



## 2016-17 COURSE CATALOG

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### STATE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT

AzMERIT (Arizona's Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching) measures students' knowledge in the content areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics in Grades 3-8 and High School Grades 9-12. Each AzMERIT test is aligned to Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards (AZCCRS). AIMS Science Measures students' knowledge in Science and is required in Grade 8.

All Primavera Online Middle School students in grades 6–8 will take the AzMERIT and/or AIMS Science test at the designated testing time periods.

The Arizona State Department of Education does not require students to successfully meet standards on the AzMERIT Reading, Writing and Math tests in order to receive a promotion certificate from an Arizona public middle school. However, all students are required to take these state assessments. For further information, refer to the Arizona State Department of Education website at [www.ade.state.az.us](http://www.ade.state.az.us).

## GRADE LEVEL REQUIREMENTS

The promotion (advancing to the next grade) and retention (staying in the current grade) of students enrolled in the Primavera is based on the degree of success that the individual student achieves in completing the educational program designated to meet his/her needs.

The Arizona Department of Education Board has established standards that students must achieve, which includes proficiency in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. You are **required** to complete the courses listed below before the start of the fall 2016-2017 school year.

A – 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	B – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester
English	English
Math	Math
Science	Science
Social Studies	Social Studies
<b>Total Year Course Requirement:</b>	<b>8 courses</b>



## **RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS**

### **TURNITIN**

To maintain academic integrity of POMS online courses, Turnitin is used for applicable projects and assignments. Turnitin, a leading originality checking and plagiarism prevention services is used as a tool to support student academic achievement and integrity in the following areas: preventing plagiarism, improving writing skills, and providing effective feedback.

Upon submitting a piece of student work, Turnitin will determine if text in a project/assignment matches text in a database housing more than 12 billion pages of digital content. Turnitin does not determine plagiarism; it does locate matching text to help teachers determine if plagiarism has occurred.

### **THINKING STORM**

At POMS, we believe in providing additional resources to our students so they may be successful in the courses they are enrolled in. POMS has partnered with Thinking Storm to provide free online tutoring to our students.

Thinking Storm is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for online tutoring support for a wide range of Primavera classes, including:

- Math (Math 6A through Advanced Math B)
- English and Writing(English 6A through English 12B, plus writing support for non-English classes)
- Science (Science 6A through Physics B)



## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **ENGLISH 6A – Composition**

6<sup>th</sup> GRADE ENGLISH, 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER

In English 6A, students will learn about grammar, punctuation, composition, reading, speaking, and listening. Focus is on 6th grade Common Core standards so that students can write their own narratives, persuasive letters and short research essays. Students will also complete projects that focus on “how-to” reading and writing, news reporting and Close Reading.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 6

**PRE-REQUISITES:** None

#### **ENGLISH 6B – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature**

6<sup>th</sup> GRADE ENGLISH, 2<sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER

English 6B provides an integrated study of literature, reading, language arts and writing. Students will analyze the relationship among an author’s style, literary form and impact on a reader. This course is designed to assist students in becoming lifelong writers and readers.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 6

**PRE-REQUISITES:** English 6A

#### **ENGLISH 7A – Effective Communication Skills**

7<sup>th</sup> GRADE ENGLISH, 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER

In this course, students will improve their reading and writing skills, helping them become communicators that are more effective. Students will organize their ideas and prepare structured essays based on various topics such as personal experience and persuading others. Students will learn and practice effective research techniques as they, prepare, complete and polish reports and essays. This course will also provide interactive activities, readings and PowerPoint presentations to extend learning beyond the textbook. Students participate in discussions that will include teacher feedback on a daily basis throughout the course.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 7

**PRE-REQUISITES:** None

## ENGLISH 7B – Basic Literature

7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH, 2<sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER

The purpose of this course is to build upon the basics of English 7A and enhance the ability of students to read literature of a wide variety. Students continue to develop their writing through unit projects and the application of the Six Traits of Writing to the processes of prewriting, organizing, drafting, revising, editing and publishing. Students will complete six units of varying topics, comprised of five lessons each.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 7

**PRE-REQUISITES:** English 7A

## ENGLISH 8A – Foundations of the English Language

8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH, 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER

Writing is an essential skill. In business and academics, effective writers are eagerly sought and rewarded. This class centers on writing effectively in a business setting, as students produce a brochure on an interesting place of their choosing. Interactive activities, readings and PowerPoint presentations provide a wealth of information. Students participate in discussions and teacher feedback is provided throughout the course.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 8

**PRE-REQUISITES:** None

## ENGLISH 8B – Basic Literature

8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH, 2<sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER

The purpose of this course is to build upon the basics of English 8A and enhance the ability of students to read a wide variety of literature. Students continue to develop their writing through unit projects and the application of the Six Traits of Writing to the processes of prewriting, organizing, drafting, revising, editing and publishing. Students will complete six units of varying topics, comprised of five lessons each.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 8

**PRE-REQUISITES:** English 8A

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT – Intermediate A

This course is for English language learners. It incorporates the major components of English language learning in an intensive system of study designed to move students to proficiency quickly and efficiently. It includes all aspects of language development: reading, writing, listening, speaking, grammar, pronunciation and conversation.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 7

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Verified ELL Student

## MATHEMATICS

### MATH 6A – Grade 6 Mathematics A

Learning Mathematics is a lot like learning music. It requires a lot of practice. Not memorization drills, but understanding the concepts and using your own intuition. To become fluent, you will look at problems from several different angles.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 6

**PRE-REQUISITES:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics

### MATH 6B – Grade 6 Mathematics B

This course will help the student master the Common Core concepts required at the sixth grade level. Each concept is explained and problems are presented in a variety of ways. This allows students to learn in their own way. The student can use his or her current knowledge to learn the new concepts and develop mastery level skills.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 6

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Math 6A

### MATH 7A – Math Basics A

Math can be great fun. Developing math skills can give students a great sense of accomplishment and raise their self-esteem. Students who master this course will take major strides toward speaking the language of mathematics.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 7

**PRE-REQUISITES:** None

### MATH 7B – Math Basics B

This second half of Math Basics will continue to expand the student's math skills in preparation for algebra and geometry. All concepts are presented in multimedia presentations allowing the student to learn in their own style. This course provides multiple opportunities for the student to learn new concepts, as well as reaching mastery level of basic math skills.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 7

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Math 7A

### MATH 8A – Pre-Algebra A

Learning math and algebra concepts can be fun. Abstract ideas can be challenging for many students but the challenge is one they can meet. Concepts are presented with a little humor, making the learning fun. Students will enjoy learning each new concept and develop a deeper understanding of the math skills they already have. Each concept is presented using examples of the skills, concepts, and strategies students will need. Scaffolding of ideas is provided to ensure student learning.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 8

**PRE-REQUISITES:** None

## MATH 8B – Pre-Algebra B

Math 8B helps students move from simple mathematics to the exciting worlds of algebra, geometry, and statistics. Students build basic skills within each of these three branches of mathematics, as well as the connections between them. In this course, students learn to find multiple solutions, and to read a graph to help find solutions. Students also learn the many ways that graphs can help to quickly and accurately turn algebraic symbols into easy-to-interpret real-life meanings. Students experiment and interact with concepts, such as performing transformations and calculating measurements of three-dimensional figures, which helps them build a solid foundation for future studies. The course wraps up with a study of statistics and probability, which helps students to see how the world works and to discover some of the interesting ways that math is used to describe the world.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 8

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Math 8A/Pre-Algebra A

## SCIENCE

### SCIENCE 6A – Introduction to General Science 6A

Introduction to Science 6A is an introduction to the basics of scientific thinking and investigation. In this course, students will learn how to make predictions, investigate and interpret data. These concepts will then carry over to the other parts of 6th grade science where they will practice and use the scientific process. Students will also explore the structure and function of living systems. This will include learning about the cell, different groups of living things, how living things are organized and how different structures work together to carry out certain functions.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 6

**PRE-REQUISITES:** None

### SCIENCE 6B – Introduction to General Science 6B

Introduction to Science 6B is a continuation to the basics of scientific thinking and investigation. In this course, students will continue to practice making predictions, investigating and interpreting data. Students will also explore the composition of Earth and how Earth interacts with the atmosphere. This will include learning about Earth's weather and climate. This course also covers how organisms interact with their environment and the various changes that can occur. Finally, students will learn how energy is transferred and stored.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 6

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Science 6A

### SCIENCE 7A – Basic Earth & Space Science A

This is the first course for 7th grade science, in which the basics of Earth Science are introduced. These topics are tested and applied to the student's everyday life. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to basic Earth science topics, in preparation for high school General Science.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 7

**PRE-REQUISITES:** None



## SCIENCE 7B – Basic Earth & Space Science B

This is the second course for 7th grade science. One unit on Environmental Science is discussed, along with five units of Astronomy. These topics are tested and applied to the student's everyday life. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to basic science topics in preparation for a high school level General Science course.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 7

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Science 7A

## SCIENCE 8A – Introduction to Physical Science

This is the first course for 8th grade science. Physical Science such as matter, mixtures and motion are discussed, tested and applied to the student's everyday life. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to basic Physical Science topics in their preparation for a high school General Science course.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 8

**PRE-REQUISITES:** None

## SCIENCE 8B – Introduction to Life Science

This is the second course for 8th grade science. General Life Science topics are discussed such as genetics, evolution and mitosis. They are tested and applied to the student's everyday life. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to basic Life Science topics in preparation for a high school Biology course.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 8

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Science 8A

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### SOCIAL STUDIES 6A – Prehistory to Rome

Prepare to travel the world on a journey through the history of civilization. Students will study the influence of geography, culture and religion on the world. They will traverse the ancient cultures of Asia and Europe from Mesopotamia to ancient Rome. Students will discover how exploration, trade, scientific discoveries and new philosophies changed the course of human history. Finally, students will assess these religious, scientific, philosophical and political breakthroughs. Through this course, students will begin to understand how concepts from the past continue to influence our society today.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 6

**PRE-REQUISITES:** None

### SOCIAL STUDIES 6B – The Spread of Ideas

Social Studies B covers the Islamic Empires through the Enlightenment period. A current events component is featured. Through this course, students will begin to understand how concepts and philosophies from the past continue to influence our society today.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 6

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Social Studies 6A



## **SOCIAL STUDIES 7A – America Since the Civil War**

American History covers the history of our nation from pre-Civil War through the Roaring Twenties. Major topics include: pre-Civil War, the Civil War, Reconstruction, Immigration, the Industrial Revolution, the Progressive Era, Imperialism, World War I and the Roaring Twenties. In addition, the content areas of government, economics, science, art, literature and the humanities are interwoven throughout the class, creating an integrated learning experience.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 7

**PRE-REQUISITES:** None

## **SOCIAL STUDIES 7B – America Since the Jazz Age**

Social Studies 7B will cover the history of our nation from the Great Depression to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Students will examine factors that lead to the Great Depression and World War II. The West's involvement in the Cold War, as well as the fall of the Soviet Union, will be covered in detail. The course also includes a study of contemporary issues in America, foreign and domestic policies, economics and Arizona history. In addition, the content areas of government, science, art, literature and the humanities are interwoven throughout the class, creating an integrated learning experience.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 7

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Social Studies 7A

## **SOCIAL STUDIES 8A – Founding to Industrial Revolution**

In this course, students will gain understanding of why and how the United States developed into the country it is today. Students will link the past and present while discovering cultural, economical, political and physical influences. Students will develop and practice critical thinking skills as they investigate American and World History, government, geography and economics. This course provides interactive activities, supplemental readings, lectures, video clips and PowerPoint presentations to extend learning beyond the textbook. Learners will participate in discussions that will include comments and feedback from teacher and peers.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 8

**PRE-REQUISITES:** None

## **SOCIAL STUDIES 8B – America Since 1900**

American History B begins at the start of the 20th century and ends in the 21st century. Students will examine World War I and the Jazz Age. In addition, students learn about the economic factors that lead to the Great Depression. World War II, the Cold War and the Vietnam conflict are all studied. Human rights in the 20th century are also featured, as well as the events of the early years of the 21st century.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 8

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Social Studies 8A

## ELECTIVES

### MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPUTER BASICS – Keyboarding and Basic Skills

This course will help the student learn the basics of computer skills. The student will work with basic software programs such as word processing, spreadsheets and presentations. Students will also have the opportunity to improve their keyboarding speed and accuracy.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 7

**PRE-REQUISITES:** None

## HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### MIDDLE SCHOOL HEALTH 7 – A Healthy Lifestyle

This course will help students understand the importance of making decisions that will affect their physical, emotional, mental and social health. This course will provide students with the knowledge and resources they will need to make responsible, informed decisions about their health. Students will have an opportunity to evaluate their own values, opinions and attitudes about health.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 6

**PRE-REQUISITES:** None

### MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Introduction to Personal Fitness

This course will help the student understand the importance of developing and maintaining an active lifestyle. Students will engage in daily physical activities. They will maintain nutrition and activity logs, as well as learn how to make positive choices to improve their health and fitness.

**SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL:** 7

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Physical Activity Required