

Expected School-Wide Learning Results

In developing the whole child, Almaden Country School will prepare students to be:

- ◆ *Critical and creative thinkers* who know, comprehend, apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate.
- ◆ *Literate individuals* who demonstrate developmental competency in reading, writing, mathematics, sciences, and other disciplines.
- ◆ *Effective communicators* who listen, explain, make presentations, and respond with clarity, in all curriculum disciplines.
- ◆ *Healthy individuals* who understand and demonstrate the elements of physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle.
- ◆ *Community contributors* who practice respect, responsibility, courtesy, service, cooperation, generosity, honesty, patriotism, good citizenship, appreciation for diversity, and school team building.
- ◆ *Productive individuals* who discover, develop, appreciate, and apply their unique gifts with a strong work ethic.
- ◆ *Self-respecting individuals* who understand their personal value and demonstrate confidence in their abilities.

Statement of Purpose

Since 1982, the mission of Almaden Country School has been to discover the gifts in every child. An Almaden Country School education is one that offers a traditional liberal arts and sciences curriculum, taught in a developmentally appropriate sequence. It focuses on the individual and includes strong academics, continuity and integration of curriculum, broad enrichment programs and a dedicated partnership between home and school.

At ACS, we value childhood. Guided by our recognition that each child has unique capabilities and learning styles, we provide a wide variety of experiences to enable children to develop their innate talents. Academic expectations are high, and with the guidance of superior faculty, students acquire and develop the necessary skills to prepare them for life.

We also strive to develop inherent values in each student, encouraging learning in an atmosphere of respect through courtesy, cooperation, patriotism, honesty, good citizenship, and appreciation of diversity. With these values at the helm of our school, we believe that faculty, students, and parents will contribute to the well-being and stability of our community and our society.

Our purpose as a school is clear: we want children to succeed in their educational, social, and personal endeavors. In the process, our students also grow into delightful people—considerate, concerned, committed, and ready to make significant contributions to the world-at-large.

Almaden Country School Curriculum

Middle School

Rigorous Academics Focus On The Individual Broad Enrichment



The Middle School years, grades 6–8, at Almaden Country School are focused on developing the full potential of each student in preparation for high school.

The curriculum provides a core of strong academics, balanced by a broad selection of multi-age elective courses. The schedule consists of a seven period day with core subjects of language arts, literature, mathematics, social studies, science and physical education, along with multiple elective courses. Instruction is enhanced by technology integrated in presentations and projects, featuring our Apple laptop program. Weekly class meetings are a time to build community and discuss emergent issues in a safe environment. The Homework Center is available for quiet study after school five days each week.

We realize the Middle School years are a critical and formative time in each child's intellectual, emotional, social, and physical growth, and our instruction is designed to foster curious, confident, and poised learners. Throughout Middle School, our committed teachers share their exper-

tise and enthusiasm with students, challenging them to become critical thinkers and problem-solvers, and to experience the joy of life-long learning.

Middle School students enjoy diverse extracurricular activities. Leadership and school spirit are encouraged through community service, class projects, and the "Big Buddy" program. We nourish individual talents and self-confidence through participation in performing arts. After-school athletics promote the values of sportsmanship and camaraderie. Teacher-chaperoned overnight field trips are offered each year, and Middle School socials foster social skills and reinforce healthy norms.

Our Middle School students are recognized for their unique gifts and talents in an atmosphere of mutual respect. A dynamic curriculum, the support of nurturing teachers, and a warm spirit of friendship result in happy, self-confident, well-prepared young women and men who are ready for the world of high school and beyond!

Dr. Ole Jorgenson, Head of School

| GRADE | Language Arts | Math | Social Studies | Science | Physical Education | Electives |
|-------|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| 6 | <p>Reading and Comprehension Skills Develop reader-response evaluative skills in Literature Circles; explore character, setting, theme and tone; predict plot; draw connections to personal life; create visuals for further understanding</p> <p>Library Reader's Workshop Choice of Student-Centered Reading to: enjoy independent selection; increase reading for enjoyment; practice daily reading skills; write journal response to readings</p> <p>Composition and Language Skills Increase writing fluency; introduce three-part essay format; increase grammar skills; develop vocabulary from literature</p> | <p>Mastery of four operations with decimals and fractions; explore averages, ratios, exponents, patterns, percentages, proportions and statistics; use and conversion of customary and metric units; introduction to integers; introduction to algebraic equations; introduction to formulas for perimeter, area, circumference and volume; estimation and problem solving skills throughout; think, talk and write clearly about math</p> | <p>WORLD CULTURES Content Early people and life ways; cradles of civilization; Asia's classical age; the Mediterranean; rise of new empires; growth of trade; the early modern world; times of rapid change; the world at war</p> <p>Skills Map and globe skills; read a telescoping timeline; understand national symbols; form logical conclusions; act as a responsible citizen; evaluate information and sources</p> | <p>The Nature of Science · Scientific method and lab safety · Metric system and basic lab tools</p> <p>Dynamic Earth · Introduction to earth science · Earthquakes, volcanoes, rocks, minerals, and erosion</p> <p>Exploring the Universe Stars, galaxies, the solar system, earth and the moon</p> <p>Science Fair Ongoing independent investigation (culminating in a Science Fair project)</p> | <p>GRADES 6-8</p> <p>Fitness · Cardiovascular health · Aerobic and anaerobic fitness · Resistance strength training · Flexibility</p> <p>Team games leading up to team sports · Basketball · Football · Pickleball · Soccer · Softball · Team handball · Ultimate Frisbee · Volleyball · Lacrosse · Track and field</p> | <p>GRADES 6-8</p> <p>Elective Courses A variety of elective courses are offered each trimester. Students take at least one class from each block of electives prior to graduation from 8th grade. For example:</p> <p>Language Arts · French and Spanish* · Speech and Debate · Journalism · Short Stories</p> <p>Fine Arts and Performing Arts · 2-D Advanced Art & Design · 3-D Advanced Art & Design · Drama · Set Design · Yearbook</p> <p>Science and Technology · iMovie, Garage Band and Podcasting · Science Technology · Word Processing</p> <p>General Studies · Social Savvy · Community Service · Study Skills · Social Justice · Baking 101</p> <p>*French and Spanish Level A · Basic conversation, vocabulary and grammar structures · Present tense verb usage · Country-specific major cultural events & holidays explored</p> <p>Level B · Intermediate language skills developed · More complex verb usage · Reading small passages of literature · Introduction to popular culture and exploration of historical events</p> <p>Level C · Continuing development of intermediate language skills · Added verb tense usage: present, past, and simple future · Reading short stories or small chapter books · Conversation skills advanced to speaking without scripted dialogue</p> |
| 7 | <p>Literature Develop oral fluency; read with expression; read critically and comprehend, analyze, interpret, predict, evaluate and draw conclusions from the literature; create short stories and poems</p> <p>Grammar Write clear sentences and paragraphs; create effective essays and stories; develop oral communication and presentation skills; improve note taking and research methods; learn, reinforce and apply rules of standard English; improve spelling and vocabulary; develop, evaluate, revise, and proofread written work using peers and word processor; employ useful study and organization strategies</p> | <p>Mastery of integers and exponents; applications of ratios, proportions, averages, percentages, volume, area and mass to real-life situations; use of fractions, decimals and integers in basic algebraic equations; introduction to inequalities, irrational numbers, and nonlinear functions; introduction to multiple step equations and linear equations; applications with customary and metric measures; collect, organize and analyze data; use of tools to assist in solving problems; estimation and problem solving strategies throughout all skills; think, talk and write clearly about math</p> | <p>AMERICAN HISTORY I Content European explorers and colonization; search for freedom; moving toward independence; the American Revolution; origins and framework of the Constitution; a new nationalism; age of reform and culture; western expansion; events leading up to the Civil War</p> <p>Skills Identifying and analyzing point-of-view; reading and interpreting maps, graphs, tables; interpreting primary source material; identifying main idea and supporting details; forming conclusions; comparing and contrasting; outlining; writing in response to content; oral presentation; research skills</p> | <p>Cells: Building Blocks of Life Cell structure, function, process, and energy</p> <p>Human Biology and Health · Human body systems (including skeletal, muscular, digestive, circulatory, nervous, etc.) · Reproduction, development, alcohol, tobacco, and drugs</p> <p>Parade of Life: Animals & Plants · Classification of living things · Viruses, protists, fungi and plants · In-depth study of different animal groups</p> | <p>Health Using the <i>Fitness for Life</i> text and a variety of internet based activities, students cover: · Healthy lifestyle · Body types and weight · Motivation · Balance, coordination, reaction time · Agility, power, speed · Nutrition · Disease and genetics · Heart rate</p> <p>Presidential Fitness Testing · Sit-ups · Pull-ups · Sit and reach · One mile run/walk · Shuttle run</p> | <p>Science and Technology · iMovie, Garage Band and Podcasting · Science Technology · Word Processing</p> <p>General Studies · Social Savvy · Community Service · Study Skills · Social Justice · Baking 101</p> <p>*French and Spanish Level A · Basic conversation, vocabulary and grammar structures · Present tense verb usage · Country-specific major cultural events & holidays explored</p> <p>Level B · Intermediate language skills developed · More complex verb usage · Reading small passages of literature · Introduction to popular culture and exploration of historical events</p> <p>Level C · Continuing development of intermediate language skills · Added verb tense usage: present, past, and simple future · Reading short stories or small chapter books · Conversation skills advanced to speaking without scripted dialogue</p> |
| 8 | <p>Literature Study form in all literary genre and analyze, interpret, predict, evaluate, draw conclusions, compare and contrast selections; learn and use literary terms; apply multi-purpose reading techniques, read with fluency and expression; create short stories and poems; study one Shakespearean play in depth</p> <p>Grammar Analyze, parse, model, and write sentences of all constructions and types; analyze, model and write paragraphs; compose essays; increase vocabulary knowledge and usage; research, take notes, organize and write research papers; proofread, edit and revise; spell; present orally; work individually and collaboratively; write for publication</p> | <p>Algebra Readiness Mastery of operations using integers; analyzing of data using charts, tables and graphs; application of decimals, fractions and percentages; algebraic expressions; solving and graphing equations and inequalities; geometric construction and application of formulas; application of properties; mastery of exponents, one and multi-step algebraic equations, rational numbers and sets.</p> <p>Algebra I The study of properties, integers, equations, equalities, and exponents, which lead to the introduction of: polynomials; factoring; linear equations and graphs; systems of equations; absolute value; rational equations; radical equations; relations and functions; quadratic equations</p> | <p>AMERICAN HISTORY 2 & CIVICS Content The Civil War; Reconstruction; the vanishing frontier; the rise of industry / age of invention; into the 20th Century - America as a world power; World War I; the 1920's; the Great Depression; World War II; civil rights movement; framework of American government; rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens</p> <p>Skills Identifying and analyzing point-of-view; reading and interpreting maps, graphs, tables; interpreting political cartoons; interpreting primary source material; comparing and contrasting; outlining; writing in response to content; oral presentation and debate; research skills; expanded research; Socratic discussion</p> | <p>Matter: Building Block of the Universe Introduction to chemistry</p> <p>Motion, Forces and Energy · Work, power and simple machines · Energy forms and changes</p> <p>Electricity and Magnetism Electric charges, currents, magnets, and electronics</p> | <p>GRADES 6-8</p> <p>Fitness · Cardiovascular health · Aerobic and anaerobic fitness · Resistance strength training · Flexibility</p> <p>Team games leading up to team sports · Basketball · Football · Pickleball · Soccer · Softball · Team handball · Ultimate Frisbee · Volleyball · Lacrosse · Track and field</p> | <p>GRADES 6-8</p> <p>Elective Courses A variety of elective courses are offered each trimester. Students take at least one class from each block of electives prior to graduation from 8th grade. For example:</p> <p>Language Arts · French and Spanish* · Speech and Debate · Journalism · Short Stories</p> <p>Fine Arts and Performing Arts · 2-D Advanced Art & Design · 3-D Advanced Art & Design · Drama · Set Design · Yearbook</p> <p>Science and Technology · iMovie, Garage Band and Podcasting · Science Technology · Word Processing</p> <p>General Studies · Social Savvy · Community Service · Study Skills · Social Justice · Baking 101</p> <p>*French and Spanish Level A · Basic conversation, vocabulary and grammar structures · Present tense verb usage · Country-specific major cultural events & holidays explored</p> <p>Level B · Intermediate language skills developed · More complex verb usage · Reading small passages of literature · Introduction to popular culture and exploration of historical events</p> <p>Level C · Continuing development of intermediate language skills · Added verb tense usage: present, past, and simple future · Reading short stories or small chapter books · Conversation skills advanced to speaking without scripted dialogue</p> |