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THE ROEPER SCHOOL

Middle School Course Guide

2016- 2017 Revision

Over the course of three years, Roeper teachers address and exercise each middle school student's intellectual, social, physical, emotional, and character needs within a flexible, experiential, and responsive curriculum.

Kenneth Brighton, in his book *Coming of Age: The Development of Young Adolescents*, expounds on the efficacy of "vigor" in middle school curriculum as opposed to "rigor." He synonymously describes vigor as "strong, healthy, active, energetic, and robust." Through the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, Roeper middle school students vigorously study English, social studies, science, and mathematics.

Additionally, Roeper's diverse elective offerings provide an opportunity for students to delve into areas of keen interest and, at the same time, a chance to adventure and investigate unfamiliar territory. Middle school students typically enroll in twelve elective classes each school year, building to thirty-six elective classes during the three years of middle school--allowing for a substantial personalization in the scheduling process.

The power of elective classes is lasting. When I was in 7th grade, I enrolled in an elective course titled Genetics taught by Ms. Dudley. Ms. Dudley had each student bring in a male and female animal (mouse, hamster, or rabbit) to care for, to breed, and to study—and then to write a scientific paper on the experience. Close to 40 years later, I remember, with clarity, our study of Gregor Mendel, Mendelian Inheritance, dominant and recessive phenotypes, Punnett squares, and Drosophila melanogaster (the common fruit fly). Sadly, I only had one elective class each semester in middle school which qualified my academic experience, because "choice" was rare, rather than routine.

At Roeper, middle school is a time to dream big, read the course guide, and make choices.

Colleen O. Potocki
Middle School Director

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KEY

MS . . . . . MIDDLE SCHOOL

US . . . . . .UPPER SCHOOL

EOD . . . . . EVERY OTHER DAY

T . . . . . .TRIMESTER

T1 . . . . . TRIMESTER 1

T2 . . . . . TRIMESTER 2

T3 . . . . . TRIMESTER 3

Y . . . . . YEAR

Cover art by Jessica Frazier, *Grade 8*

The Middle School curriculum includes English literature and composition, social studies, four world language options, communications, mathematics, computer study, science, fine and performing arts, physical education, and health. Teachers are available during their planning blocks to provide individual help when needed. Students may have one block per day without any scheduled classes so that they can take advantage of teacher help, do homework, or socialize with friends. Each student has a homeroom teacher who acts as an advocate and mentor; the homeroom teacher also serves as the first point of contact with parents.

We have a Resource Room where students who need additional help with learning strategies, organization, and needed accommodations can attend scheduled classes or drop in as needed. There are also opportunities for advanced work at the Upper School level or a student may design a course with the support of a faculty mentor. Extracurricular activities include interscholastic sports, theatre, forensics, chess, robotics and Model United Nations. Each year students attend a grade-specific, week-long trip which provides opportunities for exploration and adventure as well as building community.

MS DEBATE: ***COM0108*** . . . . . T/EOD

Learn the art of formal debate! Win arguments with your teachers and parents! Take on contemporary issues then test your debate ability.

MS FORENSICS: ***COM0100*** . . . . . Y/EOD

Learn the theories and practices of oral interpretation and public speaking through competitive speech activities. Tournament participation is an important part of forensics; students attend two tournaments — one in winter (usually January) and one in spring (April or May) — under the direction of the Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association. Students must sign up for at least two consecutive trimesters of Forensics. In addition, students are encouraged to perform their pieces in non-competitive venues such as at the Lower School, the Stone Circle and Forensics Night.

MS YEARBOOK: ***COM0102*** . . . . . T1 & T2/EOD — *Students must sign up for two consecutive trimesters (1 & 2)*

Staff members work in the areas of copy writing, layout, photography and artistic design, and produce, as a team, the annual yearbook. All staff members are expected to solicit advertising to balance the yearbook budget.

COMPUTER

MS DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY: ***CTR0114*** . . . . . T/EOD

Students will explore a type of photographic process different from existing "wet lab" photography, taking them out of the darkroom and into a place where they incorporate technology with image making. The emphasis is on the quality of the final image as well as developing computer skills., using Adobe Photoshop CS6. Essential to the integrity of this process is the ability to understand and utilize the vernacular of the medium.

MS DIGITAL VIDEO EDITING: ***CTR0104*** . . . . . T/EOD

This is an introduction to the art of making a video out of raw video footage. Students work with the textbook *Adobe Premiere Elements 9 Classroom in a Book*, reading the lessons and using the techniques to complete the assignment, while gaining an understanding of how to edit the clips they have shot into a coherent final video. Once they have mastered the skills, students work on a project that demonstrates what they have learned. While elaborate storyboarding is not a requirement, students are not permitted to shoot their project until a story treatment has been approved. After the video is complete, the student will burn it to a DVD which is subsequently viewed and critiqued by the class.

MS MICROWORLDS: ***CTR0103*** . . . . . T/EOD

MicroWorlds is a class that gives your imagination the tools it needs to break out into the real world. Students create worlds through sketches and writing and then write stories that take place within their creations. The tales are illustrated using different graphics software, including the programs *MicroWorlds*, *Bryce 3D*, a 3D landscape program, and *Poser*, a 3D figure design program. Students' work will be compiled into a small color anthology.

MS VIDEO PODCASTING: ***CTR0119*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Students will work together to design and create educational podcasts covering subjects of interest to them. The goal is to create short (3-6 minute) videos that are interesting in both content and delivery for the education and amusement of fellow students, and to publish the videos to the Roeper website. In addition to learning fully about different topics and finding interesting ways to present the information, students will learn video scripting, camera operation, editing, and effects.

MS FOUNDATIONS OF COMPUTER BUILDING: ***CTR0121*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Motherboard. RAM. GPU. CPU. PCI-Bus. Do these words mean anything to you? If not, but you'd like to know, this is the course for you! In this elective we will learn the "nuts and bolts" of computer hardware. What is a CPU and why does it have a "clock"? What are the ramifications of improper thermal paste application? Which Video Card will let me play with my friends at 60 frames per second in crisp 1080p? Where do all these components go on this wacky circuit board? We'll learn all those things and more throughout the Trimester. This is a foundations course. Minimal prior knowledge is assumed. That means if you already know what goes where and why; you may get bored.

MS COMPUTER PROGRAMMING: ***CTR0122*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

The course is introductory and does not require students to have any prior coding experience. Students should come away from the class with an understanding of the physical components and functions of a computer, as well as software and operations, and how to make them function though code. We will be study programming concepts using the Scratch program and introduce computer programming with the Python language.

MS ENGLISH 6: ***ENG0100*** . . . . . Y

Reading, analysis and discussion of literature form the nucleus of sixth grade English. Typically, four/five novels, three dramas (one being Shakespearian), and several short stories and poems are standard for the year. Students also write regularly, both in and out of class. While we experiment with several types of writing throughout the year, personal and fictional narrative and persuasive essay are underscored. Students are encouraged to view writing as a practical tool, a process with distinct steps, and an art form with limitless variation and expression specific to the individual writer and purpose. Grammar and punctuation are taught directly as well as within the context of student writing, reading and vocabulary. Vocabulary study is also central to the course, for which the class uses the text The Joy of Vocabulary.

MS ENGLISH 7: ***ENG0101*** . . . . . **Y**

Seventh Grade English is a literature-based course, meaning reading and considering texts is a constant expectation. Typically six to eight novels, one nonfiction work, a short story unit, and one drama unit, along with an introduction to basic literary terms and concepts, are standard for the year. The close of each literary unit is marked with a traditional test (multiple choice, matching, short answer, passage explication, and essay), a critical thinking test, an expository essay, and/or an interdisciplinary extension project. Grammar and punctuation are taught directly, as well as within the context of student writing. Students are encouraged to view writing as a practical tool, a process with distinct steps, and an art form, a process with limitless variation and expression specific to the individual writer and purpose. Seventh Grade students are exposed to a variety of writing experiences; however, a research paper (informative or persuasive), essay composition, and short story writing are underscored in the 7th Grade curriculum. A two-hour essay exam is taken at the end of each semester.

In addition to writing for a reader, 7th Grade students practice writing for an audience. Presenting a formal speech, the telling of a MOTH story, and participating in the annual 7th Grade Film Festival — where student groups write, produce, and present an original film — are course requirements.

MS ENGLISH 8: ***ENG0102*** . . . . . Y

Exploration of literature through careful reading, discussion and writing forms the nucleus of 8th Grade English. Students are expected to become increasingly critical readers through the course of the year, and to recognize and analyze literary elements such as symbolism, theme and tone. Students write frequently about the literature to this end and are encouraged to experience writing as a tool to deepen awareness and open new avenues of thought. The curriculum offers many different types of literature and intermittently links up with the 8th Grade Social Studies curriculum in its focus.
Personal creative writing is also an integral part of the 8th Grade curriculum. Students are encouraged to see this writing as a process and to regularly reflect on and revise their work.

Each group of students is encouraged to form a community of writers within the class that inspires and supports the work. Grammar and punctuation are taught both directly and in context of student work and literature. Vocabulary study is also a central part of the curriculum, for which Latin and Greek roots form the base.

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

MS AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE: *ENG0224* . . . . . **T/EOD**

We will cover a broad range of twentieth century authors and poets. The class is designed to inspire students to consider themes and voices in African American Literature and to become familiar with several celebrated authors, poets and playwrights. We will read poems, short stories and novel and play excerpts in class together, exploring and sharing ideas in response to the texts, all at a middle school level. All materials will be supplied by the teacher and all work will be done in class.

MS CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP: ***ENG0119*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

This workshop is designed to engage students in small or large writing projects, to familiarize young writers with techniques to enhance their craft, and to provide a supportive network of writing peers. Both individual writing and sharing of work with the group will be central to the class and are required. The class will follow a routine in which a lesson on a specific writing technique will be given, followed by a writing prompt that will allow for much freedom of direction. This will be followed by two class periods of individual writing, and finally, by a class period of sharing work aloud. Creating a supportive micro-community of writers that inspire and encourage one another's work will be integral to the tone of the class.

MS FICTION WRITING WORKSHOP: ***ENG0216*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Students will work independently on creative projects that will be read by their classmates and discussed in weekly workshop sessions where authors receive feedback and constructive criticism concerning their craft.

MS GRAMMARAMA: ***ENG0205*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Students grapple with and celebrate the basics of grammar with positive energy, humor, and ample practice and application. Grammarama is structured in a 20-lesson format designed to nurture engagement with the course goal: critical thinking and artful composition supported and strengthened by the knowledge of grammar basics.

MS GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES: *ENG0225* . . . . . **T/EOD**

This will be a celebration of the original versions of the classic fairy tales with which we are all culturally familiar. Working principally from The Complete Works of the Brothers Grimm, we will read the original Rapunzel, Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rumpelstiltskin and many others into which popular adaptations have been made. We will consider the earlier texts in comparison with newer versions (through both film and reading), considering cultural shifts that may have driven these reworkings. Each reading will be followed by discussion questions that we will explore as a group. All materials will be supplied by the teacher and all work will be done in class.

MS JOURNALISM: ***ENG0212*** . . . . . **T/EO**

Staff members of the Middle School newspaper — The Roughwriter — will learn to write news, features, editorials and entertainment pieces, while veteran reporters will perfect the skills gained during prior trimesters. All will grow more adept at conducting background research, selecting sources, interviewing and accurately recording quotes, writing objective articles and learning the importance of meeting deadlines.

MS MONSTERS & DETECTIVES IN FICTION: ***ENG0217*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Students will read, watch, discuss, and write stories featuring detectives and monsters both strange and familiar. ***This class is as reading-intensive as a core English class***

MS NOVEL WRITING WORKSHOP: ***ENG0211*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

This class is designed for the independent writer who wishes to have regular scheduled time to work on a novel. The student will have the opportunity to share writing aloud and receive responses from classmates if he/she wishes; in addition, the teacher will provide feedback at regular intervals. Students may come to class with a novel already in progress or with no more than an idea and a desire to write.

MS PARODY & SATIRE: ***ENG0220*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Students will be introduced to a variety of parodic and satirical writing – from Ambrose Bierce to Jonathan Swift to the Simpsons. Students will explore the surface and deeper motivations of such writing in order to consider the effect of humor at bringing about understanding and change. ***This class is as reading-intensive as a core English class***

MS POETRY SLAM!: ***ENG0219*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Students will explore purposeful poetry that addresses pertinent issues and is meant to be performed. The class will culminate in a SLAM! wherein students will share their pieces in order to bring power and attention to ideas or issues that they feel are important.

MS THE PROCESS: ***ENG0226*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Students will each focus on a single, mullti-section, thesis-driven essay, and be responsible for selecting a topic (within the framework set by the teacher) and willl follow the process from idea generation through proofing and presentation.

MS SHAKESPEARE OUT LOUD: ***ENG0129*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

During the course of the trimester, the class will assign roles and read aloud two of Shakespeare's plays. If you are a ham, you will love becoming Lear, Ophelia, Juliet or Prospero.

MS WORLD MYTHOLOGY: ***ENG0207*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Students explore the myths of particular cultures, beginning with Classical Greek and Roman mythology and moving to lesser-known myths from around the globe. Creative activities supplement the myths to help students experience, appreciate, and make memorable the stories of the super-human mortals, monsters, and gods of world mythology.

MS WRITING YOUR ALTER-EGO TO LIFE: ***ENG0218*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Students will choose from a variety of forms (e.g. stories, letters, family genealogies, journals, songs, etc.) in order to create and develop an alternative persona through writing. Students will also read fiction and non-fiction concerning personality and the ego, asking big-picture questions about how we shape who we are.

ART

MS ARCHITECTURE & ART: ***FIN0157*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

This course is designed as an introduction to architectural styles ranging from Classical Greek and Medieval Gothic to Post-Modern. Projects will include creating designs for homes and public spaces. An understanding of the various components and characteristics of specific styles will help students begin to envision ways to combine architectural styles in personal ways. Throughout the trimester, students will study several buildings in depth. They will also be drawing, painting, and building models.

MS ARCHITECTURE STUDY & 3-D PRINTING: ***FIN0167*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Learn about the principles and methods used in architectural design and bring your drawing to life using 3-D printing.

MS ART OF LIGHT & PROJECTION: ***FIN0163*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

The Art of Light and Projection is a trimester course designed to introduce students to the use of light as a dynamic component of art and the experience of it. Students will gain knowledge about installation art and theater design. They will learn how light and light projection has the capacity to transform any site through creative decisions and design. Students will be asked to create lighting events that incorporate motion, animation, and video to playfully highlight and re-contextualize a space. Together, we will consider this relatively new artform and compare approaches from the world of fine arts and the world of theater design.

MS CERAMICS: ***FIN0101*** . . . . . T/EOD

Developing skills and exploring various hand-building techniques is the focus of this class. The aim of this course is for Middle School students to experience and develop curiosity, interest, and enjoyment in their own creativity and that of others. Through group discussions and the sharing of ideas, students will have the opportunity to develop a critical and aesthetic eye towards everyday objects. Students will have a great deal of freedom to create their own projects. However, along with that freedom, students will be expected to plan and organize effectively to define and set goals, solve problems, negotiate and make decisions. Returning students will follow a similar process by expanding on their prior hand-building experience and take their ideas and skills to a more refined and unique level.

MS DRAWING: ***FIN0102*** . . . . . T/EOD

Middle School Drawing is designed to encourage and direct students to imaginatively and purposefully create artworks using observation, imagination, and various drawing tools. These tools include pencil, ink pen, pastels and charcoal. Do you believe that the most ordinary objects can be the most extraordinary subjects for drawings? How does the interaction of shapes, tones and texture work together in successful drawings? Students will discuss these and other questions while developing new skills in a variety of drawing techniques.

MS EXPERIMENTAL SCULPTURE: ***FIN0119*** T/EOD

We will explore the art of working in 3D through various hands-on assignments. This process is designed to challenge students to stimulate their imaginations, and to become critical thinkers and problem solvers. The aim of this class is to develop curiosity, interest and the enjoyment of their own creativity. Working with wood, fabric, clay and various found objects, students will have the opportunity to experiment and explore through both spontaneous and structured activities. Group discussions and feedback will act as support and promote creative development.

MS FASHION ILLUSTRATION: ***FIN0156*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

This course is designed as an introduction to basic illustration styles and techniques for students interested in learning about fashion design. The focus of projects will include drawing the figure (proportions), and faces, drawing and designing fabrics, textures, and patterns. As conclusion, students will create mood boards, which will be used as inspiration for planning a line of clothing that becomes a collection.

MS PAINTING: ***FIN0127*** . . . . . T/EOD

Middle School Painting will introduce students to various painting approaches used by classical, modern and contemporary painters. Demonstrations will be planned to help students learn different painting processes. Through various assignments, students are encouraged to discover meaningful and personal ways to record their ideas and experiences. Group and individual critiques will be planned to help further students' knowledge of the painting process.

MS PRINTMAKING: ***FIN0126*** . . . . . T/EOD

In this class, we will look at examples of woodblock prints, monoprints, etchings, and silkscreen prints. Students will create at least three separate editions of prints and learn about three major types of printmaking. We will also discuss the design principles of Contrast and Balance. Traditional and alternative (experimental) approaches to printmaking may be introduced. Experimental approaches may involve drawing and collage.

MS STORYTELLING AND ILLUSTRATION: ***FIN0123*** . . . . . T/EOD

In Middle School Storytelling and Illustration, we will look at examples of art by professional artists who tell stories with images. Some of these artists include: Marjane Satrapi, Chris Ware, William Kentridge, and Ancient Roman artists who worked anonymously. We will create projects based on several different formats for visual storytelling. Formats may include the scroll, the traditional bound book, and a collaborative animation. Middle School Storytelling is designed so that students can have opportunities to draw, paint and collage.

DANCE

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE ENSEMBLE: ***FIN0401*** . . . . . Y/EOD

Students in this full-year program will learn the basics of different dance techniques, including modern, jazz and ballet. Improvisation, creative movement and interpretive dance are also important elements of this class. Students explore the fundamentals of dance composition and have fun experimenting with non-traditional dance movements. As members of the Middle School Dance Ensemble, students will choreograph and perform their own dances for the annual Spring Dance Concert, as well as one or more teacher-choreographed dances. Students will also participate in an informal presentation mid-year, featuring works-in-progress. Open to all Middle School students. No dance experience necessary.

MUSIC

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND 7/8: *FIN0311*; 6TH GRADE BAND: *FIN0310* . . . . . Y/EOD

This program is built around the instrumentation of the performers. Music is selected based on individual strengths within the total ensemble, with an emphasis on achieving the best musical balance possible. Students will be provided opportunities to explore the elements of music and develop expressiveness to the music they hear, perform and create. Students will gain personal musical values and awareness to respond with sensitivity to many types of music. This is a performance-oriented ensemble that will participate at scheduled concerts and solo/ensemble workshops and festivals.

MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ BAND: *FIN0313* . . . . . Y/EOD

Inclusion of students not in Middle School Band requires consent of teacher.

In the jazz environment, students have chosen to take their knowledge and enjoyment of music to a new level by studying, performing, creating and listening to repertoire in various jazz styles. Through the learning of repertoire, scales and chords, students will gain confidence in improvisation techniques. The jazz ensemble is built around the instrumentation of the performers. Repertoire is chosen based on individual strengths within the ensemble. Classes act as rehearsals for the many performances, as well as instructional time for the learning of blues scales and chord symbol reading and comprehension.

MS HARMONIA: *FIN0345* . . . . . **Y/EOD**

Girls in 7th and 8th grades only. Full year; trimester additions with instructor permission only in the second trimester.

Enjoy this Women-only ensemble that sings 2- to 4-part harmony and a variety of music styles. Vocal technique, concert performances and other music opportunities will be part of the Harmonia experience. No prior experience is necessary. This class may be repeated.

MS MEN OF DISSONANCE: *FIN0342* . . . . . **Y/EOD**

Middle School Boys only. Full year; trimester additions with teacher permission only in the second trimester.

This Middle School Men's chorus experience will train male voices in various styles. Boys in this group will learn basic vocal technique so they can sing a variety of music and perform with confidence and power several times throughout the school year. They will join with the other Middle and Upper School Choirs for larger works. No prior experience is necessary. This class may be repeated.

MS MUSICAL INSTRUMENT DESIGN & 3-D PRINTING: *FIN0351* . . . . . **T/EOD**

Learn the methods and Science behind wind instrument design with 3D printing.

MS MUSIC COMPOSITION: *FIN0303* . . . . . **T/EOD**

Basic skills of songwriting and composition will be taught in this class. Students will learn how to compose music and/or write songs by weaving together words/notes/rhythms so that music can be the medium by which they can express themselves. No previous music experience is necessary. This class may be repeated.

MS MUSIC FROM OPERA TO BROADWAY: ***FIN0339*** . . . . . T/EOD

Open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

This course will trace the evolution of musical theatre from its earliest roots in Opera to the most current trends on the Broadway stage. In this non-performance elective, students will enhance their music-listening skills and experience dramatic productions of operas and musicals by viewing DVD's, listening to recordings and, when time permits, seeing live performances. This class may be repeated.

MS MUSIC IN MOVIES, TELEVISION & VIDEO GAMES: ***FIN0327*** . . . . . T/EOD

Every main character is represented by unforgettable, descriptive music. Music in Movies, Television & Video Games offers an overview of musical accompaniment in film and television from the silent era of the early 20th Century, to the million dollar motion pictures and television shows of today. No prerequisite is necessary, other than an appreciation for music, movies, and/or video games!

MS MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP: ***FIN0346*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

This trimester course offers Middle School students an opportunity to learn and hone skills of auditioning, singing/dancing/acting and to participate in scenes from musical theatre shows, culminating in a final performance.

ORCHESTRA: ***FIN0350*** . . . . . **Y/EOD**

String players experience repetoire for small ensembles from the Renaissance, Classical, and Romantic eras, as well as from the 20th Century. This ensemble is built around the instrumentation of the performers. Music is selected based on individual strengths withtin the instrumentation, with emphasis on improving technique while also achieving the best musical sound. Students are provided with opportunities to explore the elements of music and develop expressiveness to the music they hear, perform and create. Students gain personal musical values and awareness to respond with sensitivity to many types of music. Members of this performance ensemble participate in several concerts and festivals.

MS TREBLE-MAKER LADIES: ***FIN0333*** . . . . . Y/EOD

Girls in 6th grade only. Full year; trimester additions with teacher permission only in the second trimester.

This is a non-audition 6th grade girls' chorus. Collaborative music-making is encouraged as singers learn how to use their voices well as a choir of individuals and perform in many different styles including Classical, Pop, World Music and Broadway.

MS VOCAL TECHNIQUES: ***FIN0338*** . . . . . T/EOD

Open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

This is a non-audition class where singers learn the basics of vocal tone production and how these concepts and skills can be applied to any style of music. There is emphasis on individual skill-building that is similar to a Master Class or private voice-studio experience. Students will research their chosen pieces and perform in a small, informal recital at the end of the trimester and may be featured on larger concerts. This class may be repeated.

PHOTOGRAPHY

MS PHOTOGRAPHY: ***FIN0501*** . . . . . T/EOD

This class gives students an understanding of the concepts of basic black and white photography through the use of pinhole cameras. Students shoot pinhole cameras outside exposing sheets of photographic paper, producing a negative image. The students learn about the importance of subject matter, depth of field, and exposure time. Once the students gain an understanding of these technical aspects, they focus on the aesthetics of photography. There is an emphasis on darkroom techniques, working with chemicals, learning how the enlargers work and how to make positives from their paper negatives. Students have the option of hand-coloring a black and white 8 X 10 pin-hole positive with photographic pencils, oils, or water base pigment.

THEATRE

MS ACTING FUNDAMENTALS: ***FIN0251*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Improve your acting skills by focusing on technique for stage voice and physicality. Techniques will be introduced by a series of theatre games and exercises that is sure to be the most fun part of the day!

MS COMPANY CLASS: *FIN0264* . . . . . **T/EOD**

Members of this class will select a play based on the size of the ensemble, and will each perform a role in the production.

MS STAGE MAKE-UP: ***FIN0223*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Students will be introduced to the tools and application of stage make-up. During each class the students will make themselves up with a different goal, including basic corrective make-up for the stage, opposite gender, fantasy make-up, injuries, prosthetics, and inanimate objects.

MS TECHNICAL THEATRE/STAGECRAFT: ***FIN0217*** . . . . . T/EOD

Learn the basics of technical theatre such as carpentry, stage lighting, sound reinforcement and prop managment. This class culminates in a fun-filled Tech Olympics competition.

MS TECHNICAL THEATRE/LIGHTING & SOUND: ***FIN0254*** . . . . . T/EOD

An in-depth study of stage lighting that will include design and programming. Students will design lighting for their favorite song and program their cues into the light board. Family and friends will be invited to a demonstration of their deisgn at the end of the trimester.

MS TECHNICAL THEATRE/DESIGN ***FIN0255*** . . . . . T/EOD

A survey of the many fields of theatrical design including set, costumes, makeup & hair, props, lighting and sound. Students will participate in projects that have them experience designing for each of these fields.

The Roeper School offers students a unique state-of-the-art language program. The approach is designed to engage the student at all levels stimulating initiative by utilizing personal experiences and offering relevant activities.

CHINESE

BEGINNING CHINESE 1: ***FLG0500*** . . . . . Y

Beginning Chinese 1 is a beginning language course for students to learn Mandarin Chinese. Its aim is to help students build up and develop basic Chinese language skills for communicative competence in the interpretive, interpersonal and presentational modes. First, *Pinyin* (the most widely used Chinese phonetic system) will be taught as a tool to learn the spoken language. Students will then learn basic vocabulary and sentence structures for use in essential everyday situations through various forms of oral practice. Students will also learn to read and write approximately 200 Chinese characters related to the oral task. Rules for stroke orders will be introduced and will be practiced continuously throughout the year. While linguistic aspects of the Chinese language are the primary focus, introduction to the social and cultural background of the language will also form an important part of the course, helping students not only develop a desire for further exploration of the Chinese language, but also an appreciative acquaintance with Chinese culture.

BEGINNING CHINESE 2: ***FLG0501*** . . . . . Y

Beginning Chinese 2 is designed for students who have finished Beginning Chinese 1 or its equivalent. The curriculum will continue to build on students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, but at an accelerated pace. Building upon previously learned vocabulary and sentence structures, students will study more useful expressions and advanced sentence structures necessary for use in everyday life. Students will be exposed to longer and more complex conversations related to everyday situations as well. While emphasis will still be laid on the communicative skills of listening and speaking, students will also continue studying more Chinese characters for reading and writing, and keep practicing writing short essays in Chinese characters. To facilitate the study of the language, different aspects of Chinese culture and society will also be continuously introduced through activities such as Chinese videos, cooking, field trips and guest speakers.

INTERMEDIATE CHINESE 1: ***FLG0502*** . . . . . Y

Intermediate Chinese 1 is designed for students who have finished Beginning Chinese 2 or its equivalent. Building upon what has been studied in the Beginning Chinese program, more sophisticated vocabulary and grammatical structures are gradually added this year to continue to systematically build students' abilities in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will be exposed to longer and more complicated listening and speaking tasks that will help them to develop the use of skills such as basic summary, description, discussion, debate and report. Topics for reading and writing are also expanded to more abstract and more societal phenomena in order to help students better understand current Chinese society and be able to discuss, compare and analyze cultural differences. Activities related to the broad spectrum of Chinese culture will be organized to facilitate language learning with broader knowledge and deeper understanding of the cultural background of the language.

FRENCH

The Roeper School offers middle school students a unique linguistic experience in which they explore all basic academic subjects through intensive and total French Immersion. Modeled after the very effective Canadian French Immersion program, this non-traditional approach is designed to produce fluent speakers who are able to communicate and function in real and relevant situations.

MS FRENCH P: IMMERSION FRANCAISE PRIMAIRE: ***FLG0113*** . . . . . Y

An introduction à la scolarité en français through intensive and total immersion. Students explore the language through distinct thematic units of Math, Science, Social studies, Fine Arts and Language Arts. This course focuses on helping the learner understand the experience of French across the curriculum. It is accessible to learners at all levels of the language and a smooth transition from the Lower School French program.

If a student has had no prior foreign language experience, please consult the teacher prior to the start of the school year.

MS FRENCH M: IMMERSION FRANCAISE MOYENNE: ***FLG0114*** . . . . . Y

PREREQUISITE: *Successful completion of MS French I or a passing score on French language proficiency evaluation (taken in Stage IV)*

An introduction à la scolarité en français through intensive and total immersion. Students explore the language through distinct thematic units of Math, Science, Social studies, Fine Arts and Language Arts. This course focuses on helping the learner understand the experience of French across the curriculum. It is accessible to learners at all levels of the language and a smooth transition from the Lower School French program.

MS FRENCH A: IMMERSION FRANCAISE ACELEREE: ***FLG0115*** . . . . . **Y**

Most suitable for students who have experienced at least one year of the immersion program. Students explore the language through distinct thematic units of Math, Science, Social studies, Fine Arts and Language Arts. Emphasis placed on strengthening vocabulary and oral competency.

MS FRENCH U: IMMERSION FRANCAISE UPPER SCHOOL PREP: ***FLG0116*** . . . . . Y

Fast-paced intensive immersion with a concentration on oral communication, written production and listening comprehension. Students are especially exposed to various world French accents, cultures and experiences through the sciences, the humanities, and internet media. This class prepares students for upper school French courses.

LATIN

LATIN 1: ***FLG0302*** . . . . . Y

Open to 8th Grade only.

Do you enjoy a good challenge? Are you really clever at solving puzzles? Are you interested in the ways that different languages can connect with each other? If so, Latin 1 might be the foreign language class for you to try. Latin is a complex and actually quite elegant language, and during the first year of study students are introduced to the language by developing their knowledge and skills in three major areas: vocabulary acquisition, grammar, and translation. Additionally, students are exposed to various elements of Roman culture and classical mythology throughout the year in an effort to put this so-called dead language in a living context. Even just one year of Latin study pays large dividends: your understanding of English will improve dramatically, your puzzle-solving skills will become sharper, and you'll find out about some of the curiosities of the Roman world along the way.

SPANISH

MS SPANISH 1: ***FLG0200*** . . . . . Y

MS Spanish 1 emphasizes an introduction to language study using an integrative, communicative approach. It is possible for students to use the language creatively from the outset, and free expression is encouraged. Situations are taken from everyday experiences, and vocabulary emphasizes elements of the native speaker's idiom. Grammar is not presented for its own sake but as a means of transmitting a spoken or written message as accurately as possible. The students in MS Spanish 1 will gain a general overview of the Spanish language, as well as the Hispanic culture. They will learn elementary conversational skills, including vocabulary for greetings, general expressions to describe yourself and others, likes and dislikes, activities, talk about time, how to follow and how to give directions, events, food and restaurants, and shopping. We will read about and discuss the cultures and current events associated with Mexico, Texas, Puerto Rico and other North and Central American Hispanic communities. Basic Spanish conversation among students is encouraged during class. Grammar is integrated throughout the course. This program is congruent with National Standards as established by ACTFL.

MS SPANISH 2: ***FLG0201*** . . . . . Y

This course introduces more vocabulary and more grammatical structures. It also reinforces previous knowledge and expands upon the connections between communication, culture and community. Students will be engaged in conversation about sports, weather, the seasons, music, TV, and clothes. Role-plays and short skits will provide opportunities to utilize vocabulary and practice conversational skills. Newspapers, movies, and a variety of hands-on projects will increase exposure to the culture and lifestyles of different Hispanic countries. A wider variety of grammatical structures will be presented, and students will become more proficient at writing in Spanish. This program is congruent with National Standards as established by ACTFL.

MS SPANISH 3: ***FLG0202*** . . . . . Y

This course builds upon all the skills and information introduced in M1 and M2 and continues research on the Internet. Students will continue developing their language skills through experience and exposure to Spanish language and cultures. Written work will include the development of short stories, and more time will be spent in conversation directed toward developing proficiency in the spoken language. Field trips and guest speakers will expand their exposure to Hispanic culture and the Hispanic community around us. This program is congruent with National Standards as established by ACTFL. After MS 3 students will move to Spanish II at the high school level. Prerequisite to move on is at least a B- or teacher approval.

HEALTH

Each year all Middle School students are required to take a Health course for one trimester. For all health classes, grading will be on a credit/pass or no credit basis, and no letter grade will be given. These are required classes.

MS FUNDAMENTALS OF HEALTH 6: ***HPE0213*** . . . . . T/EOD

The focus of this class is on fitness, lifelong activities, sports that Roeper offers, and nutrition. The goal of this class is to introduce the students to physical education at the M/US campus with students their same ages and ability levels. The students will learn basic fundamentals in Roeper sports to encourage participation in after-school activity. The students will also be introduced to lifelong activities in order to gain confidence and interest in activities that can be participated in for a lifetime. Each trimester there will be a field trip on what the students are participating in. (Examples are: driving range-golf, bowling alley, tennis courts, Frisbee golf at Firefighters Park, Joe Dumars rock climbing/ropes course, etc).

Fitness will be included in each class. While being active, the students will learn the importance of balancing activity with a healthy diet. The students will use pedometers and food journals to chart their activity and eating habits. This class will be located predominantly in the gym and will occasionally visit the computer lab or a classroom when it is required. Anatomy and body systems will also be tied into the curriculum.

MS HEALTH 7 - HUMAN SEXUALITY: ***HPE0214*** . . . . . T/EOD

The focus in this course is on sexuality in its broadest sense, which includes not only human reproduction, but also sexual identity, body image, intimacy in relationships as well as the darker side of sexuality — its use to influence, control or manipulate others. The goal of this course is to gain knowledge, values and skills leading to sexually healthy, responsible lives. This is done through discussion, activities, activity sheets, educational videos and demonstrations. Topics include physical development, masculine/feminine roles, sexual feelings and emotions, social interaction, birth control, sexually transmitted disease, appropriate touch and the right to hold dominion over one's body. An important premise of this course is that the primary sexuality educators for students are their parents. Homework assignments involve parents in interviews and home discussion.

Materials used in this course are from The Search Institute and the book, *Our Whole Lives* by Pamela M. Wilson, MSW. In the fall, all 7th Grade parents are invited to participate in a meeting where they view the course materials.

MS HEALTH 8 - RELATIONSHIPS: ***HPE0215***. . . . . T/EOD

In this class we explore the different relationships we build as we mature. Beginning with ourselves and our self-esteem, we move out to family and peer relationships. How do our experiences, emotions, needs and knowledge affect the quality of our relationships? How do we recognize and build strong, positive relationships? What causes relationships to break down and/or become negative? Who do we turn to for help?

Through discussions, small and large group activities, personal inventories, videos and readings, we come to understand the social, emotional and physical effects of drugs on the lives of adolescents. We gain experience in building self-esteem, setting goals, communicating our feelings, conflict resolution and identifying support systems. We explore the issues, rights and responsibilities involved in dating. We also discuss suicide and dealing with crisis.

MS LIFE SKILLS: ***HPE0114*** . . . . . T/EOD

The focus in this class is on skills that will be needed and used throughout life. The goal is to work toward becoming an independent, competent individual, as well as a collaborative group member. Topics vary each trimester but always provide a variety of experiences. Some topics explored include: cooking processes and techniques, meal planning, comparative shopping and cost analysis, checkbooks and credit cards, woodworking, basic auto care/maintenance, basic wiring and safety, sewing, first aid and much more. There will be a home practical assignment.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

MS ARCHERY: ***HPE0117*** . . . . . S

Welcome to International Style Archery, the second safest sport in Physical Education. (Ping Pong was #1.) Students will identify their dominant shooting eye, learn the 11 steps for a safe archer, and shoot with competence and confidence from 10 and 15 meters. The NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program) and Roeper use the Genesis Compound Bow, an adjustable bow for all children between third and twelfth grade, regardless of their size or strength. In addition to mastering the use of the compound bow, students will participate in several different games and contests with the opportunity to compete against other schools, if they desire.

MS INTRODUCTION TO WEIGHTS: ***HPE0100*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

This introduction to proper and safe weight training will focus on the basic fundamentals needed to participate in a structured weight lifting program. Strength gains are secondary as safety and proper technique will be the focal point of the class. Low weight/high repetitions utilizing safe spotting and lifting form will be emphasized. Free weights, weight machines, isometrics, and aerobic activities will drive this fitness routine in a fun, safe, and healthy manner.

MS PHYSICAL EDUCATION/INTRODUCTION TO FALL SPORTS: ***HPE0122*** T/1EOD

Students will focus on the fundamentals of soccer and football while learning basic strategies of both games. The class will also participate in the President's Physical Fitness Challenge. Student interest will guide the remainder of the classes during the trimester.

MS PHYSICAL EDUCATION/INTRODUCTION TO WINTER SPORTS/NET GAMES: ***HPE0123*** T2/EOD

Students will focus on basketball, volleyball, and net games. Klackball, Pickle-ball, badminton, and Ping Pong will be taught as well. Student interest will guide the remainder of the classes during the trimester.

MS PHYSICAL EDUCATION/INTRODUCTION TO SPRING SPORTS: ***HPE0124*** T3/EOD

Students will focus on baseball and track and field events. The class will also participate in the President's Physical Fitness Challenge. Student interest will guide the remainder of the classes during the trimester.

MS MATH FOUNDATIONS: ***MTH0123*** . . . . . Y

The curriculum is problem centered. Students will investigate mathematical ideas within the context of a realistic problem, as opposed to looking only at numbers. The three-step "Launch, Explore, Summarize" approach helps students develop mathematical thinking and reasoning while practicing and maintaining skills. Students develop understanding of algorithms and strategies for computing and estimating in a variety of ways. They learn to recognize when an algorithm of strategy applies to a new context and when they can build on the skills and strategies they know in order to develop new strategies. In these processes, students practice skills as an ongoing activity throughout the course. The areas of emphasis are: number theory, number sense, estimation strategies, mental math strategies, operations with fractions, and communication of mathematical ideas through conversations and writing. Note taking, study and test taking skills, time management and organizational skills will also be emphasized. Students are placed in this course by placement tests given prior to entering Roeper Middle School.

MS MATH APPLICATIONS: ***MTH0124*** . . . . . Y

Prerequisite: *MS Math Foundations or placement test*

The goal of this course is to help students develop mathematical knowledge, understanding and skill, along with an awareness of and appreciation for the rich connections among mathematical strands and between mathematics and other disciplines. Through investigations and discussions, all students will learn to reason and communicate proficiently in mathematics. They will have knowledge of and skill in the use of the vocabulary, forms of representation, materials, tools, techniques and intellectual methods of the discipline of mathematics, including the ability to define and solve problems with reason, insight, inventiveness and proficiency. The main areas of emphasis are ratio and unit rate; proportional relationships and applying those relationships to solve problems; operations with rational numbers; variables, expressions, and equations. Students are placed in this course by placement tests given prior to entering Roeper Middle School.

PRE-ALGEBRA: ***MTH0105*** . . . . . Y

Prerequisites: *Middle School Math and departmental approval, a solid foundation in computational skills and by placement tests*

Pre-algebra provides a wider scope of content than most pre-algebra courses. It integrates the themes of applied math, pre-algebra and pre-geometry topics. These are applied to the arithmetic found in the real world. Variables are used as unknowns in problem solving to show patterns and as abbreviations in formulas. The understanding of the concepts is often developed in four ways: emphasizing the skills needed; developing the use of mathematical properties in relationships between numbers; applying the mathematics in problem-solving situations; and representing the concepts often on a number line or graph.

PRE-ALGEBRA SUPPORT: ***MTH0118*** . . . . . Y/EOD

To be taken concurrently with Pre-Algebra by recommendation of teacher.

Students who need additional support to be comfortable and successful in PreAlgebra may be advised to attend this class. Students will be guided in building skills and number sense, reviewing past topics and previewing upcoming topics. Building confidence is a priority. Time will be allowed for doing corrections, but this is not a study hall.

ALGEBRA I: ***MTH0106*** . . . . . Y

Prerequisite: *Pre-Algebra (B- or better) and departmental approval*

Algebra I integrates and makes connections to other disciplines, incorporating the use of basic geometry, statistics and probability. Students will see how each mathematical idea fits into a larger context. They will learn to read and understand mathematics on their own, and to express this understanding both orally and in writing. Students learn to solve linear equations and inequalities, write equations of lines, solve systems of equations, and solve quadratic equations by several methods. They are introduced to radical and rational expressions. Graphing is emphasized throughout the course, and the use of graphing calculators is integrated throughout.

SUPPORT FOR ALGEBRA I: ***MTH0114*** . . . . . Y/EOD

Corequisite: *Algebra I, teacher recommendation*

Support for Algebra I gives students the opportunity to get extra help along the way through Algebra I. This class meets every other day, and students are guided in reviewing recent topics and previewing upcoming topics. Some opportunity is given to do corrections but not homework; this is not a study hall.

GEOMETRY: ***MTH0102*** . . . . . Y

Prerequisite: *Algebra I (B- or better)*

This course in Euclidean Geometry allows the students to develop logical deductive thinking skills, to understand how a mathematical system is developed, and to become familiar with geometric concepts and spatial relationships in both two and three dimensions. Inductive and deductive reasoning skills are developed throughout the year. Investigative methods are used with increasing emphasis on proof over the course of the school year. Students study geometric construction, triangles, polygons, circles, area, volume, Pythagorean Theorem, similarity and basic trigonometry. The software package, The Geometers' Sketchpad, is currently being used to complement the text.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH ELECTIVES

MS FUN TOPICS IN MATH: ***MTH0200, MTH0201, MTH0202*** . . . . . T/EOD

"Fun Topics" courses are an opportunity to explore the fun side of math. They are activity oriented with little or no homework and involve many of the fun things you don't have time to do in your regular math class. Logic puzzles, math art, games/sports, the stock market, and other math related topics. Trimester 2 is for, but not limited to, logic puzzles and other mathematical teasers. Trimester 3 is for Geometry (kites) and probability (games), as well as other topics of interest.

MS MATH SUPPORT PEER TUTOR: ***MTH015*** . . . . . T/EOD

Open to 8th Grade only.

Math Clinic is an opportunity to earn community service hours while helping other students with math. The clinic will be supervised by a math teacher, and students in 8th through 12th grades will be available to help students, either regularly or on a drop-in basis. Student helpers are expected to commit to work in the Math Clinic every other day for one semester. You don't have to be an A+ math student to do this; the most successful math students are not always the best at teaching others. Keep in mind that helping others will help you sharpen your own math skills!

MS MATH COUNTS: ***MTH0203*** . . . . . T/EOD

Math Counts is for students who really enjoy problem solving. Students may elect to take it one or two trimesters. Problem solving strategies will be developed and extended. Some work to solidify computational skills will also take place. Students seriously interested in math competitions (e.g., DCD Math Invitational, Michigan Math Counts, etc.) should sign up for two trimesters.

SCIENCE

MS SCIENCE 6: ***SCI0104*** . . . . . Y

As with all Middle School Science courses, the 6th grade program is process-oriented. Class time is spent doing and/or discussing laboratory experimentation. Emphasis is given to the "doing" of science through the continued development of the skills of observing, classifying, measuring, sequencing, inferring, investigating and communicating begun in the Lower School. Collaboration skills are emphasized and taught through group problem-solving activities. Subject matter includes topics in ecology and botany, heat and temperature, molecular structure, and electricity and magnetism. As part of the ecology unit there is a week-long trip to Wolverine Camp. This program gives hands-on experience to students through field studies. Equally important is the concentrated focus on cooperative team-building activities and independent challenge opportunities. As most of the work in science during this 6th grade year focuses on group and in-class activities, little outside work is assigned. Homework takes the form of three or four long-term projects or problem-solving activities, with a few short reading assignments and test preparation. Evaluation is based on in-class participation and writing assignments, group skills and independent assignments.

MS SCIENCE 7: ***SCI0105*** . . . . . Y

Through viewing the earth as a special planet in the Solar System with chemical, physical and life processes, students develop and refine skills such as observing, classifying, measuring, sequencing, inferring, interpreting data, predicting, communicating and investigating. Confidence is built by hands-on experiences with models to describe and explain phenomena in geology — the structure of the earth, minerals and rocks, and plate tectonics. Studies of salt water bodies and their properties are included. Participation in the Jason Project greatly aids in this study. Small projects, computer work online and for data recording and analyzing, and research are also involved.

The following are encouraged: a questioning attitude, a disciplined curiosity, an open mind, a respect for evidence, an intellectual honesty, a sense of responsibility for the environment, and an understanding of one's self in relation to the universe.

Students are evaluated through a variety of methods: teacher observation, written assignments, participation in class discussions and lab activities, quiz and test scores, and work on individual projects.

MS SCIENCE 8: ***SCI0106*** . . . . . Y

This course is designed to pull together and make real the steps in inquiry that make up the scientific process. The course material is divided into three units: a study of Newtonian physics dealing with forces and motion; living cell structure and function and principles of genetics and evolution; and the study of the changes in and properties of matter. As in all Middle School Science classes, much of this material is studied through laboratory investigations. Throughout this year, students develop greater skills in observing, classifying, communicating, measuring, hypothesizing, inferring, designing inquiries, collecting and analyzing data, drawing conclusions and making generalizations.

A major part of the course throughout the year is the required independent experimental project, which must be conceived, designed, executed and reported upon by the student. Evaluation is based upon written laboratory reports and participation, organization of notes, homework projects, testing, and progress on the independent project.

Science electives include a variety of science opportunities during the Middle School years. Classes will be offered several times during the three-year experience but are not offered every year. Additional topics may be offered as is timely or as interest dictates.

MS 3-D PRINTING: ***SCI0229*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Come and learn about "Additive Manufacturing". We will learn how to design our own projects, as well as learning the mechanics of the 3D printer. We will also talk about the responsibilities of using 3D printing technology in society. *Grades 7/8 with permission from MS Science staff.*

MS ARCHAEOLOGY: ***SCI0210*** . . . . . T/EOD

This hands-on course will explore how archaeologists obtain information about the people and cultures of the past, as well as how archaeologists make inferences about people's behaviors and beliefs based on material culture. Class includes a simulated excavation, archaeological record keeping, and survey techniques.

MS BIOTHECS: ***SCI0208*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Students will learn about and discuss varying views relating to different bioethical issues.

MS CRITTER STUDY: ***SCI0216*** . . . . . T/EOD

Students will observe behavior and anatomy of life terrestrial and aquatic small critters, such as worms and arthropods. They will design and conduct investigations to learn about life cycles and functions.

MS CURRENT EVENTS IN SCIENCE: *SCI0204* . . . . . **T/EOD**

Students will learn about, discuss, and evaluate recent findings and discoveries in the field of science.

MS ELECTRONICS: ***SCI0230*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Come learn about electricity and how it works, as well as how to build your own circuits. This will be a project-based course, with upper school students acting as mentors. *Grades 7/8 with permission from MS Science staff.*

MS EXPERIMENTERS: ***SCI0203*** . . . . . T/EOD

Students perform group and individual experiments in areas chosen through discussion with the teacher. Inquiry, dilemma and puzzle labs are stressed, reinforcing the scientific method through group experimentation and individual design of an experiment.

MS FORENSIC SCIENCE: ***SCI0218*** . . . . . T/EOD

Students learn about the scientific processes and procedures involved in solving crimes and gain understanding of concepts such as fingerprinting, DNA analysis, document authentication and more through lab activities and by solving mock crimes.

MS GREENHOUSE GARDENING 101: ***SCI0224*** . . . . . T/EOD

Do you have a green thumb and like butterflies? Then this class is for you! Learn investigative techniques and perform research and collect data on the unique life cycles of Wisconsin FastPlants© and the Brassica Butterfly.

MS HOW STUFF WORKS: ***SCI0215*** . . . . . T/EOD

Have you ever wondered how stuff works? Investigate the scientific principles behind the items you see every day through research, investigations, and even dissecting the objects themselves.

MS INVENTOR'S WORKSHOP: ***SCI0201*** . . . . . T/EOD

Challenge yourself and/or a team to design, build and test an invention. Learn about the process of invention, inventors in history, and marketing and patenting an invention.

MS LEGO ROBOTICS: ***SCI0200*** . . . . . ***T/EOD***

Students work collaboratively to creatively program and build robots that carry out a variety of pre-set challenges. Participation in Lego First competitions as well as others is a possibility.

MS METEOROLOGY & NATURAL DISASTERS: ***SCI0214*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Using computer simulations, experiments, research and field experiences, we will look at weather phenomena and the conditions and forces on Earth that contribute to cause natural disasters such as earthquakes, super storms and more.

MS PALEONTOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY: ***SCI0210*** . . . . . T/EOD

Explore ancient worlds through activities that emphasize techniques for retrieving evidence of life forms and past cultures. Research and share through presentation details of daily life in an ancient anthropological group.

MS ROBOTIICS & PERFORMANCE: *SCI0231* . . . . . **T/EOD**

Students will learn how to program robots along with aspects of theatrical design to complete a robot performance that includes elements of staging, lighting, and other aspects of performance.

MS SCIENCE: FACT OR FICTION: ***SCI0225*** . . . . . **T?EOD**

With so many sources of information available and the rapid growth in technology and scientific discovery, how do we know which source(s) of information are accurate and reliable? How do we find out?

MS STRATEGY & LOGIC IN BOARD GAMES: ***SCI0206*** . . . . . T/EOD

Students will increase their skills in inferring, classifying, sorting, patterning, sequencing and group problem solving, while learningnew games. Students are challenged to think about why rules are the way they are, and to develop new games.

MS SOCIAL STUDIES 6/ ANCIENT HISTORY: ***SOC0107*** . . . . . Y

Sixth Grade Social Studies covers the historical period from human prehistory to the Late Roman Empire and focuses upon the history and cultures of ancient Greece, Rome and China. In examining these ancient civilizations, emphasis is placed on understanding the unique, defining characteristics of each civilization (art, architecture, law, ideas about class and status, religion and philosophy, trade, geography, exploration and technological development), as well as identifying common themes which link these ancient civilizations, both with each other and with the modern world. Students work on writing, research, note-taking, organization, and analysis throughout the year. Active learning and participation are encouraged. Coursework includes lecture-format presentations, collaborative learning and group work, Socratic discussions, hands-on activities, and exposure to primary sources. Special projects give students a number of chances to follow their own particular areas of interest throughout the year.

MS SOCIAL STUDIES 7/ AMERICAN HISTORY: ***SOC0108*** . . . . . Y

Seventh Grade Social Studies examines the foundations and development of the United States, from the founding of colonies in the New World to the present day. The course takes both a chronological and thematic approach; students study the paradoxes of American slavery and freedom, the idea of liberty, the forces that tore the country apart in the Civil War, the challenges brought about by industrialization, the importance of globalization, and the struggle of the nation to live up to its promise of liberty. The course emphasizes an understanding of geography and diversity and focuses on the importance of questioning assumptions. Students work on writing, reading and analyzing primary sources, notetaking, reading for understanding, map skills, and research skills. Assessments include tests, quizzes, and various projects, both research and creative. A typed research paper is completed at the end of the year.

MS SOCIAL STUDIES 8/ WORLD CULTURE AND CIVILIZATIONS: ***SOC0109*** . . . . . Y

World Culture and Civilizations students study the development of non-Western societies and cultures from ancient times to the present. Societies that are studied include Africa, South Asia, Latin America, Middle East, former USSR and Eastern Europe, and China. The course is taught in conjunction with 8th Grade English, with additional cultural/literary texts corresponding to materials covered in the non-Western history units. Outside activities and films, such as *To Live, A World Apart* and *Gandhi* also serve to broaden historical and cultural awareness. Students work on notetaking, map skills, reading, writing, document analysis and research skills in the class. Short quizzes on maps and readings are given in most units. All units conclude with an exam with objective and essay formats. A typed research work with bibliography and citations is required each semester.

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

MS CURRENT EVENTS: ***SOC0226*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

The students and teacher will bring in various news stories to present to the class. Our goals are for the students to be better able to know what's going on in the world, ask relevant questions, identify bias and viewpoint in reporting and coverage and analyze the advantages and disadvantages of different news venues (newspapers, magazines, online publications, radio, television). Great class for those who love current events and for those who wuld love to know more about what's going on in the world.

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

MS 3-D PRINTING ANCIENT HISTORY: ***SOC0122*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

Learn about ancient history and bring it to life printing 3--D models!

MS INTRODUCTION TO MODEL UNITED NATIONS 7 & 8: ***SOC0249*** **2T/EOD**

Model United Nations students will research various topics and issues on the world stage in order to better represent "their" countries in simulated United Nation sessions. Students will learn how to improve research, persuasive speaking and writing skills in addition to learning the importance of negotiation and compromise.

MS HISTORY OF DETROIT: ***SOC0115*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

We will cover a wide scope of topics, from the American Indian peoples in our area, the French explorers and settlers, the Underground Railroad, the impact of the Civil War, and the beginnings of industrialization post Civil War. We will delve into why and how Detroit became the "Motor City", how the growth of the auto industry changed this region and the world, the arrival of great numbers of immigrants and migrants which led to our great amount of diversity, the rise of unions, the impact of WWII, the heyday of the city in the 50's, and the challenges of Detroit today. We will consider the future of this great city and how we can be involved.

MS HISTORY THROUGH FILM: ***SOC0120*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

History Through Film is a course to teach both content and narrative about American History as well as having students learn how to evaluate the accuracy of mass audience films like *Inherit the Wind, Lincoln, The Missiles of October*, and others. This course is appropriate for all middle school students as graphic or inappropriate parts will not be shown. The instructor will explain why certain segments were not shown.

MS MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN) 6: ***SOC0223*** . . . . . T/EOD

Students research various topics and issues on the world stage in order to better represent "their" countries in simulated United Nation sessions. Students will learn how to improve research, persuasive speaking and writing skills in addition to learning the importance of negotiation and compromise.

MS MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN) 7 & 8: ***SOC0203*** . . . . . T/EOD

Model United Nations students research various topics and issues on the world stage in order to better represent "their" countries in simulated United Nation sessions. Students will learn how to improve research, persuasive speaking and writing skills in addition to learning the importance of negotiation and compromise. This class will be the immediate prep for our MS MUN team's going to the Hope College MUN Tourney (we're the only middle school at this high school event).

MS LEARNING LEADERSHIP THROUGH HISTORY: ***SOC0123*** . . . . . **T/EOD**

By studying and discussing leaders of all kinds and in all sorts of situations throughout history, students reflect on what leadership is and how it can be used, both negatively as well as positively. Students will learn about leadership styles and think about what their own personal styles are. We will identify what skills are helpful and even necessary for effective leadership. Students will each take part in a Leadership project that takes advantage of what they have learned to make a positive change in our Roeper community and outside our wall.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

In keeping with the vision of George and Annemarie Roeper to develop students who are "citizens of the world," every Roeper student is encouraged to participate in community service work that averages one to two hours per week, or 40 – 80 hours per year. This participation would be above and beyond the community service outreach activities students engage in through Community Day and other school-structured activities.

MS RESOURCE ROOM: ***OTH0100*** . . . . . T/EOD, *offered all blocks*

A scheduled Resource Room block can be different for everyone. RR is the place where you can work on your homework, study for tests, work on long-term assignments, get help with study skills, academic strategies, and time management, work with your peer tutor, receive assistance figuring out your learning style — just about anything you can think of to help you become a stronger student. Both Middle School and Upper School students are scheduled at the same time, so we work at having an environment that meets the needs of both groups.

MS TRIMESTER INDEPENDENT PROJECT (TIP): ***IDS0133*** . . . . . **T**

This elective allows a student to design his/her own course curriculum: the student, with the support of a faculty mentor, determines what is to be studied and accomplished in the Trimester Independent Project. The student chooses an area of compelling interest and develops a question to be considered; then, designs and completes a trimester project with the aim of answering the question asked. A student who elects to take on the Trimester Independent Project has decided to devote significant energy and commitment to the exploration of the self-selected area of interest. A student may propose a TIP partnership with a particular teacher or a student can be assigned partnership with a teacher. Instructor approval required.

Student Name _____ Current MS Homeroom _____

<u>This form should be returned to your homeroom advisor to be kept in your student file.</u>

This is intended to be used as a guide. It is **<u>not</u>** absolute. It is helpful to think about what you might like to study and when.

	6th GRADE			7th GRADE			8th GRADE		
	TRI 1	TRI 2	TRI 3	TRI 1	TRI 2	TRI 3	TRI 1	TRI 2	TRI 3
ENGLISH	MS ENGLISH 6			MS ENGLISH 7			MS ENGLISH 8		
SCIENCE	MS SCIENCE 6			MS SCIENCE 7			MS SCIENCE 8		
SOCIAL STUDIES	MS SOCIAL STUDIES 6			MS SOCIAL STUDIES 7			MS SOCIAL STUDIES 8		
MATH									
WORLD LANGUAGE									
ELECTIVE	A B A B A B Health 6			A B A B A B Health 7			A B A B A B Health 8		
ELECTIVE	A B A B A B			A B A B A B			A B A B A B		
ELECTIVE	A B A B A B			A B A B A B			A B A B A B		
ELECTIVE	A B A B A B			A B A B A B			A B A B A B		

Please note that MS Bands, MS Choirs, and MS Dance classes are yearlong. MS Yearbook runs for 1st/2nd trimesters.
MS Forensics students should sign up for at least 2 trimesters.
All students will be enrolled in one trimester of Health each year of Middle School.

THE ROEPER SCHOOL

41190 Woodward/Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
248/203-7300

LOWER SCHOOL

41190 Woodward/Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
248/203-7330

MIDDLE/UPPER SCHOOL

1051 Oakland Avenue /Birmingham, MI 48009
248/203-7448

www.roeper.org