



2017-18 COURSE CATALOG

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(January 2018)



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.

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 2017-2018 school year.

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



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RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

TURNITIN

To maintain academic integrity of Primavera Online Middle School (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

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

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

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

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

In this course, students will read and analyze literary and informational texts. These texts will come from a number of genres and from a number of sources, including short stories, novels, myths, poems, magazine articles, and autobiographies. Through the presentation of these types of reading selections, the course demonstrates ways to understand explicit and implicit information, theme, central idea, and figurative language. They will read the novel *The Call of the Wild* and short stories, such as “The Lottery,” “A Sound of Thunder,” and “The Tell-Tale Heart.” They will examine informational texts to better your understanding of the Yukon, the Klondike Gold Rush, dog sledding, and wolves. In addition, students will encounter numerous infographics and videos that build on the instruction.

As students read the selections in this course, they will practice ways to use supporting evidence, identify central ideas, make inferences, analyze word choice, and identify figurative and connotative language in both literary and informational texts. In addition, they will learn about basics in grammar, usage, and punctuation, including phrases and clauses, sentence structures, ellipses, dashes, and commas. Students will also review context clues to determine word meaning and learn about Greek and Latin prefixes, suffixes, and roots.

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 8

PRE-REQUISITES: None

ENGLISH 8B

In this course, students will read and analyze both literary and informational texts. These texts come from a number of genres and from a number of sources, including short stories, novels, poems, Internet articles, and political speeches. The course’s reading selections demonstrate ways to understand explicit and implicit information, theme, central idea, and figurative language, among other ideas and concepts. They will read parts of the novels *Fahrenheit 451*, *Hatchet*, and *Black Beauty*, as well as short stories such as “How the World Was Saved,” “Harrison Bergeron,” and “All Summer in a Day.” As they read the selections in this course, they will practice ways to use supporting evidence, identify central ideas, make inferences, analyze word choice, and identify figurative and connotative language in both literary and informational texts.

Students will also learn about basics in grammar, usage, and punctuation, including phrases, clauses, sentence structures, verbals, mood, and active and passive voice. They review context clues to determine word meaning, and will learn various vocabulary words and more about Greek and Latin prefixes, suffixes, and roots. In addition, students will learn the elements of informational and argument writing so that they can plan, create, write, revise, and edit their own informational and argumentative essays.

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

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: 5th grade Mathematics

MATH 6B

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 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

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

In this course, students begin with the fundamentals of algebra, where they compare, order, and perform operations on rational and irrational numbers, use inverse operations to solve for a variable in one- and two-step equations, write and solve two-step equations from contextual situations, and analyze properties of functions, focusing on linear functions. The next area of study is very large and very small numbers, where they will solve expressions involving powers of a common base, convert numbers to and from scientific notation, and perform operations on numbers in scientific notation. They will then move on to geometry, where they will perform rigid transformations on figures and prove congruence of figures through a series of rigid transformations.

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 8

PRE-REQUISITES: None

MATH 8B

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

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

This is the second course for 6th grade science. It 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

Science 7A focuses on 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

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

Science 8A focuses on life science concepts from biology, ecology, and environmental science. Science 8A also explores the nature of science and has engineering and technology practices threaded throughout the course. This course begins with an introduction to scientific processes.

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 8

PRE-REQUISITES: None

SCIENCE 8B

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

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

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

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

Social Studies 7B will cover the history of our nation from the Great Depression to the 21st 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

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 key historical places, people, and events. Throughout the course, students will examine primary sources, maps, and documents to identify and interpret human migration, technological advancements, and famous battles. This course provides a mix of text, videos, interactive elements, projects, discussions, and assessments to enhance learning and student participation.

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 8

PRE-REQUISITES: None

SOCIAL STUDIES 8B

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

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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 can also improve their keyboarding speed and accuracy.

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 7

PRE-REQUISITES: None

GAMING UNLOCKED – NEW!

Games have been played for thousands of years. Man has loved to find ways to entertain himself. In this course, the student becomes the game master! Students will learn the basics of gaming: from what makes a game fun to what makes a game work. Students will explore all types of games in this course, from mental games to board games to video games. The focus of the course is on developing a student's ability to recognize good game play mechanics as well as the steps necessary to produce a game. This course will NOT require students to know or learn a programming language. The emphasis is on the history of games and the design of games, as well as learning about the different careers available in the game industry.

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 8

PRE-REQUISITES: None

HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

MIDDLE SCHOOL HEALTH

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

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

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