CRANBROOK KINGSWOOD
MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
COURSE GUIDE
Course Descriptions

Academically, middle school students are encouraged to try their best in all phases of a challenging and varied program that emphasizes traditional academic areas, as well as art, music, physical fitness, and knowledge of an expanding self.

Written assignments, short and long-term projects, class discussions, oral presentations, daily quizzes and tests aid teachers in evaluating individual student achievement. Technology is integrated across the curriculum at all grade levels. In each grade, specific subjects are charged with teaching and reinforcing specific skills and applications. Computer ethics are taught at all levels.

Program Outline

Grade Six:
- English
- French/Latin/Spanish
- Mathematics/Pre-Alg.
- Science
- Social Studies
- Human Development
- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts
- Physical Education
- Study Hall

Grade Seven:
- English
- French/Latin/Spanish
- Mathematics 7/Pre-Alg./Alg. I
- Science
- Social Studies
- Human Development
- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts
- Physical Education
- Study Hall

Grade Eight:
- English
- French/Latin/Spanish
- Mathematics 8/Alg. I/Geometry
- Science
- Social Studies
- Human Development
- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts
- Physical Education
- Study Hall

Explanation of Course Description

Course Title
Course Number
Grade(s) for which course is open
(Course numbers beginning with A are co-ed)

Course Description: course objective, course content, teaching modes, requirements of typical assignments, materials used.
ENGLISH

The Middle School English Program develops students’ skills in a variety of ways. During the three-year program, students read a diverse selection of literature, including novels, short stories, poetry, plays, and biographies. As students progress from one grade level to the next, they develop a more thorough understanding of the complexities of the elements of literature (plot, character development, themes, etc.) They develop their analytical abilities by applying a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. Students use the writing process and develop writing skills through exploring a variety of genres: expository, narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and critical (i.e. responding to literature). Projects, speeches, skits, debates, and regular group discussions develop speaking and listening skills. Grammar and usage concepts become more complex each year, and vocabulary study is derived from literature. More specific aspects of the program at each grade level are detailed below.

**English 6**

101

Sixth graders are introduced to the elements of literature and various literary devices. Their expository writing is focused on developing a topic sentence, supporting with examples, and concluding a one-paragraph essay. By year’s end, students advance to developing three paragraph essays.

**English 7**

111

Seventh grade literature study focuses on close reading and identifying specific supporting details from the works. As writers, students explore the five-paragraph essay as a means of organizing and communicating ideas.

**English 8**

121

By eighth grade, the elements of literature have all been introduced and are now being reinforced. Students are examining more complex literary devices as well. In their writing, eighth grade students focus on the five-paragraph essay with a concentration on transitional sentences and the development of the thesis statement. Students also work on using parenthetical citations in literary analysis essays. Upon completion of eighth grade, students are well-rounded readers, writers, and communicators.
MATHEMATICS

The Middle School mathematics program is committed to placing students in classes where they will thrive and be challenged to the best of their abilities. We do not have any remedial math classes. Teachers will be available for extra help to students experiencing difficulties.

The Math 6, Math 7, Pre-Algebra 8 pathway provides a rich mathematical experience with significant guidance and support. A major goal in this sequence is continual review and reinforcement of basic math as well as new concepts, thus creating a comprehensive program that prepares students for Algebra I in the ninth grade.

The Honors 6, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I pathway is designed for students who are developmentally ready for the challenges of a complete algebra curriculum in eighth grade. It is a challenging curriculum requiring more outside preparation and student independence. Students following this sequence are expected to keep at least a B average to advance to the next class.

The Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry pathway is designed for those students who have already mastered the math skills and problem-solving strategies central to the study of Pre-Algebra when they enter in sixth grade. This pathway requires students to meet the challenges of an algebra curriculum in seventh grade, and the developmental readiness for Geometry in eighth grade. This intensive study of mathematics requires significant outside preparation. Students following this sequence are expected to keep at least a B average to advance to the next class.

Math placement is not an exact science. We work very hard to place each student in a math class where she will thrive and be challenged. However, developmental changes in students require us to be flexible, and students may need to change pathways. We believe the best fit is found when school, parent, and student work together.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS

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Math 6 → Honors 6
       ↓         ↓
Math 7    Pre-Algebra (6 & 7)
          ↓
Pre-Algebra 8  Algebra I (7 & 8)
             ↓
                         Geometry (8)
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Math 6
201 6
Students will review the four basic operations dealing with whole numbers, decimals and fractions. Emphasis is placed on ratio, proportion and percentage problems, as well as metrics, number theory and equation solving. Plane and solid geometry are thoroughly discussed. Probability and statistical concepts are introduced. Problem solving is emphasized throughout the course. A discovery approach will be used through hands-on activities in group, cooperative and individual situations.

Honors Math 6
203 6
Students will spend less time reviewing basic operations and move more quickly into number theory and equation solving. Emphasis is placed on ratio, proportion and percentage problems, as well as metrics, number theory and equation solving. Plane and solid geometry are thoroughly discussed. Probability and statistical concepts are introduced. Problem solving is emphasized throughout the course. A discovery approach will be used through hands-on activities in group, cooperative, and individual situations. After the first trimester, students with an average below B- may have their placement re-evaluated in order to continue this course.

Pre-Algebra 6
205 6
Students with solid computational skills study Pre-Algebra. Emphases in this course include using variables and evaluating expressions, solving equations and inequalities, computing with integers and rational numbers, and graphing. Other important topics are problem-solving strategies, percentages, geometry, statistics, and probability. After the first trimester, students with an average below B may have their placement re-evaluated in order to continue this course.

Math 7
211 7
Students continue the study of integers, decimals and fractions with regard to the four basic operations. Expansion on topics presented in Math 6 includes number theory, solutions of equations and inequalities, metric measurements, ratio, proportion, percent, rational and real numbers, statistics, and probability. Geometry is expanded to include solid as well as plane, with emphasis on areas and volumes. Practical application, which includes estimation and problem solving in real-life situations, is a major focus of this course.

Pre-Algebra 7
213 7
Students with solid computational skills study Pre-Algebra. Emphases in this course include using variables and evaluating expressions, solving equations and inequalities, computing with both integers and rational numbers, and graphing. Other important topics are problem-solving strategies, percentages, geometry, statistics and probability. After the first trimester, students with an average below B- at the end of the first trimester may have their placement re-evaluated in order to continue this course.

Algebra I 7
215 7
This accelerated class covers topics of a typical first course in algebra. The material includes work with numerical expressions, systems of equations, properties, radicals, equations, exponents, operations involving polynomials, quadratic equations, rational expressions, and rational equations. The use of
graphing calculator enhances the learning experience. Students with an average below B- at the end of the first trimester will have their placement reevaluated in order to continue this course.

**Pre-Algebra 8**

221

The focus of this course is to prepare students to be successful in high-school algebra. Emphasis is placed on teaching the students to be proficient with their computational skills in the rational number system. A large emphasis will be placed on solving equations in one and two variables, graphing on the rectangular coordinate system, simplifying variable expressions, solving proportions, and using these skills to solve word problems.

**Algebra I 8**

223

This accelerated class covers topics of a typical first course in algebra. The material includes work with numerical expressions, systems of equations, properties, radicals, equations, exponents, operations involving polynomials, quadratic equations, rational expressions and rational equations. The use of graphing calculator enhances the learning experience. Students with an average below B at the end of the first trimester may have their placement reevaluated in order to continue this course.

**Geometry 8**

227

This is a course in Euclidean plane geometry with an emphasis on deductive reasoning and proof. The topics covered will include parallel and perpendicular lines, congruence, similarity, right triangles and trigonometry, polygons, circles, area and volume formulas, transformations and more. The course will require students to explore geometric ideas and work collaboratively to apply these new geometric techniques in problem solving. The Art of Problem Solving, Introduction to Geometry by Richard Rusczyk will be used to supplement the course. Concepts and techniques from algebra are reviewed throughout the year to prepare students for subsequent mathematics courses.
The Middle School Science Program emphasizes learning through a combination of teacher-directed lessons and interactive lab activities. Throughout their three years students learn ways to improve their use of the scientific method. Students are provided with regular opportunities to use their skills of observation, prediction, measurement, and drawing conclusions. An emphasis is placed on integrating classroom technology into appropriate lessons and labs. The Cranbrook campus provides teachers the opportunity to leave the classroom and visit other unique locations for lessons. These sites include the Cranbrook campus, the Cranbrook Institute of Science and other regional points of interest.

**Science 6**

401

This is a life and environmental science course focusing on topics such as ecology, cell biology, nutrient cycles, biomes, classification, and heredity. Great emphasis is placed on the young scientist and improving her reading, writing, and organizational skills.

**Science 7**

411

The focus of this course is on earth science. Specific topics include rock and mineral classification, the fossil record, plate tectonics, atmosphere, weather, and climate. Discussion of relevant current events is incorporated throughout the year.

**Science 8**

421

This is an introductory course in chemistry and physics. Major areas of study include matter, atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical formulas and reactions, motion, forces, energy, work, power, and simple machines.
# SOCIAL SCIENCE

The Middle School Social Science Program promotes a deepened understanding of the heritage of civilization, cultural diversity, democracy and civic responsibility, global interdependence, and relationships between humans and their natural environments.

Students gain competence at processing information, reasoning, expressing their thoughts, and participating in society. They become equipped to participate responsibly in the political process of a free society and to work cooperatively with their fellow citizens.

Students develop a heightened respect for the rights and dignity of all. They learn to consider various solutions to social problems, to make rational judgments about public issues, and to act in accordance with the values of a democratic society.

**Global Studies I**  
501 6
This course introduces students to the five themes of geography: location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region. Physical geography (major land and water forms), cultural geography (adaptation to the environment), economic geography (use of resources), and map skills will be taught in the context of global regions (North America, South America, South Asia, Central Asia, and East Asia) with reference and comparison to our lives in the United States. Emphasis is placed on the development of study skills, critical thinking skills, and cooperative group skills.

**Global Studies II**  
511 7
A continuation of Global Studies I, this course reinforces the five themes of geography and explores the geography and culture of places and people throughout the world. Students particularly examine the regions of Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Oceania, Australia, and the Pacific Islands. Students emerge with knowledge of global regions, people, and cultures, and they also have an understanding of the interconnectedness of the people and places of the world. Daily practice and application, as well as projects and activities, reinforce and develop study skills, critical thinking skills, cooperative skills, and communication skills.

**American Studies**  
521 8
In eighth grade American Studies, students explore the historical, political, economic, and social factors that shaped our country. The students review the American Constitution and government, and they will cover America as a new nation through the Cold War Era. Analysis of primary and secondary sources, text reading, small-group activities, research projects, and simulations are employed throughout the year. Technology will be implemented in both teaching and learning processes. The overall focus is on the development of analytical thinking and social-science skills.
WORLD LANGUAGES

The Middle School World Languages Program is composed of grade-level courses, which constitute an introductory curriculum. Students entering the sixth grade choose to study French, Latin, or Spanish and continue with their choice through the eighth grade. Students entering the program in the seventh or the eighth grade will be assessed on an individual basis for placement. The world languages curriculum develops an appreciation for foreign culture and promotes the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the target language. The student’s performance and achievement will culminate in a recommendation for continuation in the Upper School program. Students entering the ninth grade may follow the recommendations and/or pursue another language.

**World Languages 6**

301 French  
303 Latin  
305 Spanish  

Students choose to study French, Latin, or Spanish. They will make use of basic words and phrases, and they will examine cultural topics. The goal of the course is to generate enthusiasm for the study of a world language.

**World Languages 7**

311 French  
313 Latin  
315 Spanish  

Students study elementary vocabulary and basic grammatical structures of the target language. They develop basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the target language.

**World Languages 8**

321 French  
323 Latin  
325 Spanish  

The course introduces more advanced structural elements and broadens the students’ vocabulary and cultural awareness. Students develop skills that prepare them for continued study in the Upper School program.
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Human Development 6
931
Human Development 6 serves as an introduction to a comprehensive three-year health program. This course is designed to teach students about important issues that are confronted during adolescence. The curriculum focuses on the physical as well as emotional changes that accompany this stage of life. The lessons encourage questioning, self-exploration, and classroom discussion. The overall theme of the semester is making positive choices and developing decision-making skills. The course explores a variety of topics including the dimension of health, self-concept, media literacy, mind-set and brain development, hazards of tobacco and alcohol use, the dynamics of addiction, and adolescent physical development.

Human Development 7
941
Human Development 7 gives students an opportunity to acquire information that allows the development of healthy attitudes and behavior patterns. Units focus on building healthy relationships among family and peers using the skills of communication, empathy, and cooperation. Units on mental/emotional wellbeing will be explored as a way to learn and implement stress management skills. Topics within nutrition and fitness will give students a greater awareness and understanding of healthy eating habits, their choices, and how physical activity plays an important role in their overall health. Through class discussions, active student participation, and group activities, students will gain the knowledge and confidence to manage their ever-changing life.

Human Development 8
951
Human Development 8 is designed to build upon the curriculum from 6th and 7th grade. A holistic approach to the topics is taken, meaning that not only the physical but also the social and emotional impacts are explored. The primary focus of the semester is human reproduction including anatomy, labor, and the birth process. In addition, infectious diseases, including sexually transmitted disease, and noninfectious diseases such as cancer and heart disease are thoroughly discussed. These complex themes are framed in terms of personal health advocacy, prevention, and making positive choices in life.
VISUAL ARTS

**Visual Arts 6**

801

This course gives students a hands-on exposure to a variety of studio-arts, both two-dimensional and three-dimensional. The students practice basic techniques and psychomotor skills that lead to the completion of projects in a number of studio areas. Throughout the semester various aspects of historical and cultural works of art and artists are integrated into a format that reinforces particular assignments.

**Visual Arts 7**

811

This course continues student involvement in the variety of studio arts begun in the sixth grade. Additional control and understanding of concepts is promoted in the seventh-grade projects. Historical and cultural works of art and artists are integrated into a format that reinforces particular assignments throughout the semester.

**Visual Arts 8**

821

In the eighth grade, preparation for the studio experience of the Upper School program intensifies. Students hone skills learned previously, are introduced to work that requires artistic problem solving and continue their exploration of historical and cultural works of art to reinforce particular assignments. Students leave this course with the background to choose an appropriate studio-art concentration.
PERFORMING ARTS

All students enrolled in performing-arts classes are expected to participate actively in classroom rehearsals and, in most cases, to perform music and theatrical selections in public. Plays and vocal or instrumental music are selected primarily for the quality of the literature. Interest in the appreciation of diversity not only allows but encourages reading stories of all races, religions, and nationalities, as well as, singing songs and playing culturally-based music. Better understanding comes through sharing the musical heritages and interests of others.

Intermediate Band
A750 (Coed) 6, 7, 8
This ensemble continues to build upon the fundamentals of instrumental music. Designed to strengthen the technique and knowledge of an instrument, Intermediate Band is considered the typical progression for students coming from elementary and middle-school band programs. This ensemble only performs in the Spring Festival Concert. Percussion is available to students by instructor’s approval only. Please note that very few, if any, percussion positions are typically available in the Intermediate Band program for students new to the school. Beginners should not sign up for this class. Prerequisite: one to year of playing experience and instructor’s approval needed for percussion.

Advanced Band
A751 (Coed) 6, 7, 8
Specifically designed for the serious band student, this class provides exposure to a variety of musical styles and serves as a training program for the Upper School band program. Participants should have aspirations to perform more difficult music and be prepared to commit to practicing on a regular basis. Students are recommended for this class based on their ability levels and available space. The Advanced Band is considered the typical progression for students coming from the Intermediate Band. Seventh- and eighth-grade students are eligible and encouraged to participate in the Michigan Schools District Solo and Ensemble Festival. This ensemble performs in the Winter and Spring Festival Concerts. Prerequisite: instructor’s approval.

Jazz Band
A754 (Coed) 6, 7, 8
This class explores jazz-band literature from the 1930's to the present time. Instrumentation for this ensemble includes: alto, tenor and baritone saxophones, trombones, trumpets, piano, drums set, and lead and bass guitars. This ensemble performs in the Winter and Spring Festival Concerts. All students in this ensemble must be members of the Advanced Band, with the exception of guitar and piano students. Prerequisite: instructor’s approval.

Intermediate Strings
A752 (Coed) 6, 7, 8
This ensemble continues to build upon the fundamentals of playing the violin, viola, cello, bass, or guitar. Designed to strengthen the technique and knowledge of an instrument, Intermediate Strings is considered the typical progression for students coming from elementary and middle-school string programs. This ensemble only performs in the Spring Festival Concert. Guitar students are welcome, as the core literature for this course is folk music. Beginners should not sign up for this class. Prerequisite: one year of playing experience.
**Advanced Strings**

A753 (Coed) 6, 7, 8

Specifically designed for the serious string student, this class provides exposure to a variety of musical styles and serves as a training program for the Upper School Orchestra. Participants should have aspirations to perform more difficult music and be prepared to commit to practicing on a regular basis. Students are recommended for this class based on their ability levels and available space. The Advanced Strings is considered the typical progression for students coming from the Intermediate Strings class. Guitar students are not eligible to participate in the Advanced Strings class. Seventh and eighth-grade students are eligible and encouraged to participate in the Michigan Schools District Solo and Ensemble Festival. This ensemble performs in the Winter and Spring Festival Concerts. **Chamber Ensemble** - The most advanced string students can audition to be a member of the Chamber Ensemble. This ensemble meets once per week, in addition to the Advanced Strings class. Participants should be comfortable using upper positions, they must have a mature vibrato, and they should be placed near the top of the section in the Advanced Strings class. All students in the Chamber Ensemble must also be members of the Advanced Strings class. Both ensembles perform in the Winter and Spring Festival Concerts.

**Prerequisite: instructor's approval.**

**Tri-Arts**

701/713/715 - TWO YEAR LIMIT - (Girls) 6, 7, 8

This class provides exposure to three performing-arts genres. Students will participate in one trimester each of Music Workshop, Dynamic Moves (yoga), and Drama. Students can only sign up for this class for two out of their three middle school years. Students in the Tri-Arts classes do not perform.

- A survey course, Drama explores introductory theatre concepts, beginning with the study of body language and gesture and expanding to facial expression and vocal inflection. Along the way, students participate in a variety of theatre games designed to reinforce these ideas. Students are given brief introductions to basic stage terminology, theater history, and technical theater. The trimester culminates with a final performance project.

- In Music Workshop students will develop their understanding and knowledge of music by learning basic music skills and composing music on computer software. Students will learn to analyze, arrange, produce, and compose original songs on the computer using the Sony Acid Music Studio software. Music skills learned throughout the trimester will be incorporated into their compositions.

- In Dynamic Moves, students learn skills that foster physical stamina, flexibility, and coordination. They will also build a foundation of concentration and creativity through basic yoga movements and mindfulness techniques. All skills obtained in this class complement the athletic and dance programs.

**Drama**

707 (Girls) 7, 8

This class concentrates on the fundamentals of drama and provides an in-depth study of a variety of dramatic theatre styles. Several areas of concentration include contemporary and classical drama, improvisation, scene study, character study, and stage movement. Students in this class will collaborate with the Dramatic Video Production class.
Actor's Workshop
A755  (Coed) 7, 8
This course is designed to foster a student's growing appreciation and knowledge of dramatic performance. It will deepen the student's understanding of script analysis, character development, physical discipline, and emotional interpretation. All benchmarks will be reached through extensive study of text, exploration through acting games, and performance workshops of various monologues and scenes of both comedic and dramatic value. Emphasis will be placed on healthy interpersonal communication, experimental interpretation of text, and discovering one's own artistic integrity to come to a creative end product. Students are required to participate in a culminating end of year public showcase of their work. Prerequisite: instructor's approval.

Dramatic Video Production
712  (Girls) 6, 7, 8
In this class, students will develop skills and techniques for creating a variety of video project types. Students will act in and edit audition monologue videos, tutorials, and short films, using a range of acting, filming, and editing techniques and tools. This project-oriented class will introduce students to the entire production process from scripting and storyboarding to cinematography, editing, and special effects.

Dance I
709  (Girls) 6, 7, 8
This course provides students with the opportunity to experience dance as an art form. Students develop skills in basic dance technique and explore the elements of creative movement through improvisation and composition. Emphasis is placed on proper body alignment, basic ballet barre exercises, and dance as artistic expression. A variety of music is explored and used in class. Students perform in the Winter and Spring Festival Concerts.

Dance II
710  (Girls) 7, 8
This class is open to students who have mastered the basics in Dance I. Further attention is given to ballet and modern dance technique building locomotor movement skills and learning complex movement patterns. Dance improvisation and composition will be explored as part of the creative choreographic process. Students will perform in the Winter and Spring Festival Concerts. Eighth grade student perform in the Evening of Dance Concert as well. Prerequisite: instructor's approval.

Clarions
711  (Girls) 6, 7, 8
A performance-oriented vocal ensemble, girls will learn the basics of vocal technique. Through the study and performance of various choral literature sung in unison, two and three-part harmony, students experience both the rewards and challenges of belonging to an ensemble. Clarions perform in Winter and Spring Festival Concerts as well as various school and community events.
All girls participate in physical education every other day. Emphasis is on participation, sportsmanship, and skill development rather than competition. The program includes specific activities associated with health, fitness and the following activities:

- aerobics
- canoeing
- kick-ball
- swimming
- badminton
- field hockey
- lacrosse
- tennis
- basketball
- flag football
- soccer
- volleyball
- bowling
- golf
- softball
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Faculty and Administration

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