



P A R K C I T Y

D A Y S C H O O L

6th Grade Curriculum





Subject Descriptions:

Mathematics

Mathematic facility is an essential objective of PCDS's well-rounded academic program. Building upon the foundation of strong computation skills established in the Lower School, MS students at PCDS have an opportunity, when appropriate, to study at a higher degree of abstraction and at a more advanced pace. Regardless of placement, the focus of the MS math program is to develop strong analytical and problem solving skills through the application of mathematics in an authentic learning environment. Although some more advanced 9th grade students may graduate having complete Pre-Calculus, most graduate having completed Algebra II.

Science

The MS Science Program at PCDS provides an inquiry-based, student-centered program that promotes critical thinking and analysis of natural phenomena. In a research based curriculum and grounded in National Science Standards, students explore topics through their own investigations employing the scientific method, reflect on their observations, and apply what they have learned to real life situations through the physical, earth, and life sciences. Usually, graduates place into Honors Chemistry in Grade 10.

English

Building upon students' earlier experiences, MS English provides opportunities for students to explore literature, discover ideas, appreciate language, and find their own voices. MS English at PCDS emphasizes the process of writing as a means to communicate ideas and express thoughts based upon a variety of challenging and engaging literary works. Students express their understanding of literary works in the form of persuasive, expository, narrative, or comparative essays to cultivate personal and intellectual growth while deepening their appreciation for, understanding of, and skill with written communication of the English language.

Social Studies

The Middle School Social Studies program at PCDS provides comprehensive grounding in geography, historical events and human development. Differentiated instruction allows students to achieve high-level proficiencies in writing, critical analysis, note taking skills and research skills. The PCDS Social Studies program defines and reinforces academic skill sets necessary for high academic achievement in advanced courses at the high school level. The 9th Grade social studies course AP Human Geography, allows students to demonstrate competency on the spring College Board exam and potentially, to qualify for college credit.

Foreign Language

Building upon the solid foundation of the LS Spanish program, MS students work towards language fluency in both conversation and written expression. The language mechanics of advanced verb tense, advanced pronouns, and reading comprehension are essential aspects of the MS program. In addition to Spanish, MS students have an opportunity to explore Japanese beginning in the sixth grade.

Physical Education

The development of a strong, healthy body complements a strong, healthy mind. At PCDS MS students build self-confidence, practice sportsmanship, teamwork, and physical development through a comprehensive program of team sports and fitness monitoring.

Performing Arts

Exploring many facets of the performing arts world, the PCDS MS Performing Arts program engages students as they build confidence and poise developing their skills as performers in dance and choral music. Students study an eclectic mix of classical and contemporary musical cultures, prepare assigned and individually selected repertoires for concerts and programs, and immerse themselves in art through performing. PCDS MS students may also select, as an elective, to study and play violin each trimester and may select additional courses through the electives program.



Visual Arts

Culminating the PCDS PS-9 vertical sequence, in the Visual Arts MS students continue their studies of the elements of art and principles of design at a more advanced level. Projects are designed to be fun, engaging, and interesting, and students are encouraged to incorporate creative inspirations and modern materials into their work. MS students use their art to communicate and represent personal ideas, interests, and feelings. Artistic expression is an essential concept for this age group of students, during the third trimester, have the opportunity to design their own project around a theme and in the media of their choice.

Socio-Emotional Development at PCDS

Bridging the gap between elementary and secondary education, the Park City Day School MS program provides a solid academic foundation within a caring, experiential, student-centered atmosphere. Reflected throughout the MS program is the seminal belief that students learn best in a respectful context that ignites curiosity, builds confidence, engages communication skills, and teaches organizational habits.

Complementing their academics students at PCDS participate in service learning projects, international language immersion trips, and experiential learning activities. Older students serve as mentors to younger students and demonstrate leadership skills through organizing events for the community.

Technology & 21st Century Learning:

The Park City Day School MS embraces a one-to-one laptop-learning environment that offers students an intellectually active means to develop the skill sets essential to become productive participants in an ever-changing world. Woven throughout the core program are the 21st Century learning themes of global awareness, group process, technological literacy, and communication literacy. Through an array of digital media, students regularly employ various Internet sources and program applications to demonstrate these competencies in core subjects.

Program Outline:

Although most Park City Day School MS students will follow the academic sequence outlined below, teachers may modify schedules and placements when necessary to meet individual student needs.

Sixth Grade:

English 6
Social Studies 6
Science 6
Pre-Algebra or Algebra I
Physical Education
Spanish 6
Outdoor Education
Performing Arts options
Elective Course options

Seventh Grade:

English 7
Social Studies 7
Science 7
Algebra I or Geometry
Physical Education
Spanish 7
Outdoor Education
Performing Arts options
Elective Course options

Eighth Grade:

English 8
Social Studies 8
Science 8
Geometry or Algebra II
Physical Education
Spanish 8
Outdoor Education
Performing Arts options
Elective Course options

Ninth Grade:

English 9
History 9
Algebra II or Pre-Calculus
Science 9
Physical Education
Spanish 9
Outdoor Education
Performing Arts options
Elective Course options



Middle School Academic Technology

Middle School Laptop Program

Utilizing a personal laptop computer, MS students engage in authentic learning situations as they produce work in a variety of technological media. With access to the Internet, students extend beyond the walls of the classroom to discover primary documents, current events, engage in real time and asynchronous conversations with classmates, teachers, and when appropriate experts in various fields or classrooms around the globe.

Skills

Creativity and Innovation

Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology. Students:

- Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.
- Create original works as a means of personal or group expression.
- Use models and simulations to explore complex systems and issues.
- Identify trends and forecast possibilities.

Communication and Collaboration

Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others. Students:

- Interact, collaborate, and publish with peers, experts, or others employing a variety of digital environments and media.
- Communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.
- Develop cultural understanding and global awareness by engaging with learners of other cultures.
- Contribute to project teams to produce original works or solve problems.

Research and Information Fluency

Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information. Students:

- Plan strategies to guide inquiry.
- Locate, organize, ethically analyze, critically evaluate, and synthesize information from a variety of sources and media.
- Employ digital tools based on the appropriateness to specific tasks.
- Process data and report results.

Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making

Students plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources. Students:

- Identify and define authentic problems and significant questions for investigation.
- Plan and manage activities to develop a solution or complete a project.
- Collect and analyze data to identify solutions and/or make informed decisions.
- Use multiple processes and diverse perspectives to explore alternative solutions.

Digital Citizenship

Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior. Students:

- Advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology.
- Exhibit a positive attitude toward using technology that supports collaboration, learning, and productivity.
- Demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.
- Exhibit leadership for digital citizenship.

Technology Operations and Concepts

Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations. Students:

- Understand and use technology systems.
- Select and use applications effectively and productively.
- Troubleshoot systems and applications.
- Transfer current knowledge to learning of new technologies.

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Suggested Learning Activities

- Digital storytelling
- Blogs and wikis
- Video production
- Online labs and forums
- ePortfolios
- Video conferences

- Digital art/photo manipulation

Assessment

- Formative
- Summative
- Rubric based



6th Grade English

Content

Epic poetry
Greek mythology
Classical literature
Drama
Short story
Historical fiction
Non-fiction
Personal narrative
Expository and persuasive essay

Poetry
Six Traits of Writing Model
Research
Technology
Film
Language
Writing development
Vocabulary
Grammar

Essential Questions

Should a story be believable in order to be considered great literature?
What is Classical literature? What are epic poetry and an epic hero? How is a play different from a novel?
How does knowledge of Greek and Latin suffixes and prefixes enhance vocabulary development?
Why do people create literature?
How is language arts connected to other curricular disciplines?
What are fiction and non-fiction?
Why do I need to know how to communicate effectively?
What is the writing process?
Why do I need to be able to write effectively?

Skills

The student will be able to:

- Demonstrate the writing process including:
 - Personal narrative
 - Persuasive essay
 - Six Traits of Writing Model
 - MLA formatting
- Recognize elements of poetry and figurative language
- Recognize literary elements in fiction
- Demonstrate reading/comprehension skills:
 - Summarizing
 - Finding facts and main points
 - Predicting
 - Making inferences
 - Making connections
 - Visualizing
 - Author's intention/audience
 - Vocabulary
 - Sequencing
- Spell and identify definitions, relationships, and contextual clues of new vocabulary
- Recognize elements of Shakespeare drama and Greek tragedy
- Practice technology skills and information access
- Practice viewing skills
- Practice listening skills
- Practice speaking skills:
 - Class discussion
 - Speeches
 - Presentations
- Practice and apply research skills:
 - Using primary sources
 - Internet sources



- Plan and organize portfolios
- Practice note-taking skills
- Practice critical analysis while reading, viewing, and listening
- Practice creative skills:
 - Newspapers
 - Time-lines
 - Posters
 - Film
 - Power Point presentations
 - Computer graphics
- Examine cross-curricular connections
- Demonstrate cooperative learning skills
- Practice reflective thinking:
 - Synthesis and analysis
- Practice effective communication:
 - Written
 - Oral

Assessment

- Reading: oral and silent
- Reading/studying/performing Shakespeare
- Discussion
- Teacher observation
- Homework
- Persuasive and expository essays
- Self and peer editing
- Group work
- Research
- Written and oral presentations based on research
- Spelling and vocabulary work
- Poetry portfolio
- Quizzes, tests, and projects
- Poetry analysis
- Written summaries
- Literature circles

Textbooks/Resources

Write Source

Six Traits of Writing Model

Literature includes the works of famous authors such as Dickinson, Homer, and Shakespeare

Selected short stories, Greek mythology and films



6th Grade Mathematics (Pre-Algebra)

Content

Number sense and operations
Algebra
Geometry
Measurement
Statistics, data analysis and probability

Problem solving
Reasoning and proof
Connections
Communication
Representation

Skills

The student will be able to:

Number Sense and Operations

- Add, subtract, multiply and divide integers, fractions, decimals and mixed numbers
- Write the prime factorization for an integer
- Calculate GCF and LCM of integers
- Evaluate expressions involving exponents
- Find the absolute value of integers
- Round to estimate the value of an expression

Algebra

- Write and solve multi-step equations and inequalities with:
 - Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
 - Variables on both sides
 - Fractions and decimals
 - The distributive property
- Evaluate and graph linear functions
- Write and simplify variable expressions
- Solve ratios and proportions
- Write and solve equations with two variables
- Write, solve and graph linear functions
- Solve systems of linear equations
- Graph linear inequalities
- Use order of operations to solve equations and simplify expressions
- Calculate the dimensions of right triangles using the Pythagorean Theorem

Geometry

- Calculate the area and perimeter of polygons and volume of geometric solids
- Plot and locate points in a coordinate plane
- Work with points, lines and planes
- Understand the relationship between angles (corresponding, alternate interior/exterior, complementary, supplementary)
- Identify congruent parts of figures
- Calculate the area, volume and surface area of a figure
- Perform translations, reflections and rotations on a coordinate plane
- Calculate area, circumference, diameter and radius of a circle

Statistics, Data Analysis and Probability

- Calculate measures of central tendency (mean, median and mode)
- Calculate probability for multiple events (and/or)

Problem Solving

- Use algebraic, geometric and trigonometric formulas to solve problems
- Apply probability rules to determine fairness



Reasoning and Proof

- Determine similarity of figures
- Explain the difference between theoretical and experimental probability in various experiments
- Classify polygons, angles and triangles
- Prove triangles to be congruent

Connections

- Compute simple and compound interest
- Conduct probability experiments

Communication

- Choose an appropriate method to display data (frequency table, line plot, histogram)

Assessment

- Daily homework assignments
- Mid-chapter quizzes
- End of chapter tests
- Informal assessments in class

Textbooks/Resources

Prentice Hall, 2007, *Pre-Algebra*



6th Grade Science

Content

The Earth Science
Scientific Inquiry/Engineering
Service Learning Outreach

Essential Questions

How old is the earth, and how do we know this?
How does our place in the solar system allow life to exist?
How do the catastrophic events on Earth change the shape and appearance of the earth?
How does product design influence my life?

Content Knowledge

The student will be able to:

Earth Science

- Understand the “Big Bang Theory”
- Understand the stars and their characteristics
- Understand the theory of geologic time
- Understand the process of the rock cycle
- Differentiate between the different types of rocks
- Understand the influence of the Earth’s tilt and axis on seasonal change
- Understand the composition and structure of the Earth’s atmosphere
- Compare and contrast the Earth’s atmosphere to other planets
- Identify the different parts of the Earth
- Understand the role of plate tectonics
- Understand the processes and results of volcanoes, earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes

Scientific Inquiry/Engineering

- Investigate the structural elements of product design
- Understand the importance of spatial and aesthetic design
- Apply the scientific method to the design process

Service Learning Outreach

- Participate in science tutorials
- Apply classroom concepts in a teaching environment

Process and Inquiry Skills

The student will be able to:

- Use scientific forms of measurement
- Create models
- Formulate questions based upon scientific method
- Compare and contrast information, data, or objects
- Make inferences
- Interpret data or information
- Classify information, data, or objects

Assessment

- Tests and quizzes
- Lab reports
- Classwork, portfolios

Textbook/Resources

Catastrophic Events, publisher CBSC
Earth in Space, publisher CBSC



6th Grade Social Studies

Content

World Studies/Cultures

World Geography

Essential Questions

How do geopolitical boundaries influence the development of culture?

How does religion influence cultural systems?

How do humans act upon and react to physical environments?

What contributions have different cultures provided to the world at large?

Skills

The student will be able to:

World Studies/Cultures

- Describe the important cultural contributions and events of various ancient cultures
- Discuss the influence of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam on past and contemporary global society
- Describe ways human beings view themselves in and over time
- Analyze interactions of individuals, groups, and institutions
- Analyze the interrelationship of science, technology, and society over time.
- Analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of civilizations.

Geography

- Use geographic resources to understand interactions between people and places
- Identify the appropriate geographic tool for a specific goal or purpose
- Use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.
- Describe culture and experiences that influence people's perceptions of places and regions.
- Apply geography to interpret the past.
- Explain how human actions modify the physical environment.

Analysis

- Frame, analyze and solve problems.
- Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively.
- Understand, manage and create effective oral, written and/or multimedia communication in a variety of forms and contexts.
- Access, manage, integrate, evaluate and create information in a variety of forms and media.
- Demonstrate originality and inventiveness in work.
- Develop, implement and communicate new ideas to others.

Assessment

- Tests and quizzes
- Projects
- Writing
- Presentations
- Group activities

Textbooks/Resources

World Cultures, A Global Mosaic by Prentice Hall

Primary and secondary source documents

Internet resources



6th Grade Spanish

Content

Vocabulary
Grammar
Oral Reading
Writing/Translation
Comprehension/Language Usage

Skills

The student will be able to:

Vocabulary

- Apply previously acquired vocabulary
- Utilize resources to determine appropriate word choice
- Identify and apply descriptive language
- Select most appropriate word to a given situation

Grammar

- Apply previously acquired knowledge of grammar structure and conjugation
- Apply correct verb tense and subject agreement to a variety of commonly used regular and irregular verbs
- Conjugate commonly used regular and irregular verbs in present tense
- Understand idiomatic expressions
- Apply the concepts of singular and plural
- Understand and apply the parts of speech and basic grammar
 - Prepositional phrases
 - Comparative words
 - Affirmative commands
 - Interrogative words

Oral Reading

- Express common greetings, descriptions, calendar information in simple conversational scripts
- Express language in appropriate paragraph format
- Apply essential writing skills such as brainstorming, rough draft, and revisions
- Express dialogues, stories, and instructions in Spanish
- Read selections from native materials such as newspapers and magazines

Writing/Translation

- Apply essential writing skills such as brainstorming, rough draft, and revisions
- Respond appropriately using complete sentences and grammar structure
- Compose conversational pieces
- Translate selections from a wide variety of sources from Spanish to English and vice versa

Comprehension/Language Usage

- Respond appropriately to greetings, questions, and conversation

Assessment

- Teacher observations and anecdotal notes
- Oral presentations and responses
- Conversational skits
- Written responses
- Recitation of memorized material
- Listening comprehension evaluation
- Tests and quizzes
- Interviews in Spanish

Textbook

Practice Makes Perfect and Exprésate



6th Grade Visual Art

Content

Contour line

Cross contour line

Linear, two point perspective

Geometric and organic shape

Overlapping objects

Color hues, tints, and shades

Dark and light value

Actual and simulated texture

Symmetrical, asymmetrical, and radial balance

Organic and geometric form

Skills

The student will be able to:

- Define and demonstrate cross contour line
- Recognize and identify horizon line and vanishing points
- Demonstrate two point perspective to create the illusion of depth
- Define, demonstrate, and incorporate line spacing, stippling, and cross hatching to create value, and to imply space
- Mix, define, and demonstrate use of complementary colors, analogous colors, and monochromatic color schemes
- Define and discuss tint, tone, shade, hue, intensity, and color value
- Explore and analyze the effect and impact of color on senses and emotion
- Observe and break down everyday objects into basic geometric and organic shapes
- Define and distinguish between local value and cast shadow
- Discover and discuss symmetrical, asymmetrical, and radial balance
- Define and distinguish between geometric and organic form
- Analyze how form impacts sense and emotion
- Plan and create an art project from start to finish, including presentations, self-structured work time, personal maintenance of materials, participation in a show, and individual and group critique
- Understand the effect of location, placement, lighting, and presentation in a show
- Participate in individual and class discussion and critiques

Assessment

- Informal observation during class
- One-on-one conversation with students assessing both art work in progress, and after completion
- Physical portfolio containing all student work from one year
- Digital portfolio containing collection of student work from all previous grade levels
- Informal sketchbook assignments
- Informal written reflection
- Written assignments
- Test/quizzes
- Rubric
- Contribution and participation in class discussion
- Participation in school art shows and exhibitions



6th and 7th Grade Performing Arts

Content

The elements of music theory and application: history, rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre, tone, performance

Skills

The student will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the orchestra and families of instruments
- Review vocal range and terminology
- Recognize frequently used Italian terminology
- Recognize the introduction interlude and coda in musical selections
- Recognize theme and variations
- Identify chords: such as I (tonic), IV (subdominant), and V (dominant), major and minor chords
- Understand and recognize intervals
- Understand an octave step
- Understand the following notation: names and lines of spaces in the treble clef; middle C. treble clef, staff, bar line, double bar line, measure, repeat signs, Da Capo al fine, quarter note, half note, dotted half note, whole note, eighth note, quarter rest, half rest, and whole rest.
- Identify tied notes and dotted notes
- Demonstrate knowledge of meter signature 4/4, 2/4, 3/4
- Listen and aurally analyze a select repertoire of classical to contemporary composers
- Listen to Blues, Jazz, Ragtime, and Spiritual; understand their historical context
- Sing a select repertoire of music
- Analyze a select repertoire of Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary music
- Identify composers and music time periods throughout history
- Understand and correctly spell musical terminology
- Perform during class solos and ensemble work
- Perform voice/dance/drama during annual performances
- Express oneself in front of peers and before an audience
- Memorize music and parts for class and performances
- Understand the fundamentals of piano hand positions
- Understand how to read and locate notes on the piano
- Read and play songs in correct meter and tempo
- Prepare several songs, within reading ability, for weekly classes and trimester recital

Assessment

- Performances in-class and public
- Solos and ensemble singing
- Written quizzes, tests, and other assignments
- Aural recognition of selected repertoire



6th – 9th Grade Strings

Content

Music Theory
Technique
Bowing techniques
Hand position
Tone quality and production
Pitch accuracy
Musicianship
Vibrato

Skills

The student will be able to:

- Identify the parts of the violin, viola, cello, or bass violin
- Recognize notes, key signatures, scales, harmony, and musical staff
- Play as an individual and in an ensemble
- Understand the historical background of stringed instruments
- Apply listening skills
- Apply correct posture

Assessment

- Mastery of skills/passages
- Group work
- Participation
- Preparation
- Theory assignments
- Performance – in class and in recital

Texts/Resources

Strictly Strings; All for Strings; Essential Elements for Strings; Strings Extraordinaire, Miscellaneous Sheet Music; All for Strings Theory Workbook; Additional repertoire will be implemented as the term progresses and playing abilities are determined.



6th – 9th Grade Physical Education

Content

Bodyweight exercises
Flexibility and increased agility training
Ultimate Frisbee
Presidential Physical Fitness Test
Football, team handball, basketball, soccer, volleyball
Tennis, golf, Frisbee golf, badminton, pickle ball, baseball, lacrosse
Baseball skills, triathlon skills, advanced obstacle courses
Introduction to weight lifting/circuit training
Cooperative challenges
Nordic skiing
Sportsmanship
Hiking, snowshoeing
Mountain biking
Olympics/track and field

Skills

The student will be able to:

- Throw and kick for combined speed, accuracy and power
- Strike
- Catch a moving target while on the run
- Demonstrate track and field skills: hammer throw, high jump long jump, etc.
- Participate in fitness activities with weights
- Demonstrate teamwork and adherence to the rules in a team sport
- Understand rules and participate in soccer, basketball, handball, volleyball, batting, and football
- Calculate heart rate
- Participate in extended single-track mountain bike rides
- Maintaining moderate to high activity level for at least 35 minutes
- Run one mile without stopping
- Demonstrating proper push-ups, pull-ups and sit-ups
- Adherence to the rules in a team sport
- Maintaining moderate activity level for at least 35 minutes
- Running 1 miles without stopping
- Demonstrating proper push-ups, pull-ups and sit-ups
- Identifying health related components of physical fitness

Assessments

Demonstration of:

- Teamwork during game play
- Sportsmanship during game play
- Proper skills/techniques during game play

Personal fitness goal improvement



6th – 9th Grade Adventure Education

Content

Adventure Education content is comprised of environmental studies, outdoor recreation, and scientific inquiry. Students participate in a variety of learning opportunities designed to further their understanding and appreciation for our environment and its offerings.

Skills

The student will:

- Camp/hike
- Mountain/road bike
- Rock climb
- Snowshoeing, snow science
- Nordic skiing, alpine skiing
- Emergency skills
- Outdoor character development
- Environmental awareness, conservation and sustainability
- Natural science
- Reflection and personal introspection

Textbooks/Resources

Local state parks, PCDS Science curriculum, local mountain trails, Uinta National Forest, Teton Science Schools of Wyoming