



Middle School

Curriculum Guide
2011-12

VIEWPOINT SCHOOL
MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE
2011-12

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THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Viewpoint's Middle School provides an atmosphere that addresses the distinctive needs of students in Grades Six through Eight. We appreciate their diverse natures: the joys, problems, developmental changes, and vulnerability experienced in this transitional period. Our program provides the support and guidance that allows each student to develop independent thinking, intellectual integrity, and physical, personal, and social maturity. The Middle School offers students the first opportunity to make choices in the selection of elective classes.

Acting as a bridge between the Lower and Upper Schools, the Middle School not only reinforces and applies skills previously learned, but also stimulates the student's emerging ability in abstract thinking and logical reasoning. The program emphasizes the development of work and study habits to ensure success given the ever-increasing demands of academic studies. These newfound abilities make the Middle School an exciting place for both students and teachers.

MISSION STATEMENT

Viewpoint School, an independent coeducational school with grades from Kindergarten through Twelve, offers a rigorous college preparatory education in a nurturing environment. An integral part of the educational process at Viewpoint is the development of a love of learning and of those qualities which provide strength and direction for a lifetime. Viewpoint recognizes the uniqueness of each child and is committed to the identification, preservation, and development of that individuality. Viewpoint School teaches with respect the wisdom and traditions of the world's cultures and faiths. The School's philosophy is based upon the love of God and Country, and is inspired by the Judeo-Christian values upon which our nation was founded.

LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

Viewpoint's graduates are literate in the humanities, mathematics, science, technology, the arts, and a second language.

Viewpoint's graduates demonstrate useful physical skills, cooperative teamwork, sportsmanship, and a lifelong interest in fitness and health.

Viewpoint's graduates demonstrate creative and critical thinking.

Viewpoint's graduates embody integrity, compassion, tolerance, responsibility, discernment, and optimism.

Viewpoint's graduates develop excellent intellectual and communication skills.

The achievement of these expectations enables Viewpoint's graduates to be lifelong learners and productive, active citizens who serve their communities.

GLOBAL STUDIES

Global Studies is an interdisciplinary and growing educational program woven from Kindergarten through Grade Twelve that prepares students with the knowledge, skills, and perspectives essential to thrive in the interconnected world which is their future.

The mission of Global Studies is:

- to provide students with a foundational knowledge of world history, geography, ecology, religions, cultures, and language;
- to teach students how to understand political, ecological, technological, and economic systems from multiple perspectives;
- to equip students with analytical thinking and creative problem-solving skills so that they can research, discuss, and begin to understand the world's pressing problems in order to collaborate with others toward solutions to those problems.

The curriculum of the Middle School currently addresses the mission of Global Studies in the Sixth and Seventh Grade social studies classes, Sixth Grade science, and world languages.

SIXTH GRADE

The Sixth Grade curriculum is designed to reinforce the student's ability to work independently and to become more self-motivated. A homeroom teacher/advisor provides guidance and security, but the student is expected to attempt new challenges before requesting assistance from teachers. Within the curriculum, an emphasis on the development of organizational skills, time management, and approaches to the study of various academic disciplines prepares the Sixth Grader for the Seventh Grade, where self-reliance in handling the daily routine is expected. Teachers hold students responsible for completing assignments and meeting deadlines. Studies now require more abstract thinking and logical reasoning which lead to stimulating and active class discussions. Sixth Grade students choose one of three world languages to study. They also participate in a required Arts Rotation which provides them with opportunities in Theater Arts and Visual Arts. Students select one music class for the year. Teachers give letter grades in each academic subject, and students have the opportunity to earn recognition on the quarterly Honor and High Honor Rolls and the annual Headmaster's List.

Sixth Grade students may elect to take part in a variety of interscholastic sports, the Student Council, clubs, musical productions, community service and social activities, and trips. This opportunity for choice prepares students for Seventh Grade when they have the opportunity to select an elective.

ENGLISH

Students develop as readers in fluency, reading rate, oral reading accuracy, and comprehension. Students develop stronger and clearer communication skills and formulate opinions through both oral and written expression. Every assignment stresses the writing process, and students learn to follow the necessary steps to create a well-organized and thoughtful piece. Students also learn to appreciate the beauty and power of language through vocabulary-enhancing activities. Spelling and grammar strategies and rules reinforce the reading and writing curriculum. Library usage is encouraged during many units of study, especially during the production of a substantial research project. Lastly, the literature introduces students to ideas of bravery, independence, and compassion. Literary selections may include *When I Was Your Age* by various young adult authors, *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, *The Trojan War* by Olivia Coolidge, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, *Book of Greek Myths* by D'Aulaire, and various works of poetry.

MATHEMATICS

This course emphasizes the development of problem-solving skills and algebraic reasoning ability. It builds a firm foundation required for higher level math classes. Students learn operations with whole numbers, integers, decimals, fractions; exponents, order of operations; solving simple algebraic expressions and equations; graphing functions on the coordinate plane; number theory, proportion, and percent applications; analyzing data and introduction to probability; geometry and measurement, including perimeter, area, and volume.

ADVANCED MATHEMATICS

This course builds upon arithmetic skills and concepts previously studied and introduces algebraic concepts to prepare students for Pre-Algebra. Emphasis is placed on problem solving, reasoning, number relationships and theory, and patterns and functions. Topics include operations with fractions, decimals, integers; exponents and roots; writing and solving equations and inequalities; graphing equations on the coordinate plane; geometry, including perimeter, circumference, area, and volume formulas, angle measures, geometric constructions, and the Pythagorean Theorem; the concept and application of percent; data analysis and probability. Students are challenged to think critically and deeply through non-routine problem solving and enrichment lessons.

Prerequisite: Recommendation of the Department.

SOCIAL STUDIES – ANCIENT HISTORY

Students continue to develop map skills as they reflect on the importance of geography in the history of the Ancient World including Mesopotamia, India, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Students explore the significant contributions these cultures have made, including the traditions of Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism to human development, and investigate the particular foundations of Western civilization. Short research papers and projects are integrated with other disciplines. Students develop their critical thinking skills through guided research projects.

SCIENCE

Students explore and investigate the world around us. They study geology, ornithology, chemistry, and biology. Students learn to use computers in the study of these subjects. Students participate in a two-week unit about human growth and development, where they learn about changes that occur to the body during the adolescent years. In addition to these topics they also study the scientific method and apply it to real-world examples, as well as participate in laboratory experiments and activities. Students also take part in the Classroom Feeder Watch Program, facilitated through Cornell University and the Audubon Society.

FRENCH

Students continue to develop the four language skills through a proficiency-oriented program. Interaction in the classroom is based on tasks that simulate real-world situations. Pair activities, group work, and student-teacher interaction provide opportunities for the creative use of the language. Accurate use of vocabulary and grammar is also emphasized. Students are exposed to the culture of French-speaking countries by researching and writing reports. Students also study short poems and songs. French is the primary language of the classroom.

SPANISH

Students learn vocabulary through themes and are involved more deeply in learning grammar. Present and future tenses are emphasized as students learn to read, write, listen, and speak on a sentence and paragraph level. Students are immersed in the language through the use of authentic, teacher-created, and text-based materials. Geography and culture of the Spanish-speaking world are learned at this level.

INTRODUCTION TO MANDARIN CHINESE

This class is designed for students entering Sixth Grade who have no background in Mandarin Chinese. In this class, students learn Hanyu pinyin (the system of phonetic transcription of Chinese characters using the Roman alphabet) as well as reading and writing simplified Chinese characters. Students learn how to write Chinese characters using the proper stroke order, a basic character writing skill. Students study vocabulary, sentence structure, and dialogues. The course focuses on the topics in the book *My First Chinese Reader*, Volume 1. The topics cover daily life including common greetings, addressing family members, nationality, school activities, school supplies, numbers, dates, and food. The course also introduces the students to Chinese culture through arts and crafts, rhymes and poems, folk songs, calligraphy, and Chinese festivals.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students are introduced to Internet search techniques, simple spreadsheets, and the use of the Viewpoint School network. They continue to develop word processing and desktop publishing skills, along with file organizing and saving their work to USB flash drives in addition to their student network folders. Age-appropriate application software is integrated with projects originating in the students' academic subjects. The socially responsible use of electronic information is practiced as well as learning to cite information from Internet sources.

ARTS ROTATION

Art – Students have two quarters of art that include two-dimensional and three-dimensional work. Students explore self-expression and artistic perception through a variety of media and processes including drawing, painting, and sculpture.

Acting – Students learn the fundamentals of the art and craft of acting including age-appropriate scene work, voice study, and nonverbal communication scenarios.

Movement – This class teaches students the basics and techniques of movement as connected to artistic genres. The quarter-long course includes movement variations, tap dancing, and choreography.

BEGINNING INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FOR BRASS INSTRUMENTS

Beginning study of trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, or tuba includes the study and performance of band literature with emphasis on proper playing technique, tone, intonation, balance, blend, and musicality. Students also study elements of jazz. **Several performances are planned throughout the year. Concert attendance is required.**

BEGINNING INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FOR WOODWIND INSTRUMENTS

Beginning study of clarinet or flute includes the study and performance of band literature with emphasis on proper playing technique, tone, intonation, balance, blend, and musicality. Students also study elements of jazz. **Several performances are planned throughout the year. Concert attendance is required.**

BEGINNING INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FOR STRINGED INSTRUMENTS

This class is for Sixth Grade students who would like to play the violin, viola, cello, or bass, but have no prior experience with these instruments. Students learn proper playing posture, several scales, simple songs, a variety of rhythms, and other important musical elements. This is a fast-paced class, as it prepares students to move into Middle School Orchestra in Seventh Grade. **Several performances are planned throughout the year. Concert attendance is required.**

SIXTH GRADE BAND

Intermediate study of a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument includes the study and performance of band literature with emphasis on tone, intonation, balance, blend, and musicality. Students also study elements of jazz. **Several performances are planned throughout the year. Concert attendance is required.**

Prerequisite: Fifth Grade Band or equivalent.

SIXTH GRADE CHORUS

This vocal ensemble teaches students to rehearse and perform music from various time periods, cultures, and styles, in unison and in parts. Students learn to work together to achieve musical goals. They develop their voices through exercises in breathing, resonance, and diction. They learn to read music and sight-sing. **Several performances are planned throughout the year. Concert attendance is required.**

SIXTH GRADE STRINGS

Intermediate study of an orchestral string instrument includes the study and performance of string orchestra music. Students learn to play in a variety of keys, master new bowing techniques, and learn new rhythms. Emphasis is placed on ensemble playing including balance, blend, intonation, and musicality. **Several performances are planned throughout the year. Concert attendance is required.**

Prerequisite: Fifth Grade Strings or equivalent.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students continue team sports integrated with physical fitness activities and the Presidential Fitness Challenge. Students are graded on a seasonal Pass/Fail basis. Interscholastic sports include:

	Fall	Winter	Spring
Girls	Basketball Swimming Tennis*	Soccer	Golf* Softball Volleyball
Boys	Flag Football Swimming	Basketball	Baseball Golf* Soccer Tennis*

*open to a limited number of students

ADVISORY

Homeroom advisories meet briefly at the beginning of each school day and once during the six-day rotation for a full period. During the advisory period, students and their advisors address issues of importance in their lives. Topics include becoming organized, discussing academic progress, acting with integrity, handling stress, making healthy choices, and developing an appreciation for diversity.

SEVENTH GRADE

The Seventh Grade curriculum is designed to inspire students to be more independent in accepting responsibility for their own personal success. The homeroom teacher/advisor, the Middle School faculty, and the Head and the Assistant Head of Middle School work together as a team to assist the students in this effort. In addition to the faculty's assistance, required study halls are scheduled. This time is beneficial in helping the Seventh Grader develop skills in organization, study methods, and preparation for exams.

The Seventh Grade student now chooses one of four world languages and three electives throughout the year. All Seventh Grade students take one semester of Computer Science and one semester of Decision-Making, a course designed to provide students with an understanding of the values which shape their decisions. Teachers give letter grades for each academic subject. Seventh Grade students have the opportunity to earn recognition on the quarterly Honor and High Honor Rolls and the annual Headmaster's List.

Other options include participation in a variety of interscholastic sports, the Student Council, clubs, musical productions, community service and social activities, and trips.

ENGLISH

This course is grounded in global and culturally rich texts that emphasize themes of heritage, culture, ethnicity, and family, and are closely connected with the social studies curriculum. Vocabulary expansion and grammar usage are taught through the study of etymology and application in writing. In their writing, students hone paragraph and thesis development and expand main ideas through textual support. Along with engaging in creative work that enhances their understanding of the literature, students produce longer writing pieces that incorporate interdisciplinary research and critical writing skills. Literary selections incorporate many genres that give students the opportunity to form valuable opinions, foster essential skills in critical reading, and, more importantly, develop empathy and compassion. An anthology of short stories, nonfiction narratives, and poetry is included along with the following works: *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, *Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, *Half Brother* by Kenneth Oppel, *A House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros, *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, and *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare.

PRE-ALGEBRA

This course bridges arithmetic and algebra with the study of integers, their operations and applications; rational numbers, their operations and applications; decimals, their operations and applications; percents and percent applications; probability of simple events; exponents and square roots; scientific notation; simple and multi-step equations; graphing linear equations and inequalities on the coordinate plane; geometry, including perimeter, circumference, area, volume, angle relationships, the Pythagorean Theorem, midpoint and distance formula. Students are introduced to polynomials and nonlinear functions.

PRE-ALGEBRA MATH LAB

Students will be enrolled in this course at the requirement of the Math Department. They will be given the opportunity for further review, discussion, and implementation of the skills and concepts that are currently being developed in their Pre-Algebra course.

PRE-ALGEBRA HONORS

This course bridges arithmetic to algebra and geometry. Students learn to solve multi-step equations and inequalities with an emphasis on algebraic problem solving. Fractions, decimals, ratio, proportion, and percent and their application to real-world problems are emphasized. Plane and solid geometry, including perimeter, circumference, area, and volume formulas, geometric constructions, angle relationships, the Pythagorean Theorem, triangle congruency and similarity are topics studied. This class also focuses upon recognizing linear and quadratic functions, graphing on the coordinate plane, and solving systems of equations graphically and algebraically. Problem solving is stressed throughout the year.

Prerequisite: Recommendation of the Department.

SOCIAL STUDIES – WORLD CULTURES

This course examines the medieval history of non-Western civilizations around the globe. Students study the regions of Latin America, Africa, East Asia, and the Islamic world. Writing and study skills are emphasized, along with critical thinking and evaluation of appropriate primary sources. In addition, students examine graphs, maps, literature, and fine art selections as they study each civilization. Students connect the past to the modern world through researching and presenting current event topics related to the non-Western world. A research project is part of the curriculum for the second semester.

LIFE SCIENCE

Students explore life from the cellular level up to life in an ecosystem and on a global level. Students learn from class discussion as well as from a variety of activities and laboratory exercises, both in the classroom and in the field. A trip to Catalina Island and labs in Viewpoint's ECOLET supplement a curriculum that promotes hands-on science and exploration. Topics in the first semester include biomes, native plants and animals, environmental issues, population dynamics, evolution, classification, cell biology, and photosynthesis. The second semester focuses on anatomy and physiology. Through dissections and laboratory experiments, students develop an understanding of the form and function of the skeletal system, muscular system, digestive system, circulatory and respiratory systems, and the reproductive system.

FRENCH 1A

Through immersion and an active communicative method focused on developing listening, oral, and written and reading skills, students acquire a varied vocabulary and structures that enable them to express ideas, feelings, and opinions on different topics. Students discover and explore several themes and current events through different class activities, oral and written reports, and research. In French 1A, students learn about school, food, home, family, fashion, and shopping. This class provides students with a broadened knowledge of French history, geography, and culture. It also gives them added perspective on French literature and arts through different short texts, poems, visual representations, and musical pieces.

SPANISH 1A – BEGINNING

The beginning class is designed for Seventh Graders who have had little previous experience with Spanish. The students cover the material from Spanish 6 and the Spanish 1A curriculum in order to enter the Spanish 1B or Spanish I class the following year. Students learn vocabulary through themes such as likes and dislikes, food,

school, family, chores, and making plans. Students study regular and selected irregular verbs as well as idiomatic expressions. They also study geography and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing are all emphasized at this level.

SPANISH 1A

Students learn vocabulary through themes such as likes and dislikes, food, school, family, chores, and making plans. The students study regular and selected irregular verbs, idiomatic expressions, and grammatical points that enable students to write in the present and immediate future tenses. They study geography and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing are all emphasized at this level.

LATIN 1A

Students begin to learn the grammar and vocabulary of ancient Latin. Classroom activities include close reading of texts in Latin (from the elementary textbook), grammar practice, and games that help students learn more effectively and enjoyably. While the focus is primarily on reading and writing Latin, we also practice oral conversation in Latin, hoping to make the use of the language natural and intuitive. In addition, we extensively discuss English vocabulary words derived from Latin roots, thereby expanding students' command of English vocabulary. An ongoing exploration of Roman culture, history, and mythology rounds out the class.

MANDARIN CHINESE 1A

This course focuses on the topics in the book *Hanyu for Beginning Students, Stage Zero*. In this class, students learn to express themselves and understand others on topics closely related to their own experiences and daily life, such as family, school, telling time, dates, routine activities, means of transportation, and the weather. Hanyu pinyin is used for the phonetic transcription of Chinese characters. Students learn to listen, speak, read, write, and type simple passages in Chinese characters about the topics learned. Students also study general knowledge about Chinese culture, geography, history, poems, folk songs, food, calligraphy, brush painting, and Chinese festivals.

DECISION-MAKING (one semester)

Students identify and discuss the personal, family, school, and cultural values which shape their decisions. The integrity of decisions is examined through discussion relating to compassion, human dignity, courage, respect, and human rights. A community service project is included in this class.

COMPUTER SCIENCE (one semester)

Students are expected to master keyboarding skills to a minimum speed of 30 words per minute with 90 percent accuracy. Opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in keyboarding takes place during Computer Science class. They occur at the following marking periods: the first mid-quarter, end of quarter, and the second mid-quarter. **Competency in the above skills is required at the conclusion of the semester course.** Students who do not meet this proficiency level will automatically be enrolled in the Basic Skills elective in Eighth Grade to achieve the required competency listed above.

Office Suite software is the primary emphasis, especially word processing, desktop

publishing, spreadsheet, and presentation tools. Students continue to refine appropriate keyboard techniques to enter information into a computer. Age-appropriate application software is used for technology projects through the Viewpoint Laptop Program. Students practice behaviors that demonstrate self-reliance when using information technology tools.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students continue team sports integrated with physical fitness activities and the Presidential Fitness Challenge. Students are graded on a seasonal Pass/Fail basis. Interscholastic sports include:

Girls	Fall	Winter	Spring
	Basketball	Soccer	Golf*
	Cross Country	Softball	Volleyball
	Swimming		
	Tennis*		
Boys	Cross Country	Basketball	Baseball
	Flag Football	Soccer	Golf*
	Swimming		Lacrosse
	Tackle Football		Tennis*
			Volleyball

*open to a limited number of students

JAZZ LABORATORY

This selective ensemble gives young musicians looking for a challenging environment a broad experience with various jazz styles to augment the Concert Winds curriculum. Styles include Big Band, Bebop, Swing, Blues, Latin, as well as Rock and Pop tunes. Members are chosen by audition. **The group rehearses one morning before school and one period during the six-day rotation. Several performances are planned throughout the year. Concert attendance is required.**

Prerequisite: Concurrent membership in Concert Winds, Orchestra, or Chorus.

ADVISORY

Homeroom advisories meet briefly at the beginning of each school day and once during the six-day rotation for a full period. During the advisory period, students and their advisors address issues of importance in their lives. Topics include becoming organized, discussing academic progress, acting with integrity, handling stress, making healthy choices, and developing an appreciation for diversity.

COMPUTER SCIENCE ELECTIVE COURSES

(Two Periods per Rotation Each Semester; Availability Determined by the Student's Schedule):

Students are required to take the one-semester Seventh Grade compulsory course and to choose one Computer Science elective during either Seventh or Eighth Grade.

Computer Animation 7 – Students use Macromedia Flash to learn the concepts of computer animation. Three-dimensional perspective, layers, and parallax give a

sense of depth to animations. Character animation and path animation are used to choreograph objects with background and foreground. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Computer Programming 7 – Students learn the fundamentals of programming through the programming language, Scheme. No prior knowledge of computers is necessary. Students learn numerical expressions, functions, conditionals, structures, and computer graphics. The semester culminates with a computer graphics art show. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Digital Sounds – This course introduces students to the world of sonic exploration through electronic sound design and production. By using MIDI keyboards and computer software, students create contemporary electronic sounds while exploring analog and digital synthesizers, sampling, effects processors, drum machines, sequencing, and working with loops. No prior musical training is required. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Robotics – Students use Lego Mindstorm Robotics kits to explore the world of robotics. Using the RCX computer brick, students learn how to build and control robotic systems. Examples of robots that students may build include robots that find their own way through a maze or construction of robotic arms. They also learn about electrical systems and may build their own robotic sensors. No programming experience is necessary to take this course, but a love of Legos helps. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Web Page Design – The elementary principles for planning and designing attractive and informative Web pages and Web sites are the focus of this course. Students explore the factors that affect Web layout and design, HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) basics, use of Web design and graphics software (Dreamweaver, Photoshop, Fireworks, and Flash), navigation, connection speed, typography, graphics, and color. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

ELECTIVE COURSES

(Two to Five Periods per Rotation Each Semester; Availability Determined by the Student's Schedule):

Acting – This course introduces students to the basic elements of theater arts and acting. These include theater games/exercises, mime, vocal technique, improvisation, and scene study. Emphasis is on participation, increasing awareness of self (mind, body, and voice), improving clarity and creativity in communication of verbal and nonverbal ideas. Students deepen their understanding of human behavior. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Art 7 – Students continue their art study by experimenting with various art mediums. Students explore two-dimensional and three-dimensional work and are encouraged to find their own unique style. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Beginning Instrumental Music for Band Instruments – Beginning study of wind instruments (trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, clarinet, and flute) includes the

study and performance of band literature with emphasis on proper playing technique, tone, intonation, and musicality. Students also study elements of jazz. Students who succeed in this class will be ready to enroll in Concert Winds in Eighth Grade. **Students perform several times during the year. Concert attendance is required. Meets three periods per rotation.**

Ceramics 7 – This course includes the basics of handbuilding, pinch, coil, slab, and wheel-throwing. Students learn glazing, decorative techniques, and kiln firing. Students work toward completing a body of finished works which represents a variety of techniques. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Concert Winds (yearlong course) – Students increase their musical knowledge through advanced level study of a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. The class learns and performs standard band literature. **Several performances are planned throughout the year. Concert attendance is required. Meets four periods per rotation.**

Prerequisite: Sixth Grade Band, Beginning Instrumental Music for Brass Instruments, Beginning Instrumental Music for Woodwind Instruments, or permission of instructor.

Creative Writing – Students experiment with the creation of various modes of imaginative writing: poetry, short stories, short plays, and novellas. This class offers students a chance to develop their creative writing and to compose in a variety of genres. Students also enjoy the experience of sharing ideas, offering feedback, and presenting their work to their peers. This course includes writing assignments as homework. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Dance 7 – The purpose of this class is to introduce students to dance technique and performance. Both classical and modern forms are taught with an emphasis upon body placement, musicality, and combination work. The class is high energy, focused, and fun. The instructor grades the students on the progress they make throughout the course of the semester. Required clothing is standard dance attire and either jazz shoes or ballet slippers. Both boys and girls are welcome to enroll in this class. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Drawing – This course focuses on line composition, perspective, figure drawing, and value, the essential components of good drawing. Through directed lessons and use of a variety of techniques and media, students learn how to create freehand drawings using pencil, and pen and ink. Students are required to complete sketchbook assignments that count toward their grade. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Journalism – Students in this course learn journalism skills to produce both a printed and an online newspaper. The class provides students with training and practice in collaborative writing, use of multimedia forms such as videos and photographs to transmit information, and integration of writing and technology. The class also allows students to learn and apply important principles of journalistic ethics. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Math and Physics Games – Individuals and teams compete in hands-on math and physics activities. Students discuss scientific laws and use mathematical principles to

solve brainteasers. They build and fly helicopters and bottled water rockets. Other activities include an egg drop competition, building mouse-trap cars and catapults, playing math-related games and more. Activities may vary between fall and spring semesters. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Middle School Chorus – In this course, students learn to work together in rehearsal and performance environments. They sing music from a variety of time periods, cultures, and styles, in two and three parts. Students further develop their voices through exercises in breathing, resonance, and diction. They learn to read music and sight-sing. **Several performances are planned throughout the year. Concert attendance is required. Meets three periods per rotation.**

Middle School Musical Production (first semester only) – This course prepares students for the annual Middle School musical scheduled for Friday, November 4, 2011 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, November 6, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. Class meetings enable the cast to rehearse in a structured environment. There are scheduled after-school rehearsals as well as a few Saturday rehearsals to prepare for the production. Past productions include *Annie*, *Oklahoma!*, and *Seussical*. Once the musical concludes, this group of students prepares a selection that is performed at the Holiday Program and Holiday Assembly. The Middle School Holiday Program is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Middle School Orchestra (yearlong course) – Students increase their musical knowledge through advanced level study of a stringed instrument. Students learn how to shift, vibrate, and tune their instruments. Musicianship is also further developed. Performances include standard string orchestra literature. **Several performances are planned throughout the year. Concert attendance is required. Meets five periods per rotation.**

Prerequisite: Sixth Grade Strings, Beginning Instrumental Music for Stringed Instruments, or permission of instructor.

Mock Trial (first semester only) – This course takes students inside the American judicial system, preparing them to perform as lawyers in simulated criminal trials and hearings. Students learn both the science and the art of opening arguments, direct examinations, cross-examinations, objections, closing arguments, and pretrial motions. Through regular practice in each of these procedures, students gain confidence on their feet in front of judge and jury. The students are then assigned roles as lawyers and witnesses and may compete against other Middle School Mock Trial teams in a countywide competition held at the Los Angeles Superior Courthouse before actual judges. If the group does participate in the county competition, there is a significant out-of-class time commitment including evenings and weekends. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Multicultural Art – This course acquaints students with various art forms from different cultures around the world. They work in two-dimensional and three-dimensional forms, use a variety of materials, and receive art appreciation lessons in conjunction with each art project. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Musical Theater (second semester only) – This class provides instruction and experience in solo and full-cast production singing of theater repertoire. In addition to developing their voices through vocalization, students rehearse and perform excerpts from various musicals of yesterday and today. Students perfect timing, rhythm, blocking, and other aspects of drama to strengthen their performance. The materials used for this class are various Broadway songbooks. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Outer Space – Students explore the night sky in this science elective. The course will open the students’ eyes to our Earth-Moon system, our solar system, the Milky Way, neighboring galaxies, and the universe as a whole. This introductory astronomy course will focus learning both inside Earth’s orbit and light years away. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Photography 7 – Photography students learn through hands-on experience how to visualize and process pictures from the camera to the final print. Students learn how to operate a **manual 35mm** single reflex camera, develop black and white film, and print with a 35mm/medium format enlarger. Students also learn to operate a 35mm digital SLR and are introduced to Photoshop CS2. Students learn how to “see” through assignments designed towards self-expression, articulation, and problem solving. Students learn to cut mats, mount work, and install an exhibition, all supported through literature, film, and demonstration. When a project is complete, the students hold a critique session so they may learn how to evaluate artwork with sensitivity. **This elective requires that students have a working manual 35mm single reflex camera at the start of the semester. Meets two periods per rotation.**

Pre-Algebra Math Lab (yearlong course) – Students will be enrolled in this course at the requirement of the Math Department. They will be given the opportunity for further review, discussion, and implementation of the skills and concepts that are currently being developed in their Pre-Algebra course. **Meets three periods per rotation.** (This class replaces one elective per semester, but does not preclude inclusion of instrumental music.)

Speech – This elective offers an opportunity for students to practice the fundamentals of preparing and delivering expository and narrative speeches. The class focuses on impromptu and extemporaneous speeches with special emphasis on overcoming the fear of speaking to an audience. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

EIGHTH GRADE

The Eighth Grade curriculum is designed to prepare the Middle School student for entrance into the Upper School. In this last year of the Middle School, teachers expect students to have acquired the skills, knowledge, and motivation to help them not only to succeed in those subjects in which they are most interested, but also to address the challenge of the subjects that may be more difficult. At all times Eighth Graders can continue to count on the support and assistance of the Head of Middle School, Assistant Head of Middle School, the homeroom teacher/advisors, and all faculty members.

The well-rounded college preparatory program requires students to take a variety of courses to prepare them for the years of education that lie ahead. In addition to participating in a challenging core curriculum, Eighth Grade students have the opportunity to pursue additional areas of interest through the selection of two elective choices each semester. Required study halls provide time for teacher-supervised study and exam preparation. Limited free periods are available for self-directed study time and other school-related activities. Throughout the year the Prinn Library is available to students who choose to study during free periods. Students may earn academic recognition on the quarterly Honor and High Honor Rolls and the annual Headmaster's List.

The School requires Eighth Grade students to participate in the on-campus School Service Program which precedes the Community Service Program required in the Upper School.

Activities on campus include participation in a variety of interscholastic sports, the Student Council, clubs, musical productions, community service and social activities, and trips.

ENGLISH

Students hone their skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing as they work through a year of literature unified by the theme of "Coming of Age." In this course, students continue their study of writing mechanics with a focus on the application of rules of grammar as they write longer and more challenging essays. The analytical writing program includes practice in pre-writing skills, drafting of the thesis, essay organization, proofreading, and revision; students also have the opportunity to explore the literature through several creative projects and personal response assignments. Vocabulary in this class is taught through the Oxford-Sadlier *Vocabulary Workshop* series. Literary selections include *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare, and selected short stories and poems.

ALGEBRA I

In this course, students learn the skills of mathematical algorithms and operations necessary for solving multi-step equations and inequalities; linear equations and inequalities; systems of equations; absolute value equations and inequalities; and quadratic equations. Students learn to recognize graphs of linear, quadratic, absolute value, and exponential functions and to solve quadratic equations using factoring, completing the square, and employing the quadratic formula. Other topics include

the rules of exponents; the Pythagorean Theorem, along with the distance and midpoint formulas; polynomials and factoring; simplifying radical and rational expressions; solving radical and rational equations; and trigonometric ratios. Application to real-world problem solving is stressed throughout the year. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Pre-Algebra and recommendation of the Department.

ALGEBRA 1 MATH LAB

Students will be enrolled in this course at the requirement of the Math Department. They will be given the opportunity for further review, discussion, and implementation of the skills and concepts that are currently being developed in their Algebra 1 course.

ALGEBRA 1 HONORS

The honors course covers a variety of topics and applications, building upon the skills mastered in prior mathematics classes. The following subjects and applications are studied thoroughly; extension of the number system and operations on real numbers; algebraic proofs using the properties of real numbers; simplifying and solving polynomial expressions and equations; factoring of polynomial expressions using patterns, combinations, and grouping; simplifying and solving rational expressions and equations; solving and graphing systems of linear and quadratic equations; solving inequalities and absolute value inequalities; operations on rational and irrational numbers including n th roots; solving radical equations; and solving quadratic equations by completing the square and with the quadratic formula.

Prerequisite: Recommendation of the Department.

SOCIAL STUDIES – AMERICAN HISTORY

This survey course examines American History from the Revolutionary War period through the Cold War. Students examine major events and personalities through primary and secondary sources that include letters, diaries, film, music, texts, and literature. Eighth Graders continue to develop their analytical abilities as well as their organizational skills. Emphasis is placed on active reading and critical thinking.

INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL SCIENCE (IPS)

In this laboratory based course, students study scientific units and measurements; laboratory safety and skills; the scientific method; properties and classification of matter; atomic theory and the periodic table; bonding and chemical reactions; motion and forces; Newton's Laws; waves, electricity, and magnetism.

INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL SCIENCE HONORS (IPS HONORS)

The honors course covers the same subject material as regular Introduction to Physical Science with an emphasis on the application of advanced mathematical skills in order to solve problems. In addition, all topics are examined in greater depth. This rigorous course is designed to challenge those students with a particular interest in science.

Prerequisite: Recommendation of the Department.

FRENCH 1B

After a thorough review of the material studied the previous year, students continue enriching and strengthening their language skills through complete immersion and an active communicative method focused on developing oral, written, listening, and

reading skills. In French 1B, students broaden their oral and written expression by acquiring an array of structures and thematic vocabulary related to the following topics: traveling, transportation in France and Europe, cultural activities and entertainment in France, sports, and daily routine. Students are expected to express their feelings, ideas, and opinions through class activities, oral and written reports, projects, and research. In this course, they study the use of the *passé composé* of reflexive, regular, and some irregular verbs with the goal of expressing themselves in the past tense. This class provides students with a broadened knowledge of French culture, history, literature, and arts through the continuing introduction to poems, texts, films, musical pieces, and visual representations. As their final project, students are responsible for making a movie using the idioms, vocabulary, and structures acquired in this class.

SPANISH 1B

The Spanish 1B course promotes the use of all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) while working towards mastery of the present and preterite tenses and the imperative mood. Students explore the diversity of the Spanish-speaking world through geography and celebrations of Hispanic Heritage month and World Language week. In addition to written and oral exams, students work on oral presentations and projects to demonstrate proficiency.

SPANISH 1B ACCELERATED

The accelerated course is designed for Eighth Graders who want to take Spanish at an accelerated pace and prepare to enter Spanish III in the Ninth Grade. In this course, students focus on speaking, reading, writing, and listening in the past, present, and future tenses. Conversation generally pertains to the basic vocabulary of school, home, and everyday life. Students learn the language through class participation in Spanish, as well as through use of the textbook, workbooks, reading texts, computer practice programs, video programs, and supplementary handouts. Students also study the cultures and geography of Spanish-speaking countries.

Prerequisite: Recommendation of the Department.

LATIN 1B

Students continue to learn the grammar and vocabulary of ancient Latin, building upon the foundations set in Latin 1A. Students attempt increasingly difficult translations from Latin into English. Classroom activities include close reading of texts in Latin (from the elementary textbook), grammar practice, and games that help students learn more effectively and enjoyably. While the focus is primarily on reading and writing Latin, we also practice oral conversation in Latin, hoping to make the use of the language natural and intuitive. In addition, we extensively discuss English vocabulary words derived from Latin roots, thereby expanding students' command of English vocabulary. An ongoing exploration of Roman culture, history and mythology rounds out the class.

MANDARIN CHINESE 1B

Chinese 1B is a continuation of Chinese 1A. This course continues to introduce basic Chinese grammar, vocabulary, characters, and usage. All four aspects of the language (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) are taught. The course focuses on the topics in the book *Hanyu for Intermediate Students, Stage One*. The topics include hobbies, sports, clothing, features, colors, shopping, and asking and giving

directions. Chinese culture, history, geography, and current affairs are discussed in this class. Chinese folk songs, Chinese food, Chinese brush painting, Chinese poems, Chinese calligraphy, and Chinese festivals are also taught.

Prerequisite: Mandarin Chinese 1A or equivalent knowledge demonstrated in an interview.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students continue team sports integrated with physical fitness activities and the Presidential Fitness Challenge. Students are graded on a seasonal Pass/Fail basis. Interscholastic sports include:

Girls	Fall	Winter	Spring
	Basketball	Soccer	Golf*
	Cross Country	Softball	Volleyball
	Swimming		
	Tennis*		
Boys	Cross Country	Basketball	Baseball
	Flag Football	Soccer	Golf*
	Swimming		Lacrosse
	Tackle Football		Tennis*
			Volleyball

*open to a limited number of students

JAZZ LABORATORY

This selective ensemble gives young musicians looking for a challenging environment a broad experience with various jazz styles to augment the Concert Winds curriculum. Styles include Big Band, Bebop, Swing, Blues, Latin, as well as Rock and Pop tunes. Members are chosen by audition. **The group rehearses one morning before school and one period during the six-day rotation. Several performances are planned throughout the year. Concert attendance is required.**

Prerequisite: Concurrent membership in Concert Winds, Orchestra, or Chorus.

ADVISORY

Homeroom advisories meet briefly at the beginning of each school day and once during the six-day rotation for a full period. During the advisory period, students and their advisors address issues of importance in their lives. Topics include becoming organized, discussing academic progress, acting with integrity, handling stress, making healthy choices, and developing an appreciation for diversity.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE (one period per rotation – one semester)

Each student participates in a program designed to promote the spirit of dedication to service in the community. On-campus service includes assistance in the classrooms, the School's offices, the Prinn Library, and in the art, music, and physical education departments.

COMPUTER SCIENCE ELECTIVE COURSES

(Two to Three Periods per Rotation Each Semester; Availability Determined by the Student's Schedule):

Students are required to take one Computer Science elective during either Seventh or Eighth Grade. Students who have not taken a Computer Science elective in Seventh Grade are required to take it now in Eighth Grade.

Basic Skills – This is an excellent course for students new to Viewpoint School and is required for students continuing in the Middle School who did not meet the keyboarding proficiency of 30 words per minute with 90 percent accuracy during their Seventh Grade semester of Computer Science 7. Students work at developing and mastering keyboarding skills through a variety of hands-on activities. They also learn to navigate the Viewpoint network and access their network folders to save and retrieve work. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Computer Animation 8 – This elective teaches the underlying principles of the animation procedures. Students learn to manipulate objects using Flash software. The course begins with the simplest principles of animation such as speed, timing, squash and stretch, anticipation, bounce, and gravity. Students progress to the analysis of physical effects and the use of sound. Students break down examples of Flash animation to learn how to create realistic motion for sparks, drips, water, lighting, and facial expressions. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Computer Programming 8 – This course accommodates students who are new to programming as well as those with prior experience. Computer Programming 8 uses functions to model all types of real-world programming problems with an emphasis on designing and developing structured programs. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Digital Media – This introductory course introduces the fundamentals of manipulating vector and pixel images using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator software. Students learn selection techniques, image enhancement, and painting tools as well as other features to perform many different image-processing techniques. Concepts include modifying images through resizing, layering effects, filters, lighting and texture effects, painting and blending, and color modification. Students also learn about different file formats, digital cameras, and scanners. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Digital Sounds – This course introduces students to the world of sonic exploration through electronic sound design and production. By using MIDI keyboards and computer software, students create contemporary electronic sounds while exploring analog and digital synthesizers, sampling, effects processors, drum machines, sequencing, and working with loops. No prior musical training is required. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Web Page Design – The elementary principles for planning and designing attractive and informative Web pages and Web sites are the focus of this course. Students explore the factors that affect Web layout and design, HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) basics, use of Web design and graphics software (Dreamweaver, Photoshop, Fireworks, and Flash), navigation, connection speed, typography, graphics, and color. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

ELECTIVE COURSES

(Two to Five Periods per Rotation Each Semester; Availability Determined by the Student's Schedule. Two of the four electives must meet at least THREE periods per rotation):

Acting – The purpose of this class is to train young students in the art and craft of acting in a nurturing and progressive environment. Utilizing the Sanford Meisner method of scene study, students learn how to analyze text, how to work moment to moment, how to put attention on the other person, and how to be truthful in an imaginary situation. Age-appropriate scenes are the vehicles for this class which culminates in a works-in-progress performance for peers. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Algebra 1 Math Lab (yearlong course) – Students will be enrolled in this course at the requirement of the Math Department. They will be given the opportunity for further review, discussion, and implementation of the skills and concepts that are currently being developed in their Algebra 1 course. **Meets three periods per rotation.** (This class replaces one elective per semester, but does not preclude inclusion of instrumental music.)

Art 8 – Students create a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects using various media such as colored pencil, paint, clay, and found objects. Students are encouraged to find their own artistic voice and to participate in class critiques. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Ceramics 8 – This course includes the basics of handbuilding, pinch, coil, slab, and wheel-throwing. Students learn glazing, decorative techniques, and kiln firing. Students work toward completing a body of finished works which represents a variety of techniques. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Concert Winds (yearlong course) – Students increase their musical knowledge through advanced level study of a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. The class learns and performs standard band literature. **Several performances are planned throughout the year. Concert attendance is required. Meets four periods per rotation.**

Prerequisite: At least one year of band instruction or permission of instructor.

Creative Writing – Students experiment with the creation of various modes of imaginative writing: poetry, short stories, short plays, and novellas. This class offers students a chance to develop their creative writing and to compose in a variety of genres. Students also enjoy the experience of sharing ideas, offering feedback, and presenting their work to their peers. This course includes writing assignments as homework. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Drawing – This course focuses on line composition, perspective, figure drawing, and value, the essential components of good drawing. Through directed lessons and use of a variety of techniques and media, students learn how to create freehand drawings using pencil, and pen and ink. Students are required to complete sketchbook assignments that count toward their grade. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Introduction to Filmmaking – This class introduces students to film analysis through film production. Utilizing a project-based curriculum that is enhanced by studying the early history of cinema, students work in small groups to create three projects. For the first project, students study early Vaudeville and Lumiere films to influence their creation of a single, silent, non-edited short film using one wide shot. For the second project, the students study the films of late silent-era comedians – Charlie Chaplin, Fatty Arbuckle, and Buster Keaton – focusing on how editing, medium shots, pans and tilts, and sound effects can enhance visual storytelling. For the final project, students study classics of early sound and color films – from Laurel and Hardy through *Citizen Kane* and *The Wizard of Oz* – focusing on how close-ups, score, production design, and special effects can improve their films. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Jazz/Modern Dance – The purpose of this class is to introduce students to the technique and performance of the genres of modern and jazz dance. Instruction emphasizes proper body placement, musical awareness and timing, and combination work in a variety of performance styles. It teaches the *art* of dance, beyond the physicality involved, in a challenging and nurturing environment. The class is high energy, focused, and fun. The instructor grades the students on the progress they make throughout the course of the semester. Required clothing is standard dance attire and either jazz shoes or ballet slippers. Both boys and girls are welcome to enroll in this class. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Journalism – Students in this course learn journalism skills to produce both a printed and an online newspaper. The class provides students with training and practice in collaborative writing, use of multimedia forms such as videos and photographs to transmit information, and integration of writing and technology. The class also allows students to learn and apply important principles of journalistic ethics. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Math and Physics Games – Individuals and teams compete in hands-on math and physics activities. Students discuss scientific laws and use mathematical principles to solve brainteasers. They build and fly helicopters and bottled water rockets. Other activities include an egg drop competition, building mouse-trap cars and catapults, playing math-related games and more. Activities may vary between fall and spring semesters. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Middle School Chorus – In this course, students learn to work together in rehearsal and performance environments. They sing music from a variety of time periods, cultures, and styles, in two and three parts. Students further develop their voices through exercises in breathing, resonance, and diction. They learn to read music and sight-sing. **Several performances are planned throughout the year. Concert attendance is required. Meets three periods per rotation.**

Middle School Musical Production (first semester only) – This course prepares students for the annual Middle School musical scheduled for Friday, November 4, 2011 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, November 6, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. Class meetings enable the cast to rehearse in a structured environment. There are scheduled after-school rehearsals as well as a few Saturday rehearsals to prepare for the production. Past productions include *Annie*, *Oklahoma!*,

and *Seussical*. Once the musical concludes, this group of students prepares a selection that is performed at the Holiday Program and Holiday Assembly. The Middle School Holiday Program is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Middle School Orchestra (yearlong course) – Students increase their musical knowledge through advanced level study of a stringed instrument. Students learn how to shift, vibrate, and tune their instruments. Musicianship is also further developed. Performances include standard string orchestra literature. **Several performances are planned throughout the year. Concert attendance is required. Meets five periods per rotation.**

Prerequisite: At least one year of string instruction or permission of instructor.

Mock Trial (first semester only) – This course takes students inside the American judicial system, preparing them to perform as lawyers in simulated criminal trials and hearings. Students learn both the science and the art of opening arguments, direct examinations, cross-examinations, objections, closing arguments, and pretrial motions. Through regular practice in each of these procedures, students gain confidence on their feet in front of judge and jury. The students are then assigned roles as lawyers and witnesses and may compete against other Middle School Mock Trial teams in a countywide competition held at the Los Angeles Superior Courthouse before actual judges. If the group does participate in the county competition, there is a significant out-of-class time commitment including evenings and weekends. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Movie Adaptations – This course is designed to help students understand and appreciate the relationship between the visual and written story. Throughout the course, students read short stories, novellas, and plays that have been adapted into films. After studying each piece of literature, the students then watch the film version to compare and contrast the two works of art. Students also create a monthly magazine that incorporates the literature and films studied in class. Literary and cinematic selections include: “The Most Dangerous Game” by Richard Connell – directed by Irving Pichel, *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry – directed by Daniel Petrie (1961), “Shoeless Joe Jackson Comes to Iowa” by W.P. Kinsella / *Field of Dreams* directed by Phil Alden Robinson, “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson – directed by Daniel Sackheim (1996), “Murder from a Fixed Viewpoint” by Cornell Woolrich / *Rear Window* directed by Alfred Hitchcock (1954), and *12 Angry Men* by Reginald Rose – directed by Sidney Lumet (1957). **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Multicultural Art – This course acquaints students with various art forms from different cultures around the world. They work in two-dimensional and three-dimensional forms, use a variety of materials, and receive art appreciation lessons in conjunction with each art project. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Musical Theater (second semester only) – This class provides instruction and experience in solo and full-cast production singing of theater repertoire. In addition to developing their voices through vocalization, students rehearse and perform excerpts from various musicals of yesterday and today. Students perfect timing, rhythm, blocking, and other aspects of drama to strengthen their performance. The materials used for this class are various Broadway songbooks. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Outer Space – Students explore the night sky in this science elective. The course will open the students’ eyes to our Earth-Moon system, our solar system, the Milky Way, neighboring galaxies, and the universe as a whole. This introductory astronomy course will focus learning both inside Earth’s orbit and light years away. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

Photography 8 – Photography students learn through hands-on experience how to visualize and process pictures from the camera to the final print. Students learn how to operate a **manual** 35mm single reflex camera, develop black and white film, and print with a 35mm/medium format enlarger. Students also learn to operate a 35mm digital SLR and are introduced to Photoshop CS2. Students learn how to “see” through assignments designed towards self-expression, articulation, and problem solving. Students learn to cut mats, mount work, and install an exhibition, all supported through literature, film, and demonstration. When a project is complete, the students hold a critique session so they may learn how to evaluate artwork with sensitivity. **This elective requires that students have a working manual 35mm single reflex camera at the start of the semester. Meets three periods per rotation.**

Speech – This elective offers an opportunity for students to practice the fundamentals of preparing and delivering expository and narrative speeches. The class focuses on impromptu and extemporaneous speeches with special emphasis on overcoming the fear of speaking to an audience. **Meets three periods per rotation.**

Stock Market – In this course, students study the *Wall Street Journal* and the business sections of the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Daily News*. Students use the Internet as a learning tool to introduce them to the practical aspects of personal finance, investment, and banking. An exciting component of this elective is student participation in various contests sponsored by the newspapers used and other national organizations. As they pick portfolios for the competitions, students learn about financial planning, risk, and setting and reaching goals. Stock Market has limited homework assigned routinely. **Meets two periods per rotation.**

ACCREDITATION

Viewpoint is fully accredited by the California Association of Independent Schools and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Viewpoint holds memberships in the National Association of Independent Schools, Cum Laude Society, A Better Chance, National Association for College Admission Counseling, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of Principals of Schools for Girls, Council for Spiritual and Ethical Education, Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, College Board, Educational Records Bureau, International Reading Association, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and Alumni Program Council.

Viewpoint admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School. The School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, its admission policies, scholarships, and athletic or other School-administered programs.



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