



# CITY ACADEMY

Making A Difference  
Building the Future One Student at a Time

## CITY ACADEMY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – Grades 7-8

### ***CORE COURSES:***

#### ***English Language Arts***

06020000030 English 7 and English 8 – 1 credit required each year

These courses in English Language Arts meet and exceed Utah Core Standards for English 7 and 8. The courses focus on building the foundational skills in writing and literary analysis required for success in further levels of English study. These skills include reading fiction and non-fiction texts for information, analyzing those same texts for point of view and technique, and performing detailed, close analyses of short selections of text. Students learn to think about their reading in terms of recognizing when meaning has been lost and identifying effective strategies for repairing meaning. With writing, students will consolidate their mastery of sentence structures while refining the organization of analytical, expository, and argumentative writing. Students will integrate specific facts and quotations into their essays as evidence to support arguments and will move beyond using these items as standalone assertions. All students will be exposed to a range of texts and language arts tasks, and will be challenged to demonstrate personally appropriate progress in writing and literary analysis.

06010000120 Creative Writing - .5 credit:

This course will help students develop the skills, strategies, and processes for creative writing. This class focuses on personalizing reading and writing experiences for each student. As a workshop class, students will engage in both individual and shared experiences with their own writing and that of others. This course may be repeated for up to 2.0 total credits.

#### ***Mathematics***

All Mathematics Courses are designed with integrated mathematical topics (i.e., a combination of Algebra, Geometry, Statistics and Probability) and aspire to instill the following Mathematics practices in students (as recommended in the new Utah Core Standards for Mathematics - <http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/Math/Sec/commoncore.htm>)

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

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07080000070 Math 7 – 1 credit: Suggested pre-requisite is Math 6.

This integrated mathematics course meets Utah Core Standards for Math 7. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. Students will practice communicating mathematical ideas and logical reasoning in writing on teacher led classroom activities

07080000075 Math 7 H – 0.25 credit pre-requisite desire and teacher permission.

In 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics Honors students will additionally focus on developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three- dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and drawing inferences about populations based on samples. The Honors course includes extra depth and additional topics.

07080000080 Math 8 – 1 credit: Suggested pre-requisite is Math 7.

This integrated mathematics course meets Utah Core Standards for Math 8. In 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics students will focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will practice communicating mathematical ideas and logical reasoning in writing on teacher led classroom activities

07080000085 Math 8 H – 0.25 credit pre-requisite desire and teacher permission.

In 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics Honors students will additionally focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. The honors course includes extra depth and additional topics.

07080000090 Secondary Mathematics I – 1 credit: Suggested for grade 9 with pre-requisite of Math 8; open to 8<sup>th</sup> graders with Pre-Algebra pre-requisite

This integrated mathematics course meets Utah Core Standards for Secondary Mathematics I. In this course, students will deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomenon, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will use properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge. Algebraic and geometric ideas are tied together. Students will experience mathematics as a

coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.

07080000095 Secondary Mathematics I H – 0.25 credit pre-requisite desire and teacher permission.

In Secondary Mathematics I Honors students will additionally focus on vectors and matrices. The honors course includes extra depth and additional topics.

## **Science**

Physical, earth, and life science content are integrated into the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum with two primary goals: (1) students will value and use science as a process of obtaining knowledge based on observable evidence, and (2) students' curiosity will be sustained as they develop the abilities associated with scientific inquiry.

08050000090 Integrated Science – 7<sup>th</sup> grade core – 1 credit required

The theme for Seventh Grade Science is structure. The concept of density is used to help understand the sorting and distribution of matter on Earth. Seventh graders should begin to relate the structure of matter to the properties of materials. The "Benchmarks" in the seventh grade Core emphasize "structure" as an organizing concept to understand matter. All substances are made of smaller parts and are themselves parts of larger wholes. When parts come together, the whole often has properties that are very different from its parts. Inherited traits are carried on structures called genes. Structure is used to classify plants, animals, rocks, stars, and other things. Classification is a way to give a unique description to all things.

08050000010 Integrated Science – 8<sup>th</sup> grade core – 1 credit required

The themes for Eighth Grade Integrated Science are change and energy. The "Benchmarks" in the eighth grade Core emphasize change as an organizing concept to understand matter and energy. Eighth graders should understand the relationship between energy and changes in matter. When matter combines, energy is absorbed or released and matter is rearranged to make new substances with new properties. The essential change that occurs in living organisms involves photosynthesis and respiration. The processes of change that shape and reshape the Earth continue today as in the past and require energy. Objects require energy to move, and this motion can be described, measured, and predicted.

## **Social Studies**

09050000080 Utah Studies H – 7<sup>th</sup> grade core – 1 credit required

This year-long course in Utah history and issues meets and exceeds the Utah core curriculum. The course is organized around four major concepts and sets of essential questions: Quarter 1: How has Utah changed in 100 years?, How has mining influenced Utah over the last 100 years?, What connections do immigrants and mining have in Utah's history?, and Is polygamy protected by the First Amendment?; Quarter 2: Early Utah history – Native Americans, history, culture, economics; and Utah's physical geography and human and geographic interactions. Essential Questions: Should nuclear waste be stored at Skull Valley?, Is Utah just a good dump?; Quarter 3: Religious, cultural, and economic diversity of Utah. Essential Questions: Is Utah / Salt Lake City divided?, Should City Creek Center be

built?; and Quarter 4: Using and Protecting Utah - Urbanization and population growth, Anasazi excavations, commuter/light rail, land use, ATVs/ORVs, Lake Bonneville, dinosaurs, mining, Great Salt Lake, forestry, impact on nature/environment, draining Lake Powell. Essential Question: Are we building a good future for Utah?

09050000040 U.S. History I – 8<sup>th</sup> grade core – 1 credit required.

This year-long course in United States history meets and exceeds the Utah core curriculum. The course covers from pre-European exploration through the Civil War is organized around four sets of essential questions: Quarter 1: Discovery and colonization - Whose country is this anyway, who were the “first Americans”? Topics covered 1<sup>st</sup> quarter include geography of the US, Native American nations, European exploration reasons and impacts, colonization. Quarter 2: American Revolution - Was the American Revolution a “Revolution” for all involved? Why or why not?; How did propaganda affect events leading up to the American Revolution?; What kind of nation did the founding fathers create?, and How does the Constitution embody the principles of democracy? Topics covered 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter include factors/events leading to the start and outcome of the Revolution, groups and people of the Revolution, effects of the Revolution, the Constitution, rights, liberties and responsibilities. Quarter 3: Expansion and US government - Why does a nation feel the need to expand?; What problems and solutions does expansion bring?; and What is the legacy of slavery? Topics covered 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter include ideas and events for the expansion of the US, conflicts during expansion, inventions, transportation, industrial revolution, political system, implementation of democracy, slavery. Quarter 4: Civil War – What could cause brother to fight brother?, Was the Civil War avoidable? Why or why not?, and How much diversity can a country tolerate? Topics covered 4<sup>th</sup> quarter include reasons for the Civil War, events and impacts of the Civil War, Reconstruction, the American West.

## ***ELECTIVE COURSES:***

### ***Fine Arts***

02010000060 Art 1A and Art 1B - .5 credit

These semester long courses follow the state core curriculum for Visual Art Foundations 1 and may be repeated for up to 2.0 total credits. This course is highly structured and discipline based. It forms the basis for studio practice, critical thinking, and the understanding and implementation of visual art expression. The course emphasizes creative and critical thinking, problem solving, visual thinking, perception and observation, as well as presenting traditional vocabulary, theory, media, and techniques of artistic practice. Students will participate in the study of art history, aesthetics, art making, and criticism, emphasizing in-class work production.

02040200001 Choir - .5 credit

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through singing in a choral ensemble. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, aesthetic awareness, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to experience the spontaneity of improvisation and the creative process of composition. Students will strengthen listening skills and their ability to analyze and evaluate music and music performances. Attention will also be given to relating their music experiences to personal development.

02020000060 Conditioning through Dance - .5 credit:

Dance is a universal art form with the capacity to unite aesthetics with the physical exercise. This semester course builds dance knowledge and skills while helping students develop skills and propensity for individual lifetime activity and fitness and may be repeated for up to 1.5 total credits in either fine arts or Individualized Lifetime Activity.

02040300040 Guitar 1 - .5 credit

02040300045 Intermediate Guitar - .5 credit: Pre-Requisite – At least a complete year of Guitar 1 and have successfully auditioned into the class and/or have the instructor’s permission.

These semester courses may be repeated for up to 4.0 total credits. Each course focuses on the development of musical skills in three major areas 1) technique; the proper use of hands and body for most effective playing, using the fingers to strike the strings; 2) the elements of music: note reading, chord spelling, rhythm especially as related to strumming chord patterns, as well as reading tablature and chord diagrams; 3) solo and ensemble playing drawn from technical studies as well as popular and traditional sources, with a special emphasis on the precision needed for ensemble and group performance.

02040300040 Piano - .5 credit

This course will develop the skills of keyboard playing, music reading, and keyboard techniques such as scales, chords, hand position and fingering. This semester course and may be repeated for up to 2.0 total credits.

## ***World Languages***

03000000001 Exploring World Language (EWL): Open to 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students

This semester course introduces students to the complexities of learning to speak additional languages. Students will build an understanding of the nature of spoken and written language, and will become familiar with a number of proven strategies that make language study more successful. Vocabulary from several different languages will be explored in this course.

City Academy offers 3 world languages – French, German, and Spanish. Each of these courses provides the same general content material for each year of the course. Students wishing to study other languages may do so through online and other accredited programs including higher education institutions.

Year 1: 1 credit. This beginning course is offered to students who seek to understand the basics of the language, the cultures and the people in countries where the language is spoken. This course introduces students to the language by listening to, speaking, reading, and writing in the language. The focus is on basic conversational skills in a variety of settings. Students practice by means of dialogues, structured drills, reading selections, written exercises, and role plays.

03030000011      French 1  
03040000011      German 1  
03070000011      Spanish 1

Year 2: 1 credit. Pre-Requisite – Year 2 is only open to students who have successfully completed Year 1, auditioned into the class and/or have the teacher’s permission. In this year long course students build upon skills learned in Year 1 to expand their abilities in listening to, speaking, reading, and writing in the language. The focus is on past, future, and possible events in a variety of settings. Students practice by means of dialogues, structured drills, reading selections, written exercises, and role plays. Students also study culture as it relates to the places the language is spoken.

03030000021	French 2
03040000021	German 2
03070000021	Spanish 2

## ***PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH***

04010000001 Health 8<sup>th</sup> - .5 credit required.

Health Education offers 8<sup>th</sup> grade students an opportunity to acquire knowledge, practice skills, and develop attitudes that can benefit them throughout life. Building a solid foundation of good literacy and decision-making skills can contribute to a variety of healthy choices for self and others. Although the knowledge components are addressed through the seven different content sections, the development of process and life skills and attitudes will be incorporated throughout the entire curriculum.

02020000060 Conditioning through Dance - .5 credit:

Dance is a universal art form with the capacity to unite aesthetics with the physical exercise. This semester course builds dance knowledge and skills while helping students develop skills and propensity for individual lifetime activity and fitness and may be repeated for up to 1.5 total credits in either fine arts or Individualized Lifetime Activity.

04020000050 Physical Education 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> - .5 credit

This semester course contains a variety of activity, including traditional sports and non-traditional team sports and may be repeated for up to 2.0 total credits. The goals of this class are for students to: Demonstrate the correct technique for a variety of basic skills, apply the correct techniques of basic skills individually, with a partner, in small groups and team sport-specific activities, consistently throw and catch or kick and receive, assess personal fitness level and create personal fitness goals, participate in activities that promote physical fitness (develop flexibility, muscular strength and endurance, and cardiovascular fitness, and define the FITT guidelines as they relate to fitness activity. Participation, sportsmanship, and citizenship are highly valued in this class.

## *PRAGMATICS & SCIENCES*

### 0804000025 Food Science (8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) - .5 credit.

This semester course aims to integrate science and cooking and to give students ample hands-on time in the kitchen. Students will earn their food handler's permit. Lessons and units cover a broad range of topics including: food safety and preventing food borne illness, kitchen responsibility and clean-up, what makes food healthy and not so healthy, tracing food back to its sources including gardening and food forestry, cooking methods and skills, kitchen tools and supplies, and international foods. Science skills include performing bacteria experiments and cooking experiments, learning the chemistry of vitamins and nutrients, identifying and classifying different plants/ingredients, quantifying nutritional information, and adjusting recipes mathematically.

### 3801000075 PLTW Gateway – 1.0 credit

PLTW Gateway provides engineering and biomedical science curriculum for middle school students that challenges, inspires, and offers variety and flexibility. Students get rigorous and relevant experiences through activity-, project-, and problem-based learning. They use industry-leading technology to solve problems while gaining skills in communication, collaboration, critical-thinking, and creativity.

### 0805000050 Science Research (8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) - .5 credit

In this course students will design, conduct, and present finding from their own experimental or engineering project. This course may be repeated for up to 4.0 total credits. Projects will be prepared following guidelines for the Salt Lake Valley Science and Engineering Fair (SLVSEF). Each student is expected to enter a project in the City Academy Science, Math, and Engineering Fair for qualification for entry in the SLVSEF. Students will learn how to research, plan, conduct, and report on experimental and engineering projects.