



EAGLE RIDGE ACADEMY

EAGLE RIDGE ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

MISSION

The mission of Eagle Ridge Academy is to provide our students with a traditional, classical education that demands their best in academic achievement, behavior and attitude, and challenges them to attain their highest potential.

PILLARS OF EAGLE RIDGE ACADEMY

The ultimate goal of a classical education is to discern truth, beauty and goodness. To that end, the pillars of an Eagle Ridge Academy classical education are:

- **Integrity:** having a conscience, dignity, morals, academic honesty, being trustworthy, honorable, having common sense
- **Respect:** kindness, appropriate speech, politeness, self-control, listening to authority figures
- **Perseverance:** endure through hardships, focus, don't give up, and accomplish goals
- **Honor:** honesty, take pride in yourself, recognize value, fairness
- **Citizenship:** be a good citizen, contribute to the school, be a good student, be responsible
- **Excellence:** always doing your best, taking pride in your work, behaving and working above the average

Eagle Ridge Academy is authorized by:

Friends of Education, EX0-01-A, 200 East Lake Street, Wayzata, MN 55391



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CORE KNOWLEDGE

Eagle Ridge Academy uses the middle school curriculum developed by the Core Knowledge Foundation. Core Knowledge Foundation is a non-profit organization that has outlined a guide to specific, solid core curriculum in order to help students establish strong foundations of knowledge, grade by grade.

English, History, Art, and Music are taught in an integrated fashion. The time periods studied in History drive the curriculum; and the objectives covered in English, Music and Art are designed to complete the study of the time period covered in History.

Middle school students will also study Mathematics, Science and Latin.

BENEFITS OF CORE KNOWLEDGE

Provides a broad base of knowledge and a rich vocabulary

Motivates students to learn and creates a strong desire to learn more

Provides the knowledge necessary for higher levels of learning and helps build confidence

Provides a common focus to share knowledge and expertise

Decreases learning gaps

Provides a strong foundation of knowledge for success in high school and beyond

Provides a clear outline of what children are expected to learn in school

Encourages parents to participate in their children's education both at home and in school

HISTORY

History is designed to give students many different perspectives on the people who shaped the world. The middle school history courses require students to evaluate their views and interpretations. Students are active participants on this journey into the past, and apply lessons from this class to their everyday life and their understanding of current events. Class sessions focus on history, geography, archeology, civics, educated reasoning, current events/connections, and writing. A variety of strategies are used to cover these topics. These strategies may include lecture, whole group and small group discussions, research, and activities.

ENGLISH

English introduces students to various literary genres and focuses on English language skills. Class sessions focus on literature, spelling, grammar, vocabulary, and writing. A variety of strategies are used to cover these topics. These strategies include lecture, whole group and small group discussions, research, and activities. Students read a variety of novels related to specific periods in history. They also study grammar, vocabulary and spelling; and develop writing skills by connecting writing to the novels and other courses. The Institute for Excellence in Writing curriculum is used.

ART

This class offers a unique experience of art history and studio art. Students engage in the study of key figures, groups, movements, and art works throughout the course of history as well as the dynamic process of actively creating art. Students gain both historical knowledge and creative skills.

MUSIC

Middle school students have two music choices: Classroom Music or Orchestra.

Classroom Music: The classroom music course teaches a basic vocabulary of the elements of music that can inform the discussion, appreciation, and study of selected musical works. Each grade also studies a selected core of musical content, with attention to specific periods, composers and genres. These guidelines focus on musical vocabulary, appreciation and history.

Orchestra: Middle school students have the opportunity to further their musical skills through a large ensemble experience. Instruments include strings, band instruments, piano and bass guitar. Orchestra is a replacement for the Classroom Music course, students will not be dual enrolled in both music classes.

MATH

Middle school students will use the Saxon math program. Saxon's instructional approach breaks complex concepts into simpler increments, recognizing that smaller pieces of information are easier to teach and easier to learn. The instruction, practice, and assessment of those increments are systematically distributed across a grade level. Once a topic is presented, students are continually exposed to the topic in the daily problem sets that follow. The available courses are Saxon Course 2, Course 3, and Algebra 1.

LATIN

The study of Latin helps improve English vocabulary because it is the foundation of the English language, it improves grammar knowledge and understanding through structured grammatical framework, and is a good base for future romance language studies such as Spanish and French. Students are placed in middle school Latin I, II, or III based on previous experience, regardless of their grade level.

SCIENCE

Middle school science introduces students to various fields of study in life, earth, and space science; emphasizes learning and applying the scientific method. A variety of strategies will be used to cover these topics. These strategies will include lecture, lab experiences, research, projects, whole group and small group discussions, and inquiry activities.

CLASSROOM STRUCTURE

Grade Six:

Grade six is designed to be a transition between the classroom setting of grades K - 5 and the rotating structure of grades 7 & 8.

Students will rotate between the three sixth grade teachers for math, science and writing; and travel to either classroom Music or Orchestra. They remain with their classroom teacher for the remainder of their subjects.

Grades Seven and Eight

Students in grades 7 & 8 will rotate between all classes.

SIXTH GRADE

History

World Geography
Lasting ideas from Ancient Civilizations
Middle Ages
Meso-American Civilizations
European Exploration
The Renaissance and the Reformation

England from the Golden Age to the Glorious Revolution
The Enlightenment
French Revolution
Romanticism

English / History Reading List

The Children's Homer, Padraic Colum
Detectives in Togas, Henry Winterfeld
The Bronze Bow, Elizabeth George Speare
The Cat Who Went to Heaven, Elizabeth Coatsworth
Tales from India, J.E.B. Gray
Secret of the Andes, Ann Nolan Clark
Gulliver's Travels, Jonathan Swift
Julius Caesar from "No Fear Shakespeare"

The Hawk that Dare not Hunt, Day by Scott O'Dell
Prince and the Pauper, Mark Twain
Robinson Crusoe, Daniel Defoe
King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table, Roger Lancelyn Green

Art

Periods Covered: Classical, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Rococo, Neoclassical, Romantic, Realism

Music

Period Covered: From Baroque to Romantic (Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Schumann)

Latin:

The sixth grade students will be using *Minimus Latin* for its primary text, along with supplemental material to enhance their learning. The focus is on vocabulary and culture.

Science 6

The topics covered include: plate tectonics and earthquakes; volcanoes; ocean motions, zones, and marine life; the solar system, stars, galaxies and the universe; the systems of the human body

Math: Saxon Course 2

Students work in the areas of Numbers and Operations; Fraction Concepts; Measurement; Geometry; Algebra; Statistics, Data Analysis and Probability; Problem Solving Strategies; Mathematical Reasoning; and Real World Connections.

SEVENTH GRADE

History

Geography of the United States
 The Earliest Americans
 Early Exploration of North America
 The Thirteen Colonies
 The American Revolution
 Making a Constitutional Government

Levels and Functions of Government
 Civics: The Constitution
 Early Presidents and Politics
 Reformers
 Westward Expansion
 The Civil War

English /History Reading List

The Story of the 13 Colonies, H. A. Guerber
The Landing of the Pilgrims, James Daugherty
Witch of Blackbird Pond, Elizabeth Speare
Indian Captive, Lois Lenske
Johnny Tremain, Esther Forbes
The American Revolution, Bruce Bliven Jr.
Traitor: The Case of Benedict Arnold, Jean Fritz
Carry on Mr. Bowditch, Jean Lee Latham

Justin Morgan Had a Horse, Marguerite Henry
The Great Little Madison, Jean Fritz
The Call of the Wild, Jack London
Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain
Red Badge of Courage, Stephen Crane
Islands of the Blue Dolphins, Scott O'Dell
Rifles for Watie, Harold Keith

Art

Periods and Schools: Impressionism; Post-Impressionism; Expressionism and Abstraction; Modern American Painting

Music

Classical Music: Romantics and Nationalists (Brahms, Berlioz, Liszt, Wagner, Dvorak, Grieg, Tchaikovsky)
 American Musical Traditions (Blues and Jazz)

MS Latin 1:

Prerequisite: None (This is an introductory course, no previous Latin is required) Students will learn introductory Latin language skills including vocabulary, grammar, etymology, and syntax with special attention on supporting English grammar and vocabulary skills, and in preparation for continuing study in Latin. In the process, students will explore Roman culture and history and develop an appreciation for the impact of Latin and Roman culture on modern languages and societies.

Science 7

The topics include: cell structure, function, process and energy; genetics; the theory of evolution; properties and states of matter; elements, compounds and mixtures; atoms and the periodic table; chemical bonding, reactions and compounds; and atomic energy.

Math: Saxon Course 3

Course 3 is a Pre-Algebra course.

EIGHTH GRADE

History

Industrialism, Capitalism and Socialism	The Russian Revolution
Immigration, Industrialization and Urbanization	America from the Twenties to the New Deal
Reform	World War II
America Becomes a World Power	Cold War/Modern America
World War I: "The Great War", 1914-1918	

English / History Reading List

<i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> , Mark Twain	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , Harper Lee
<i>Hiroshima</i> , John Hersey	<i>Of Mice and Men</i> , John Steinbeck
<i>The Good Earth</i> , Pearl S. Buck	<i>Animal Farm</i> , George Orwell
<i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> , Robert Louis Stevenson	<i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> , Anne Frank
<i>Twelfth Night</i> from the "No Fear Shakespeare" series	<i>The Chosen</i> , Chaim Potok
<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> , Erich Remarque	<i>Night</i> , Elie Wiesel
<i>Grapes of Wrath</i> , John Steinbeck	

Art

Periods and Schools: Painting Since World War, Photography; 20th-Century Sculpture
Architecture Since the Industrial Revolution

Music

Non-Western Music
Classical Music: Nationalists and Moderns (Sibelius, Bartok, Rodrigo, Copland, Debussy, Stravinsky)
Vocal Music : Opera; American Musical Theater

MS Latin 2:

Prerequisite: MS Latin 1 or equivalent.

Students continue Latin study from Level 1. Study focus on vocabulary, grammar, Latin sentence formation, and English connections. Students prepare for High School Latin by examining sentences from primary sources and have an introduction to Roman writing.

Science 8

Topics include: motion, force, friction, gravity, momentum; work and machines; energy and energy resources; heat and heat technology; waves; the nature of sound and light; electricity and electromagnetism.

Math: Algebra I

Algebra I builds the algebraic foundation essential for all students to solve increasingly complex problems. Higher order thinking skills use real-world applications, reasoning and justification to make connections to math strands. Algebra 1 focuses on algebraic thinking and multiple representations - verbal, numeric, symbolic, and graphical.