common Core State Standards into a single academic year. Successfully completing Math 7 Accelerated positions students to advance to Algebra 1 in the eighth grade. In the seventh grade, the curriculum focuses on developing and applying proportional relationships, working with expressions and linear equations, utilizing two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems related to area, surface area, and volume, and drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Building upon this foundation, the eighth-grade standards delve into formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, solving linear equations and systems of linear equations, understanding the concept of a function, analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. This accelerated pathway ensures students gain a robust mathematical foundation for continued success in more advanced coursework.

Seventh Grade

4 Science

In this Integrated Science course, aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards, students explore the cross-cutting concepts of energy and matter, including cause and effect and flows, cycles, and conservation while learning about ecosystems, natural resources, and the structure and property of matter. Students consider human impact on these systems and explore engineering approaches to these concepts.

5 Social Studies

Times Students in grade seven study the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, and Asia in the years A.D. 500–1789. After reviewing the ancient world and the ways in which archaeologists and historians uncover the past, students study the history and geography of great civilizations that were developing concurrently throughout the world during medieval and early modern times. They examine the growing economic interaction among civilizations as well as the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. They learn about the resulting growth of Enlightenment philosophy and the new examination of the concepts of reason and authority, the natural rights of human beings and the divine right of kings, experimentalism in science, and the dogma of belief. Finally, students assess the political forces let loose by the Enlightenment, particularly the rise of democratic ideas, and they learn about the continuing influence of these ideas in the world today.

6 Arabic II

The Arabic II course is designed for students to improve their ability to speak and write in daily and formal situations. Arabic II takes students with Novice-Mid level to Intermediate-Low level across listening, speaking, reading, and writing, per ACTFL (American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Performance Guidelines. Students will continue to develop an awareness of the history, geography, literature and other cultural products of the Arabic-speaking world. Students deepen their investigation of community, festivities, cultural norms, practices, and traditions and will be able to compare linguistic similarities and differences between Arabic, English, and/or another language. Upon completion of Arabic II, students will be able to generate questions, use responses in Arabic and communicate with people within and beyond the school setting. This course may be used to meet the UC/CSU “E” or “G” requirement.

Eighth Grade

1 English

8th grade English will incorporate the English Language Arts Standards as identified in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The course is designed to strengthen students' reading and writing skills in preparation for the high school English program. Students read and analyze core literature in a variety of genres: short story, poetry, novel, and drama. Students write analytical and multi-paragraph essays. Grammar, essays and creative/analytical writing technique are taught in accordance with CCSS. Students will read a Shakespeare play and study word origins. Interdisciplinary links are emphasized. Projects are assigned throughout the school year. Students will continue to develop grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and writing skills.

2 Math 8

This course focuses on 8th grade Common Core State Standards. Major topics include: the number system, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, and statistics and probability. Instruction will focus on three critical areas: formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Placement in the Advanced level of this course will be determined by the current math teacher using multiple measures including MAP and IXL scores.

3 Integrated Math I

This two-semester course is the first of three courses of college prep mathematics, which use an integrated approach to Algebra and Geometry concepts and skills. Integrated Math I will extend the mathematics students learned in earlier grades and begin the development of concepts in Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Modeling, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability needed for higher level courses. Students will learn to solve problems graphically, numerically, algebraically, and verbally, as well as make connections between these representations. Extensive use of mathematical models, manipulatives, graphs, and diagrams will help students to understand real world situations and then use algebraic reasoning to manipulate models for deeper understanding. The problem situations, models, and technology used will foster connections among various strands of mathematics and topics which will promote students' understanding that mathematics is a set of related topics. This course has been approved to meet the UC "C" requirement.

Eighth Grade

4 Science

In this Integrated Science course, aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards, students explore the cross-cutting concepts of stability and change along with scale, proportion, and quantity. These concepts inform their study of the history of the earth, space systems, waves and electro-magnetic radiation, energy, forces and interactions, and natural selection. Students consider human impact on these systems and explore engineering approaches to these concepts.

5 Social Studies

Students in grade eight study the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up to World War I, with an emphasis on America's role in the war. After reviewing the development of America's democratic institutions founded on the Judeo-Christian heritage and English parliamentary traditions, particularly the shaping of the Constitution, students trace the development of American politics, society, culture, and economy and relate them to the emergence of major regional differences. They learn about the challenges facing the new nation, with an emphasis on the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War. They make connections between the rise of industrialization and contemporary social and economic conditions.

6 Arabic III

Arabic III course continues to develop student proficiency in communication, building upon their learning in Arabic II, by using the Arabic language according to the cultural practices of the Arabic-speaking world. Arabic III takes students with Intermediate-Low level to Intermediate-High level across listening, speaking, reading, and writing, per ACTFL Performance Guidelines. Arabic III also serves to continue to develop an awareness of the history, geography, and cultural products of the Arabic-speaking world. Students deepen their investigation of community, festivities, cultural norms, practices, and traditions (e.g., gender roles). In addition, Arabic III continues to provide opportunities to compare linguistic similarities and differences between Arabic and English. Upon completion of Arabic III, students will be able to generate questions, use responses in Arabic and communicate with people within and beyond the school setting. This course may be used to meet the UC/CSU "E" or "G" requirement.