



## What Do We Offer Students in Grades 7-8?

In their final stretch, students hone their leadership skills through the Quaker practices of meeting for business, developing shared belief, creating space for caring and creativity, and serving others.

### Personal and Social Development

Leadership; self-reliance; community service; study skills and time management

### Language and Literacy

*Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing*

- Discussion skills
- Oral presentations
- Academic reading skills
- Multiple genres, often connecting with Social Studies and Science
- Note-taking
- Essays – interpretive, evaluative, comparative, persuasive, expository
- Creative writing – short stories, poetry, drama, songs
- Word processing and multi-media production

### Mathematical Thinking

*Grade 7 Focal Points*

- Integers, fractions, decimals, and percentages: operations, number laws and number patterns
- Problem-solving
- Algebra: expressions, exponents and roots, equations
- Geometry: triangles, quadrilaterals and angles; area and perimeter of polygons and circles; volume and surface area; similarity and congruence

*Grade 8 Focal Points*

- Algebra: increasingly complex work with exponents, algebraic fractions, and linear equations; quadratic equations; functions and graphing; inequalities
- Problem Solving: Financial transactions; rates, speeds, ratios, and percentages; selected scientific formulas
- Geometry: Pythagorean Theorem; similarity and congruence; trigonometric ratios; reflection, rotation, translation, and enlargement
- Statistics: collection and presentation of data; averages; frequency distribution

### Science

*Year 1 Topics*

- Physics I: heat, sound, magnetism, & electricity
- Meteorology, climate, & climate change
- Geology, Botany, Zoology: mineral, plant, and animal life and evolution
- Organic Chemistry: carbohydrates, fats, oils & proteins; hydrocarbons & synthetic compounds

*Year 2 Topics*

- Physics II: water, light, and color
- Inorganic Chemistry: combustion and crystallization, dissolution & precipitation, acids & bases, metals
- Muscle and Bone: comparative study of human and animal form
- Human Anatomy: cells, senses, and organ systems

### Social Studies

Inquiries include using local explorations and the lens of Quaker values as means of understanding the geography, history and culture of past times.

*Year 1: World History from ancient times through the 16th century*

- Ancient and Medieval Greece & Rome
- Renaissance
- Reformation
- Age of Discovery

### *Year 2: World & US History, 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> centuries*

- Colonization
- 19<sup>th</sup> century South America, Africa, and Asia
- The Great War, the Great Depression, & WWII
- Post War Period (capitalism & communism; Israel & Palestine; Iraq, Iran, & Afghanistan; energy & the environment; etc)
- Government

### **Human Ecology: Inquiry and Action**

An interdisciplinary course consisting of inquiry-based units inspired by topics of study in social studies and science.

*Topics may include the following:*

- Identity, Culture, and Diversity
- Justice and Governance
- Art and Action
- Peace and Conflict
- Environmental Stewardship

### **Spanish**

- Ask for and comprehend clarifications; express and understand opinions; understand narration in present, past, and future; state and understand feelings and emotions; engage in conversation with a small group
- Use expanded and more complex vocabulary; communicate in past, present, and future tense. Focus on questions, reflexive verbs, direct and indirect object pronouns
- Continuation of cultural curriculum in 5th and 6th grades on geography, history, economics, and arts in Spanish-speaking world: Spain, Caribbean Islands; Mayan, Aztec, and Incan civilizations and corresponding regions today; Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay

### **Art Studio**

- Strengthen individual artistic behaviors; work cooperatively in an art studio setting; group reflection & critiquing
- Strengthen drawing skills; draw with shading, cross hatching, contour & continuous line
- Paint with intent & expression; paint & draw showing space, distance & volume
- Create freestanding sculptures
- Practice independent sketch book skills & habits
- Create a social justice art study project
- Use professional printmaking tools to produce relief prints
- Develop collage and fiber work
- Design sequential character, environmental, story movement in an art form

### **Music: Western Music History**

- Designed to show how music is intricately woven into western world history from ancient to modern times. Culturally representative repertoire is examined through the lens of rhythm, melody, harmony, form, texture, & timbre.
- *Musical Literacy:* reading treble & bass clef with solfege & letter names; understanding complex rhythms; Major/minor keys; intervals, circle of 5ths; chords & symbols; sight-singing
- *Composition:* Use of Finale and Garageband to write short, stylistically appropriate pieces
- *Year 1:* Listening to music; Ancient Greece, Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, & Early Classical periods
- *Year 2:* Listening to music; 19th -21st centuries

### **Music Performance Classes**

- *Middle School Chorus:* all middle school students participate in weekly classes
- *Beginner Strings (elective):* a year of group lessons for beginner violin, viola, cello
- *String Ensemble (elective):* for students who have completed at least one year of lessons & can play their instrument at the intermediate level
- *Band (elective):* a year of group lessons for beginner & intermediate wind & brass

### **Physical Education**

Improve coordination by practicing more advanced skills & movements; sportsmanship, fair play, positive attitude; further development of leadership qualities through challenge-based curriculum; exposure to variety of recreation & leisure activities

### **Body, Mind, Spirit**

This is a weekly class for students to explore and experience the blending of body, mind, and spirit. Human sexual development and healthy decision-making are included for everyone, as well as workshops that use nature, movement, the arts and reflection to build inner awareness.