Seminole Middle School’s Course Descriptions

Literacy Enrichment Courses

6th Grade

**Literacy through Debate** - this course incorporates information about the communication process, argument construction, and research as it applies to developing critical and close reading skills. This course teaches strategies that can be used to prepare for participation in future speech and debate. **Students in DECAL should not take this course.**

**Music throughout the Ages** - Students will explore music’s greatest hits while analyzing songs and the meanings behind them. **Listen to the greatest jams** of Hip Hop, R&B, Country, and good ole’ American Rock and Roll.

**Fairy Tales** - This course will explore fantasy through a variety of Fairy Tales. Students will take a deeper look into their favorite Fairy Tales and identify the real truth behind “Happily Ever After.”

**Literature** - This course examines a variety of literary genres (including fiction, poetry, drama, and nonfiction) within and across a range of historical periods and cultural and national contexts. In addition to learning about genres, students will develop skills of close reading, textual support, intertextual analysis, and critical thinking.
7th Grade

**African American History (Civil War to Civil Rights)** - This course focuses on the accomplishments of great African Americans from the Civil War to Civil Rights. Students will exam the written, musical, television, and film achievements from this time.

**Dark Side of Fairy Tales** - This course will explore fantasy through a variety of Fairy Tales. Students will take a deeper look into their favorite fairy tales and uncover the truth through the perspective of the Villain.

**Film as Literature I** - This course explores the complex interplay between film and literature. Selected novels, short stories and plays are analyzed in relation to film versions of the same works in order to gain an understanding of the possibilities and problems involved in the transposition to film. “Seeing is Believing” take your novel to the next level. Watch movies while eating popcorn and explore the similarities and differences of novels and films.

**Literature of Imagination I** - Horror! Science Fiction! Fantasy! Ghosts! Dinosaurs! Dragons! Knights! Aliens! True Love! Vampires! Time Travel! Dystopias! Rebellions! Superpowers! Movies! THE END OF THE WORLD (But funny, we swear)! The coolest literature class around.

**Literacy through Debate** - This course incorporates information about the communication process, argument construction, and research as it applies to developing critical and close reading skills. This course teaches strategies that can be used to prepare for participation in future speech and debate. **Students in DECAL should not take this course.**

**Creative Writing 1 & 2** - The purpose of this course is to develop writing and language skills needed for individual expression in literary forms. This course specializes in the development and practice of writing various literary works, including poetry, short stories, plays, novels, essays, and nonfiction writing. (High School Credit; FSA Reading-3 or higher)
8th Grade

**Film as Literature II** - This course explores complex interplay between film and literature. Selected novels, short stories and plays are analyzed in relation to film versions of the same works in order to gain an understanding of the possibilities and problems involved in the transposition to film. “Seeing is Believing” take your novel to the next level. Watch movies while eating popcorn and explore the similarities and difference of novels and films.

**Heroes and Villains** - This course will explore fantasy through a variety of Fairy Tales. Students will take a deeper look into their favorite Heroes and Villains and identify the real truth behind “Happily Ever After”.

**Literature of Imagination II** - Horror! Science Fiction! Fantasy! Ghosts! Dinosaurs! Dragons! Knights! Aliens! True Love! Vampires! Time Travel! Dystopias! Rebellions! Superpowers! Movies! THE END OF THE WORLD (But funny, we swear)! The coolest literature class around.

**Sports and Politics** - This course will allow students to become Political Analyst and Sport Newscasters as they analyze and report current events. Discover the impact politics and sports have on the world during different time periods.

**Creative Writing 1 & 2** - The purpose of this course is to develop writing and language skills needed for individual expression in literary forms. This course specializes in the development and practice of writing various literary works, including poetry, short stories, plays, novels, essays, and nonfiction writing. *(High School Credit; FSA Reading-3 or higher)*

**Creative Writing 3 & 4** - The purpose of this course is to develop writing and language skills needed for individual expression in literary forms. This course specializes in the development and practice of writing various literary works, including poetry, short stories, plays, novels, essays, and nonfiction writing. *(High School Credit; FSA Reading-3 or higher; Prerequisite- Creative Writing 1 & 2)*
High School Electives (Grades 7 & 8)

American Sign Language I - The purpose of this course is to enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in American Sign Language through linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of receiving and expressing signing skills. (FSA Reading-3 or higher)

American Sign Language II - The purpose of this course is to enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in American Sign Language through linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of receiving and expressing signing skills. (Prerequisite- American Sign Language I)

Spanish I - The purpose of this course is to enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in Spanish through linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. (FSA Reading-3 or higher)

Spanish II - The purpose of this course is to enable students to begin to acquire proficiency in Spanish through linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. (Prerequisite- Spanish I)

Computer Science Discoveries I - Learn how to design an app, make your own website, program a game, and even create physical devices that interact with the outside world. You’ll learn the computer science underlying the technology you use every day. No matter what you’re passionate about, a background in computer science will give you skills you need to bring your own version to life. (FSA Reading- 3 or higher)

Computer Science Discoveries II - Learn how to design an app, make your own website, program a game, and even create physical devices that interact with the outside world. You’ll learn the computer science underlying the technology you use every day. No matter what you’re passionate about, a background in computer science will give you skills you need to bring your own version to life. (Prerequisite- Computer Science and Discoveries I)
**Middle School Electives**

**Art** - Provides the experience necessary to understand, appreciate, and produce two and three dimensional art. This includes competent use of tools and materials as well as recognition of various styles, forms of art, appropriate art vocabulary in art production and justification of aesthetic judgement. (*Grades 6, 7, & 8*)

**Advanced Art** - Students will build on their existing knowledge of art materials, movements and processes to develop their own artistic vision. This course will emphasize artistic problem solving and visual communication across a wide range of styles and media. (*Prerequisite - Art; Grades 7 & 8*)

**Beginning Band** - This course will orient the student to all instruments offered prior to instrument selection. Students will develop a basic understanding of music notation and will be instructed on proper fundamentals and skills. (*Grades 6, 7, & 8*)

**Intermediate Band** - Students will learn to perform at a medium level of music difficulty. Students must perfect assigned music as well as attend all scheduled rehearsals and concert performances. (*Grades 7, & 8*)

**Advanced Band** - Students will continue perfecting musical skills and perform medium to difficult level music. (*Prerequisite of Intermediate Band or teacher recommendation*)

*Band Note* - All band level students are to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day. Instruments or equipment rental or purchases are required for ALL Band courses.

**Mentoring Tomorrows Leaders (MTL)** - Mentoring Tomorrow’s Leaders (MTL) is a mentor-to-peer and peer-to-peer mentoring and student leadership program that serves youth who are in need of additional support with curriculum, communication, organization, etc. The program aims to increase grades while improving motivation to ensure successful school promotion. (*MTL Application/Teacher Approval Required; Grades 6, 7, & 8*)

**Modern World Conflict** - This elective course will be centered on War, Politics, and the Globalization of our modern world. Student focus will be on major current events, including conflicts, trade issues, immigration and their global implications. As we analyze these modern events we will delve deeper into the root causes of them; be it over political ideology, religious beliefs, territorial acquisitions, or other political based agendas. (*Grade 8*)
**Peer Counseling** - Students are trained to assist their peers with communication, tutoring, interpersonal and intercultural skills. Peer Counselors offer students the opportunity to resolve conflicts by being taught through classroom instruction, role-playing, and skill building activities. *(Peer Counseling Teacher approval required; Grades 7 & 8)*

**Physical Education** - Provides students with the opportunity to improve fitness through training and participation in various physical activities. The content will include assessment of health and wellness related fitness and skill level components of physical activities. *(A school PE uniform is required and is a prerequisite for class participation; Grades 6, 7, & 8)*

**Rockets, Riddles, and Robots** - Students will learn the skills to solve any problem. Pick your brain with puzzles and various challenging problems. Build and test water rockets, mousetraps, cars, bridges, robots, and more; even try the Broward County Brain Bowl if you dare! *(Grades 7 & 8)*

**Starfleet Academy** - This class uses hands on activities to discover how the Universe works! Learn physics by launching rockets and building mousetraps, cars, and study everything from black holes to asteroids impacts and the search for alien life. Ask the big questions! *(Grade 8)*

**Theme Park Engineering** - This is an “Imagineering” not Engineering class that offers a peek behind the scenes at the world’s greatest theme park. Each student will design his or her own “theme park attraction” and in the process will learn about brainstorming, show design, story structure, art direction, architecture, ride & show control, audio, visual, lighting, mechanics, figure animation, merchandising, and budgeting. *(Grade 7)*

**Yearbook** - This class is designed to expand student journalistic skills through the development and production of the school yearbook. Students will explore all aspects of the yearbook creation process, including but not limited to various print and photo journalistic techniques, as well as technology for research, production, and dissemination. *(Yearbook Teacher approval required; Grades 7 & 8)*