



P A R K C I T Y

D A Y S C H O O L

7th 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:

- a. Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.
- b. Create original works as a means of personal or group expression.
- c. Use models and simulations to explore complex systems and issues.
- d. 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:

- a. Interact, collaborate, and publish with peers, experts, or others employing a variety of digital environments and media.
- b. Communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.
- c. Develop cultural understanding and global awareness by engaging with learners of other cultures.
- d. 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:

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

- a. Identify and define authentic problems and significant questions for investigation.
- b. Plan and manage activities to develop a solution or complete a project.
- c. Collect and analyze data to identify solutions and/or make informed decisions.
- d. 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:

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

Technology Operations and Concepts

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

- a. Understand and use technology systems.
- b. Select and use applications effectively and productively.
- c. Troubleshoot systems and applications.
- d. 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



7th Grade English

Content

Writing, spelling and grammar
Elements of poetry and sound devices
Poetry analysis
Literary elements
MLA formatting
Journal writing/reading responses
Reading/Comprehension
Vocabulary
Drama
Technology
Film
Projects: research based

Research papers
Portfolios
Note-taking
Critical analysis
Elements of plot
Creative projects
Six Traits of Writing Model
Cross-curricular connections
Information access
Cooperative learning
Effective communication – written and oral
Forensics/Mock trials

Essential Questions

What can we learn about our own lives from reading about the lives of others?
Why should we make connections to literature?
Why do I need to know how to write persuasively?
What will I gain from working in a group?
What can I learn from a project?
What are indicators, when researching, that a source is a valid or invalid source?
How do I determine what information is important enough to include in a research paper?
Why study poetry?

Skills

The student will be able to:

- Demonstrate the writing process including:
 - Developing a strong thesis statement
 - Persuasive and expository essays
 - MLA formatting
 - Six Traits of Writing Model
 - Journal writing/reader responses
 - Research papers
 - Oral presentations
- Identify elements of poetry
- Write different styles of poetry
- Analyze figurative language and poetic conventions
- Identify and apply literary elements
- Identify various literary genres
- Demonstrate reading comprehension skills
 - Summarizing
 - Finding facts and main points
 - Interpreting
 - Predicting
 - Making inferences
 - Making connections
 - Drawing conclusions
 - Visualizing
 - Author's intention/audience
 - Evaluating/assessing
- Spell and identify correct definitions of vocabulary words
- Recognize relationships between words
- Infer meanings of words in context
- Identify distinguishing elements of Shakespeare drama and 20th C. drama
- Examine effective research methods and create formal research papers
- Practice and apply technology skills
- Understand how to access information and recognize valid sources
- Synthesize and analyze visual information
- Practice and apply effective listening skills
- Create portfolios



- Improve note-taking skills:
 - Underlining/annotating text
 - During lectures
 - While researching
- Practice and apply critical analysis while reading, viewing, listening, and discussing
- Create multi-media, artistic and musical projects
- Examine and apply cross-curricular connections
- Practice cooperative learning
- Practice reflective thinking:
 - Reader-Response journals
- Practice effective communication
 - Written and oral
 - Speech – writing and delivery
 - Rhetoric

Assessment

- Reading: oral and silent
- Reading/studying/performing Shakespeare
- Discussion
- Identification of literary elements
- Mock trials
- Homework
- Teacher observation
- Written persuasive and expository essays
- Self and peer editing
- Involvement in group/paired discussions and activities
- Research
- Spelling and vocabulary work
- Application of MLA formatting
- Poetry portfolio; quizzes, tests, and projects
- Written summaries
- Literature circles
- Layered curriculum projects

Textbooks/Resources

Write Source

Six Traits of Writing Model

Novels include a wide variety of modern classics by authors including Steinbeck, Weisel, Taylor, and Orwell

Poetry and speeches from famous figures such as Hughes, King jr., and Angelou



7th Grade Mathematics (Algebra 1)

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 rational numbers
- Classify numbers by type

Algebra

- Simplify variable expressions
- Find patterns that form functions
- Differentiate between independent and dependent variables
- Use inverse properties to find missing values
- Identify and solve solution equations
- Use inverse properties to solve inequalities and compound inequalities
- Solve absolute value equations and inequalities
- Graph lines in slope-intercept, standard, and point-slope forms
- Write equations from given points and slopes
- Write equations of lines parallel and perpendicular to a given line
- Solve systems of equations and inequalities through graphing, linear combination, and substitution methods
- Use exponent properties to simplify expressions
- Solve and graph basic parabolic functions
- Simplify polynomial expressions through combining like terms and the distributive property
- Factor quadratic expressions into binomials
- Simplify and solve equations containing square roots

Representation

- Create a scatter plot to display a given data set
- Solve inequalities by graphing

Assessment

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

Textbooks/Resources:

Prentice Hall, 2007, *Algebra 1*



7th Grade Science (Life Science)

Content

Structure and function of life
Investigating organisms
The human body

Essential Questions

What are living things made of and how do they survive?
How are organisms similar?
How are organisms different?
How is the human body organized to ensure good health?

Content Knowledge

The student will be able to:

The Structure and Function of Life

- Identify the structure of an animal cell and plant cell
- Understand molecules as structures of life
- Recognize and describe the processes of osmosis and diffusion
- Recognize and describe the processes mitosis and meiosis
- Understand and describe the process of genetic inheritance
- Understand and describe the processes respiration and photosynthesis

Investigating Organisms

- Apply taxonomy and binomial nomenclature
- Recognize and describe the basic characteristics of plants, animals, fungi, bacteria and protists

The Human Body

- Identify and describe various systems of the body
 - Digestive system
 - Circulatory system
 - Nervous system
 - Endocrine system

Process and Inquiry Skills

The student will be able to:

- Use scientific tools and resources
- Make and record observations
- Make inferences based on data or information
- Apply the scientific method
- Model processes or events
- Compare and contrast data, processes or events

Assessment

- Tests and quizzes
- Class work
- Diagrams and models
- Lab reports
- Research paper

Textbooks/Resources

Organisms - From Macro to Micro, publisher CBSC
Human Body Systems publisher CBSC



7th Grade Social Studies

Content

Government
Civics
Economics

Essential Questions

How has government evolved over time?
How do consumers influence product, price, and supply?
What causes fluctuations in the stock market?
What are our duties as responsible citizens?

Skills

The student will be able to:

Government

- Analyze and explain the lasting significance of “Black Codes,” Imperialism and 19th and 20th century foreign policy
- Discuss the ideals, principles and practices of citizenship in a democratic republic
- Explain how people create and change structures of power, authority and governance

Civic Responsibility

- Apply appropriate leadership skills in the classroom and community
- Describe the social changes related to modern racial issues
- Understand the context and influence of McCarthyism

Economics

- Understand the basic principles of supply and demand
- Examine the role of the stock market
- Analyze cause and effect of economic fluctuations

Analysis

- Understand the interconnections among various social and governmental systems.
- Frame, analyze and solve problems.
- Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively.
- Understand, manage and create effective oral, written and/or multimedia communication
- Access, manage, integrate, evaluate and create information in a variety of forms and media

Assessment

- Tests and quizzes
- Writing
- Teacher assessment and anecdotal notes
- Community service
- Projects and presentations
- Speeches
- Group activities

Textbooks/Resources

Prentice Hall, Civic, Government and Economics in Action
Historical fiction and non-fiction
Primary and secondary sources



7th 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 the most appropriate word for 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 indicative
- Identify direct and indirect object pronouns
- Identify definite and indefinite articles and gender of nouns
- Apply the concepts of singular and plural
- Apply progressive present tense to on-going activities
- Understand and apply the parts of speech and basic grammar
 - Prepositional phrases
 - Comparative words
 - Affirmative commands
 - Interrogative words

Oral Reading

- Express common greetings, descriptions and calendar information in dialogue scripts
- Express language in appropriate paragraph format
- Apply essential writing skills such as brainstorming, rough drafting and revising
- 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
- Quizzes and tests
- Written and oral class activities and projects

Textbooks/Resources

Practice Makes Perfect and *Exprésate*



7th Grade Visual Art

Content

Line repetition and line design
Types of line: contour and cross contour line
Positive and negative shape
Geometric and organic shape
Color hues, tints, and shades
Dark and light value
Atmospheric perspective
Actual and simulated texture
Symmetrical, asymmetrical and radial balance
Organic, geometric and natural forms
Simple and complex forms

Skills

The student will be able to:

- Define and demonstrate contour, cross contour, hatching and crosshatching lines
- Recognize, identify, and discuss the use of positive and negative space in two-dimensional and three-dimensional art
- Define, demonstrate, and incorporate line repetition and line design to create visual texture 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
- Define and distinguish between local value and cast shadow
- Discover and discuss symmetrical, asymmetrical and radial balance
- Define and distinguish between simple/complex form
- Analyze how form impacts sense and emotion
- Discuss, characterize, and define the physical, chemical and aesthetic differences between low-fire/high-fire clay bodies, glazes and kiln firings
- Discuss the difference and similarities between oxidation and reduction kiln firings
- 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 and other written assignments
- Tests and 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