



Lutz Preparatory Middle Grades Curriculum Guide

Vision

Lutz Preparatory School strives to create a student-centered learning environment that fosters 21st Century skills and empowers students to be compassionate and strong in character.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a rigorous, differentiated learning experience in order to cultivate and inspire a community of life-long learners.

Curriculum

Our mission is to provide a rigorous, differentiated learning experience in order to cultivate and inspire a community of life-long learners. A primary goal of the school is to ensure that every student will learn and will master the appropriate Florida Standards and be educated at his/her skill level. All students, no matter how advanced, will be challenged academically each and every day.

Florida Standards

With the new Florida Standards in place to help Florida students succeed, the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) will serve Florida students by measuring education gains and progress. Parents are encouraged to stay connected to the FSA Portal provided by the Florida Department of Education. The portal also includes sample tests for parents to review.

Tutoring

Please contact your child's teacher(s) to discuss the individual tutoring needs of your student.

Middle School Homework Help

- Open to students in grades 6th-8th only
- Meeting Days TBD each year
 - Tutored by National Junior Honor Society members
- Must have signed permission slip in order to attend. (See your teacher or Mr. Bethune for form)

English Language Arts (ELA)

Lutz Preparatory offers middle school students a comprehensive, advanced level ELA course for each grade level. Students will work to become confident self-directed learners, critical thinkers, and effective communicators. Students will develop an appreciation of literature across genres and apply their learning in effective and purposeful ways. To reach these goals teachers will utilize a variety of best practices; including but not limited to:

- Readers and writers' workshop
- Vocabulary instruction
- Project based learning
- Collaboration
- Shared Inquiry
- Integration of reading and writing

6th Grade

M/J Language Arts I, Advanced: The purpose of this course is to provide grade 6 students with a rigorous learning experience, using texts of high complexity, advanced integrated language arts study in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language for college and career preparation and readiness. Through the application, analysis, evaluation, and creation of complex ideas that are often abstract and multi-faceted, students are challenged to think and collaborate critically on the content they are learning.

7th Grade

M/J Language Arts II, Advanced: The purpose of this course is to provide grade 7 students with a rigorous learning experience, using texts of high complexity, advanced integrated language arts study in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language for college and career preparation and readiness. Through the application, analysis, evaluation, and creation of complex ideas that are often abstract and multi-faceted, students are challenged to think and collaborate critically on the content they are learning.

8th Grade

M/J Language Arts III, Advanced: The purpose of this course is to provide grade 8 students with a rigorous learning experience, using texts of high complexity, advanced integrated language arts study in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language for college and career preparation and readiness. Through the application, analysis, evaluation, and creation of complex ideas that are often abstract and multi-faceted, students are challenged to think and collaborate critically on the content they are learning.

*Based on prior year FSA Writing/Reading scores and diagnostic testing, students who demonstrate specific reading challenges are selected for the Reading Resource course for small group reading instruction each day.

Mathematics

Lutz Preparatory offers middle school students a rigorous, dynamic, and challenging series of mathematics courses with several options at various grade levels. Instructors strive to provide students with essential skills to prepare them for life outside the classroom setting. The goal of the Lutz Preparatory mathematics program is to increase students' mathematical abilities through the use of innovative, quantifiable educational strategies that will inspire life-long learning. The end result for most students will be the successful completion of Algebra I Honors, an EOC high school credit course. Some students will go on to complete Geometry Honors, another EOC high school credit course.

6th Grade

M/J Accelerated Mathematics Grade 6: In this Grade 6 Advanced Mathematics course, instructional will focus on six critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking; (5) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; and (6) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations.

7th Grade

M/J Accelerated Mathematics Grade 7: Instructional time should focus on five critical area: (1) 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; (2) drawing inferences about populations based on samples; (3) 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; (4) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and (5) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. This course fuses 7th and 8th grade standards.

Algebra I, Honors (high school level course): The purpose of this course is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in early middle school math course. The critical areas deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend, and students engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. The Standards for Mathematical Practice apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. Units of study include Relationships between Quantities and Reasoning with Equations, Linear and Exponential Relationships, Descriptive Statistics, Expressions and Equations, Quadratic Functions and Modeling. Students must successfully pass the state administered End Of Course exam to receive high school credit.

8th Grade

Geometry Honors (high school credit course)- The fundamental purpose of the course in Geometry is to formalize and extend students' geometric experiences from middle grades mathematics. Students explore more complex geometric situations and deepen their explanations of geometric relationships, moving towards formal mathematical arguments. Important differences exist between this Geometry course and the historical approach taken in Geometry classes. For example, transformations are emphasized early in this course. Close attention should be paid to the introductory content for the Geometry conceptual category found in the high school standards. The Standards for Mathematical Practice apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. The critical areas organized into five units are as follows. Students must successfully pass the state administered End Of Course exam to receive high school credit. *** Requires successful completion of Algebra I, Honors**

*Placement in any advanced high school course is designed to challenge high performing mathematics students who have demonstrated proficiency in all math domains. Placement for these courses is determined by the administrative team based on previous academic history, standardized test performance, and teacher recommendation.

*Based on prior year FSA Math scores and diagnostic testing, students who demonstrate specific challenges in math are selected for the Math Resource course for small group mathematics instruction each day.

Science

Lutz Preparatory offers middle school students a hands-on science curriculum designed to promote critical thinking while at the same time empowering students to explore and understand the natural world so they can develop a clearer perspective of who they are and their role they will play as informed, scientifically proficient citizens.

Each course is designed to develop students' skills through inquiry-based learning strategies. Students will demonstrate how observation contributes to scientific inquiry and will become adept at not just following the scientific method but creating their own procedures. Additionally, independent study and research assignments, which require students to design, conduct, and communicate their research, are incorporated at each grade level.

6th Grade

M/J Earth and Space Science, Advanced: Students will be challenged to comprehend time, size and scale in sixth grade science. From a lightyear to the span of 4.5 billion years of geologic history, students will begin to form an understanding of very abstract astronomical and geologic concepts.

Topics of Study will include science process skills, Earth's history, meteorology, the dynamic earth, minerals and rocks, and astronomy and space.

Field Trip

Nature's Classroom located in Northeast Hillsborough County on 365 acres provided by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The Hillsborough River Watershed Field Study Program for 6th graders are the main focus of the programming at Nature's Classroom.

7th Grade

M/J Life Science, Advanced: A large part of student success in seventh grade science will be dependent upon understanding the language of science.

Topics of study include: Lab Safety, Nature of Science, Organization and Development of Living Organisms Structures, Processes, and Responses of Plants Heredity and Reproduction, Human Body Systems, Ecosystems, Interdependence, Evolution, Animal Diversity, and Florida Ecology.

Optional Field Trip to Marine Lab in Key Largo, FL- Lutz Prep partners with a nonprofit organization, Marine Lab, to provide experiential learning and adventure. Their guides teach on a range of subjects in the field such as ecological sustainability, behavior and anatomy of marine life, and coastal ecosystems in a safe and fun environment.

8th Grade

Physical Science Honors (high school credit course): Students will explore the basic principles of physical science through inquiry, discovery, reasoning, and realistic problem solving. Due to the pacing and number of labs, attendance is an absolute priority.

Topics of study include: Lab Safety, Math in Science (metrics, dimensional analysis, significant figures, scientific notation), Volume and Mass, Mass Changes in Closed Systems, Characteristic Properties, Compounds and Elements, Classification of Elements, the Periodic Table, Motion and Forces, Energy and Waves, Solubility, The Separation of Mixtures, and Science FSA prep.

Social Studies

Lutz Preparatory provides middle school students with a challenging curriculum utilizing primary and secondary sources and inquiry-based units and projects. The goal is to guide students as they strengthen their knowledge of the past and present to function as literate, aware, and productive citizens. The study of history and civics calls for students to engage in critical thinking, research, communication, and active participation.

6th Grade

M/J World History, Advanced: The scope of this course follows the history of the world's earliest civilizations to the ancient and classical civilizations of Africa, Asia, and Europe. Students follow the rise of civilization in Mesopotamia through to the fall of the Roman Empire. This study of world history includes elements of economics, geography, politics, and religion/philosophy. It emphasizes skills in historical inquiry, close reading of primary and secondary historical documents, and writing to support a claim. Students will also have the opportunity to interpret and graphically represent historic information.

7th Grade

M/J Civics, Advanced: This course deals with the principles, functions, and organization of government; the origins of the American political system; the roles, rights, responsibilities of United States citizens; and methods of active participation in our political system. Throughout the year students engage in extensive study of political thinkers, the foundation of U.S. government, the history of the U.S. political process, and analysis of the components of the U.S. Constitution. Additional units of study provide opportunities to focus on the geographic and economic benchmarks of the course. This prepares students for the state end-of-course (EOC) exam on the Civics benchmarks.

8th Grade

M/J U.S. History, Advanced & Career Planning: Primary content emphasis for this course pertains to the study of American history from the Exploration and Colonization period to the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War. Students will be exposed to the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events which influenced the development of the United States and the resulting impact on world history. So that students can clearly see the relationship between cause and effect in historical events, students should have the opportunity to explore those fundamental ideas and events which occurred after Reconstruction.

Electives

Lutz Preparatory offers the following electives to students in grades sixth through eighth.

- Physical Education/Team Sports
- Art
- Band 1, Band 2, or Band 3
- Beginning Spanish
- Intermediate Spanish
- Spanish I (high school credit course)
- Technology; Computer Science Discovery

Additional Information

Exceptional Student Education (ESE)/Gifted Education Services: Lutz Preparatory is assisted by the district with the identification, evaluation, and placement of exceptional education and gifted students in the least restrictive environment. The ESE program is committed to providing appropriate exceptional educational student education and gifted services, which include maximizing student participation in the general education classroom, thereby allowing students to remain in the least restrictive environment to the greatest extent possible. This model is intended to ensure that ESE and gifted services are in addition to, and are affected by, the general education classroom curriculum, not separate from it.

ESE Services: The level of service and support needed to meet a student's IEP (individualized Education Plan) goals and objectives determines the service delivery option. ESE services currently provided at Lutz Preparatory for mildly disabled students include:

Consultative Model: A consultative model will be implemented to ESE students with an IEP who are working on or close to grade level and function well independently. ESE and regular education teachers meet on a quarterly basis to monitor appropriate progress towards academic skills, grade maintenance, and accommodation implementation. Varied levels and frequency on in-class support are based on student needs. In-class support is provided on a flexible basis and may occur on different days and varying times of the week. The teaching team will meet with parents of newly enrolled ESE students at the beginning of the school year in order to discuss the individual needs of the child and determine what service will best fit the needs of the student.

Gifted Services: The need for advanced course work for gifted students is met in the regular education classroom setting through the curriculum that offers engaging and challenging work, with expectations for student achievement set at the highest standard. All grades in the core subjects are advanced and placement in high school honors courses designed to challenge high performing mathematics students who have demonstrated proficiency in all math domains.

All newly enrolled gifted students continue to maintain eligibility in the gifted program but have program placement changed to the monthly consultative model. This service consists of regularly scheduled meetings between the ESE, Gifted, and regular education classroom teachers in order to monitor appropriate academic skills maintenance and progress towards gifted education plan goals and objectives. THE CHANGE IN GIFTED SERVICES DOES NOT AFFECT THE GIFTED STATUS OF THE CHILD; THEY ARE STILL ELIGIBLE FOR THE GIFTED PROGRAM.

Progression Plan: Middle school students are required to successfully complete three years each of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, including the successful completion of a civics course, in order to be promoted to grade 9 (F.S 1003.4156). When a student fails a required course, recovery opportunities and resources will be available to students for remediation and demonstration of academic competency.

Disclosure: courses are offered as necessary or as state requirements change. Course availability is based on the number of students eligible for the course and the overall course schedule. Courses may be altered and/or cancelled for any reason without prior notification. In order to ensure student success, the administrative team will make final determination regarding student placement. Please note that not every elective will be available to every student at every period during the day.



Lutz Preparatory Middle Grades Plan for Academic Matriculation from 6th to 7th to 8th Grades

6th Grade Students (advanced)

1 of each of the following core subjects: English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies

At least 2 periods of the following elective classes: research, art, band, physical education, technology, and Spanish. Most courses rotate each semester.

The Leader in Me and 21st Century Skills are embedded throughout all classes.

Data Driven learning plan determines placement into additional math/ELA support- mandatory attendance is required, when invited.



7th Grade Students (advanced)

1 of each of the following core subjects: English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies

At least 2 periods of the following elective classes: research, art, band, physical education, technology, and Spanish. Most courses rotate each semester.

The Leader in Me and 21st Century Skills are embedded throughout all classes.

Data Driven learning plan determines placement into additional math/ELA support- mandatory attendance is required, when invited.



8th Grade Students (advanced/honors)

1 of each of the following core subjects: English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies

At least 2 periods of the following elective classes: research, art, band, physical education, technology, and Spanish. Most courses rotate each semester.

The Leader in Me and 21st Century Skills are embedded throughout all classes.

Data Driven learning plan determines placement into additional math/ELA support- mandatory attendance is required, when invited.