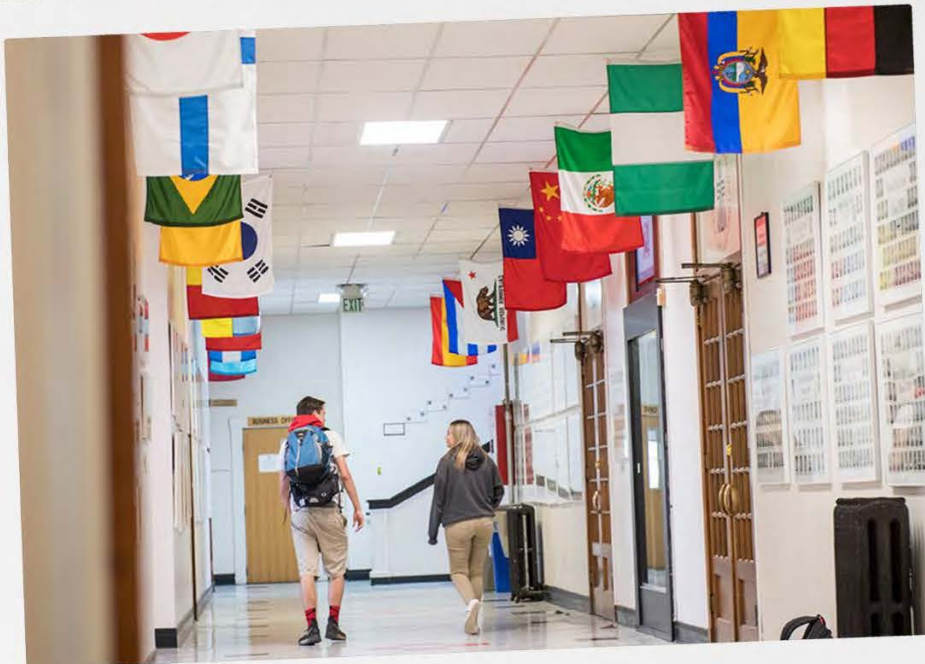


Middle School & Upper School Curriculum Guide

Current Course Offerings 2023-2024



menaulschool.org


MENAU
SCHOOL
World smart.

Middle School Curriculum Guide

Current Course Offerings





Middle School - Academic Philosophy

Middle school is an exciting time of transition in many ways; it is also a time for students to explore their various interests. As a school, we can best serve our students by providing them with opportunities to grow in mind, body and spirit.

MIND

In the academic realm, students will apply the knowledge that they have already developed in elementary school. At the same time, they will expand their horizons with new challenges and experiences. Our middle school encourages inquiry-based learning. If a student has a question, they are encouraged to pursue the answer with vigor. Our middle school provides an environment for students to feel supported in a rigorous academic setting as well as the freedom to explore new interests.

BODY

Students have the opportunity to move throughout the day with daily physical education, a variety of team sports options and a 45-minute lunch period. Lunch is provided for all students as part of their net tuition, and they have plenty of time to play outside before returning to class. Providing students with the tools to stay physically and emotionally fit is important to support physical development.

SPIRIT

Students' spiritual education is geared toward helping them find meaning in the world, an understanding of self, and ethical ways of interacting with others. Spiritual education is accomplished formally in religious studies classes and chapel. Informally, we help students to develop spiritually through classroom interactions, conversation and all-school programming throughout the school day.

Middle School - Course Progression

SUBJECT	6 TH GRADE	7 TH GRADE	8 TH GRADE
Language Arts	Humanities 06	Language Arts 07	Language Arts 08
Social Studies	Geography and Ancient Cultures	Latin American and New Mexico History	United States History
Science, Engineering & Technology	STEM 06	STEM 07	STEM 08
Mathematics	STEM 06	Mathematics 07	Integrated Mathematics 1
Physical Education	Team Sports Strength and Conditioning	Team Sports Strength and Conditioning	Team Sports Strength and Conditioning
Religious Education	Religion 06 Introduction to the Bible 1 Semester	Religion 07 Ethics and Morality 1 Semester	Religion 08 World Religions 1 Semester
Spanish		Spanish 1 Part 1 1 Semester	Spanish 1 Part 2 1 Semester
Electives	Intro to Instrumental Music Drama Choir Creative Writing Math Options Studio Art (2D or 3D)	Drama Choir Creative Writing Math Options Studio Art (2D or 3D) Intro to Chinese	Drama Choir Creative Writing Math Options Studio Art (2D or 3D) Intro to Chinese
Arts Block	Musical Theater Visual Arts Culture and Classics	Instrumental Music Musical Theater Visual Arts Culture and Classics	Instrumental Music Musical Theater Visual Arts Culture and Classics

Middle School - Academic Policies & Procedures

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Menaul School provides resources for students who need support for achievement in academic subjects.

Students who are struggling in a class will be assigned to support sessions for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) or Humanities (English and Social Studies) for one-on-one or small group tutoring and skill building. These support sessions take place during Flex Period and ensure that students leave school with the support they need to successfully complete homework and studying in the evening.

Students are always encouraged to meet with teachers to discuss course topics and receive direct contact and instruction from their teachers. Teachers are typically available after school, before school and during Flex period (12:40-1:20).

In addition, the school offers the following accommodations: preferential seating, extra time on tests and other assessments, use of the iPad for note-taking, and use of the iPad for tests and other assessments. Finally, tutoring is available from a variety of sources including teachers as well as peer and professional tutors. Peer tutors are high school students who volunteer to guide younger students through challenging material and can be a valuable resource for review. The school also maintains a list of paid tutors who accept individual students or small groups who are familiar with our school.

ADVISORY PROGRAM

Advisory groups meet intermittently throughout the week during Flex Period. Advisors track students' academic work and technology use. Advisors also pay attention to individual students' progress, both academically and socially, helping to form a safety net for each child. As a group, advisees get to know other students in a small group setting, form an identity as a group, and share in activities.

COUNSELING

The Middle School Associate Dean and students' advisors are the best sources for academic counseling. The Middle School Associate Dean will manage course selection with help from the Registrar. There is a licensed counselor available throughout the week for students who may need to process personal struggles. If more help is needed, the school counselor will provide guidance and referrals for outside counseling. The Menaul School Chaplain also provides pastoral counseling and support to students and families.

Middle School - Academic Policies & Procedures

GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING

In order to be in good academic standing, a student must maintain at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA, including summer school grades. The Registrar will calculate a student's GPA at the end of each semester (four times a year).

Any student who is not in good academic standing may be asked to leave Menaul School under the following circumstances:

1. Falling below a 2.0 for a semester.
2. Falling below a 2.0 for a total of three quarters any time during his or her attendance at Menaul School.

Students' eligibility for sports and other extracurricular activities is linked to overall academic standing. A student whose GPA falls below 2.0 or who has received an F during a periodic eligibility check will be ineligible for sports and activities during following nine-week grading period. If students bring their grades up by the next eligibility check, their eligibility may be reinstated.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

The Grade Point Average (GPA) for each student is calculated by using the following system: Grade A - 4; B - 3; C - 2; D - 1; F - 0. GPA is calculated by dividing the total number of grade points earned by the number of credits taken per semester. Please note: Menaul School neither recognizes nor grants credit for courses with a grade of F.

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	below 60%

HONOR ROLL

Students who earn a GPA of 3.25 to 3.74 in the first and second semesters are placed on Honor Roll. Students with a GPA of 3.75 or higher are placed on the President's Honor Roll for that period.

Middle School - Academic Policies & Procedures

REGISTRATION

Students will be scheduled for classes at time of registration. Schedule changes will be made in the event of improper placement of a student or for the purpose of balancing classes.

TESTING AND EVALUATION

The Menaul School uses the NWEA MAP test to track student progress and skill development in English, Mathematics, and Science. This is implemented through a Fall, Winter and Spring benchmark. This test is used throughout middle and high school.

LEARNING EXPEDITIONS

Menaul School learning expeditions provide exploratory learning opportunities in cross grade-level groups. Through week-long immersive experience-based learning activities, students examine a theme relevant to current, real-world issues. The multi-disciplinary projects involved include service learning, field trips and collaborative work.



Middle School - Humanities

Cultures are not
barriers. They're
discoveries
waiting to
be made.



Middle School - Humanities - English

HUMANITIES 06

Students in humanities begin the interactive journey through the Five Themes of Geography. Students use emerging technology, explorative field trips and context-based literature to make reading, writing, speaking, and listening an engaging experience in examining the world and its people. Students develop reading and critical thinking skills using culturally relevant and diverse texts.

In Humanities 6, students read a variety of coming-of-age themed literature: short stories, essays, poetry, plays, and novels. Students explore new ideas and reflect on life experiences. Learning about elements of theme and characterization allow students to explore themes in their own lives. Ancient civilizations, the Middle Ages, the Age of Exploration, and people and places in the modern era—students dive into each time period, finding new things to be excited about when it comes to human history. In addition to text-based research, students learn a variety of presentation formats and correct formatting for academic papers.

LANGUAGE ARTS 07

The purpose of this course is to motivate and equip students to be competent, confident and enthusiastic readers, writers, listeners and speakers. Seventh grade students study a variety of literary genres in novels, short stories, plays, and poetry. They pay close attention to defining literary terms, such as plot, theme, setting, and characterization. Students also get to regularly read outside high-interest texts. As students discuss and write about literature, they study grammar, usage, mechanics, and vocabulary to extend their skills. When writing essays, students hone their creative writing skills by crafting pieces with narrative, descriptive, and explanatory passages.

LANGUAGE ARTS 08

Eighth grade students further develop skills in language arts to enhance reading, writing, spelling, and grammar. They explore their own voices as writers and share ideas, thoughts, concepts, and values. Emphasis is placed in close reading and critical analysis of literary texts as well as developing composition skills in writing, expressive skills in poetry, and analytical skills in essay writing. This all combines to prepare students for success in Upper School.

Middle School - Humanities - History

LATIN AMERICA AND NEW MEXICO HISTORY

Seventh grade students conduct an in-depth study of the history and cultures that influence the Southwest in this history course by studying the geography, technology, climate, art and architecture, and human settlement patterns of many groups of people – South American and Latin American civilizations, traditional Southwestern cultures (Ancestral Puebloan, Mogollon, early Pueblo and Plains civilizations), and Europeans.

The second half of this course focuses on New Mexico history, from Spanish Colonization to the close of World War II. Settlement patterns, cultural exchange, geography, and climate have combined to make the history of New Mexico a very rich source of study. Treasure hunts, revolts, colonization, the Santa Fe Trail, the Civil War, range wars, women in the west, railroads, automobiles, tourists, artists, and atomic bombs are just a few of the topics seventh grade students will explore in trying to determine why we do things the way we do in New Mexico.

U.S. HISTORY

This course is designed to examine American history using a chronological approach, beginning with the search for independence and concluding with the modern era. Students actively make connections between the formation and the development of the United States, and its cultural progress through literature, economics and geography. Class presentations, dramatizations, research projects, independent study, reading, and written compositions are all used as a means to discovery. Special emphasis is placed on issues of cultural diversity, constitutional government, national identity, and civil rights. Themes of multiculturalism, social and economic implications, conflict, and conflict resolution are explored as they apply to each stage of American growth and change. This class shares common themes with Language Arts 8.

Middle School - Humanities - Religion

RELIGION 06: INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Students in Religion 6 read and discuss selections from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament. While content (e.g., examples, dates, cultural practices, names, and setting) has importance, this class centers on discovering and developing, in a group setting, the student's own method of inquiry and dialogue. This course's formal seminar structure encourages students to ask questions, lead discussions and listen actively.

RELIGION 07: ETHICS AND MORALITY

Students will examine and discover ethics through a variety of texts, media and group exercises. Students will read and discuss newspaper articles, fiction, case studies, and other sources to examine why people make judgments about what is good and bad, right and wrong, legal and illegal. In this class, the formal seminar structure encourages students to ask questions, lead discussions and listen actively. Students apply what they have learned to relevant issues within the middle school.

RELIGION 08: WORLD RELIGION

A broad range of cultures' views of the sacred are examined using stories and practices in this comparative religion course. Students will explore creation stories from around the world as well as non-fiction accounts of traditional practices to understand how the religious beliefs of different cultures influence people living within those cultures. Emphasis is placed on students learning to read deeply, ask open-ended questions using a text, and participate in student-run dialogues.

Middle School - Humanities - Foreign Language

SPANISH 07 AND 08

¡Bienvenidos a la clase de Español! In this course, students will practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing Spanish. Students will learn to speak and understand basic phrases as well as learn how to read and write using basic grammar. Cultural understanding of Hispanic cultures will be developed by studying music, art and traditions. Language is our connection to the community and to the world. It opens the doors to understanding other cultures and allows us to express our hopes and dreams as well as share our experiences and traditions with others. By the completion of Spanish 07 and 08, students will have completed the equivalent of Spanish 1 at the high school level, and should be able to progress directly to Spanish 2 with the permission of the instructor.

INTRO TO CHINESE

Introduction to Chinese Language and Culture is a middle school course that introduces students to the captivating world of Mandarin Chinese language and its vibrant cultural heritage. Through engaging lessons in language acquisition, encompassing conversation, pronunciation, and character recognition, coupled with immersive explorations of Chinese traditions, festivals, art, cuisine, history, and geography, this course aims to cultivate both linguistic proficiency and cultural understanding. Students will emerge with a solid foundation in Chinese language and a profound appreciation for the rich tapestry of Chinese culture, setting the stage for further language study and fostering cross-cultural competence in an increasingly interconnected global landscape.

Middle School - STEM

There's a
science to
teaching
science.



Middle School - STEM

STEM is an educational concept combining the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. All middle school students participate in all four STEM disciplines. Although they are only enrolled in math and science, the engineering and technology segments are a part of their classes.

Middle School - Science, Engineering & Technology

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

All students learn the scientific method as they move through Earth & Environmental Science, Life Science, and Physical Science each year. Throughout these courses, students are learning and reinforcing the next generation of science and engineering practices. Science and Engineering at Menaul School includes: asking questions and defining problems; developing and using models; analyzing and interpreting data; engaging in argument from evidence; constructing explanations and designing solutions; planning and carrying out investigations; using mathematics and computational thinking; obtaining, evaluating and communicating information.

TECHNOLOGY

All middle school students receive a school issued iPad for coursework. Thus, it is important for students to learn responsible technology use, both academically and socially. This is emphasized at all grade levels.

EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE 06

In 6th grade Earth and Environmental Science, students will embark on a captivating journey to explore the natural world and our place within it. Following the Next Generation Science Standards, this course will delve into topics such as the Earth's structure, weather patterns, and the dynamic processes that shape our planet. Students will investigate geological phenomena, the water cycle, and the interplay of ecosystems, all while gaining a deeper understanding of how human activities impact the environment. Through hands-on experiments, interactive lessons, and outdoor exploration, students will not only learn scientific principles but also cultivate an appreciation for the Earth's intricacies and a sense of responsibility toward its preservation.

Middle School - STEM

LIFE SCIENCE 07

In 7th grade Life Science, students will delve into the fascinating world of biology, guided by the Next Generation Science Standards. This course will introduce students to the diversity of life on Earth, from microscopic organisms to complex ecosystems. Topics will include cell biology, genetics, evolution, and the interdependence of living organisms. Through hands-on experiments, laboratory investigations, and interactive discussions, students will explore the wonders of life, gain insights into the scientific process, and develop a deeper appreciation for the natural world. This course lays the foundation for a lifelong understanding of biology and its relevance to our everyday lives.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE 08

In 8th grade Physical Science, students will embark on an exciting exploration of the fundamental principles that govern the physical world, in accordance with the Next Generation Science Standards. This course will provide students with a comprehensive introduction to chemistry and physics. Topics will encompass the structure of matter, chemical reactions, forces, energy, and waves. Through engaging experiments, hands-on activities, and critical thinking exercises, students will develop a deep understanding of the physical laws that govern our universe. By the end of the course, students will have a solid foundation in physical science and a newfound appreciation for the wonders of the natural world.

Middle School - Mathematics

MATHEMATICS 06

The Common Core Standards developed throughout the sixth-grade year include the following: making sense of problems and persevere in solving them; reasoning abstractly and quantitatively; constructing viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others; modelling with mathematics; using appropriate tools strategically; attending to precision; looking for and making use of structure; and looking for and expressing regularity in repeated reasoning.

Math is part of the STEM block, so it is often integrated into science activities. Students learn to use the metric system to measure length, mass and capacity in science experiments, then collect, display and analyze their data. This course continues the development of learned math skills and concepts and extends the student's ability to manipulate the basic operations with whole numbers, then emphasize the application of those operations to decimals and fractions. Further, This course introduces and extends the application of number theory to algebraic concepts employing perimeters, areas, ratios, proportions, percentages, integers, and one-step equations.

Middle School - Mathematics

MATHEMATICS 07

7th grade students continue to develop proficiency with the Common Core's eight standards for mathematical practice: to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them; reason abstractly and quantitatively; construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others; model with mathematics; use the appropriate tools strategically; attend to precision; look for and make use of structure; and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning. Students in 7th grade will expand on and apply many of the concepts they have learned in sixth grade in order to discover new types of relationships, new and efficient ways to solve problems and new ways to analyze and look at data and associations. Students will investigate proportional relationships and use this understanding to solve real-world problems involving discounts, interest, taxes, and scale drawings. Students will study the geometric concepts of area, surface area and volume. Seventh-grade students will apply the properties of operations to all rational numbers, including how it applies to expressions, equations and inequalities. They will also explore basic statistics. The "why" and "how" of problem solving are emphasized in this course to help students prepare for success in future math courses.

INTEGRATED MATHEMATICS 1 (HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL)

The 8th-grade Integrated Math 1 course builds upon previously learned concepts while introducing new mathematical ideas. It begins by reinforcing students' understanding of algebraic foundations they have previously encountered. Simultaneously, it introduces them to fresh concepts such as ratios, proportional reasoning, linear functions, equations, and systems. In this course, students delve into more advanced topics, including negative integer exponents and irrational numbers, while also deepening their comprehension of geometric principles through transformations, investigating congruence and similarity. Throughout the 8th grade, students actively develop proficiency in applying the Common Core's eight mathematical practices, which include problem-solving, abstract and quantitative reasoning, constructing sound arguments, mathematical modeling, strategic tool usage, precision, recognizing and using structure, and identifying regular patterns in repeated reasoning. This course provides a comprehensive mathematical foundation to prepare students for more advanced studies in the future.

MATH IMPROVEMENT

This is a mathematics course designed to build confidence while encouraging students to ask questions. This class is carefully designed to make space for curiosity. Math Improvement emphasizes conceptual understanding over procedure. The math problems in this class are designed so they increase students' drive to engage with math. This course is used to support learning and includes a self-paced individualized plan of instruction for all students to use in this class. Most students improve one grade level per semester.

Middle School - Visual & Performing Arts

Art is more than
a subject. It's
an expression
of the soul.



Middle School - Visual & Performing Arts

PRINTMAKING

In this introductory Printmaking class, students will delve into the captivating world of printmaking as an art form rooted in drawing. Throughout the course, they will engage in a creative journey that involves sketching, template design, and hands-on work with tools like X-acto knives, ink, and paper. Alongside honing their printmaking skills, students will explore the historical evolution of printmaking, gaining insights into how artists have used this medium throughout the ages. To enrich their understanding, a class excursion to a local fine art printshop and gallery will be arranged, offering students a firsthand glimpse into the world of professional printmaking. This course not only fosters technical proficiency in printmaking but also nurtures an appreciation for its historical and contemporary significance in the art world.

THREE-DIMENSIONAL ART

In the first half of this dynamic art class, students will explore the fascinating realm of three-dimensional art, crafting sculptures using materials like cardboard, paper, wood, and paint. This hands-on experience encourages creative experimentation with form and texture.

The second half of the course focuses on ceramics and clay, where students will create both decorative and functional pieces, finishing them with paint and glaze. One exciting highlight is the introduction of Raku ceramics, a unique and fun Japanese firing technique that adds an element of surprise to the artistic process. Throughout the course, students will not only develop their artistic skills but also gain a deeper appreciation for the world of three-dimensional art and ceramics.

VISUAL ARTS

In this introductory Visual Art class, students will embark on a diverse artistic journey encompassing sketching and hands-on projects using materials such as watercolors, paint, ink, paper, glue, clay, and collage. Alongside these creative endeavors, students will explore Art History, gaining insight into artistic expressions from various historical eras and cultures. This course offers a comprehensive introduction to both artistic techniques and the rich tapestry of human creativity across time and geography, fostering a lifelong passion for visual expression.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR

Students in choir are introduced to the fundamentals of vocal music production, various choral techniques and the performance of a variety of choral styles at the middle school level. Musical literature is chosen to develop the young singing voice and to give the student opportunities for public performance. The student will develop the musical and teamwork skills needed for involvement in the Upper School Choir.

Middle School - Visual & Performing Arts

INTRO TO CHOIR/THEATRE

This course offers 6th grade students a comprehensive introduction to choir and theatre arts. Pupils will delve into the basics of acting, vocal performance, and music theory, fostering their creativity, teamwork, and resilience. The curriculum includes a thorough exploration of theatre terminology, understanding the various roles in theatre production, movement and acting techniques, analysis of play scripts, and the fundamentals of theatre design and technical work. Additionally, students will have the chance to observe and review live theatre performances. Throughout the course, there will be several opportunities for students to participate in performances, allowing them to apply their learning in a practical setting.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATER

The course focuses on the specific art of Musical Theatre - singing, dancing, and acting. We train our bodies, minds and spirits to perform stories with music. Students will be trained in music, music theory, movement, dance, and repertoire. Repertoire is picked based on the student's level and will reflect their skills in performance and storytelling. Students will learn to engage their bodies and voices in a way that will encourage others to be engaged. Preparing students and communities for performances of standard Broadway and other musical works is the focus of this course. Students will learn to use their voices and bodies to effectively tell honest stories on stage. Students will grow their skills by participating in a Fall Showcase and/or Spring Musical.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

Band is composed of middle school students who have played a musical instrument for at least one year. In class, students will practice the fundamentals of good breath control, sound production and music reading. Students will also hone their performance skills as they prepare for public performances with the ensemble. Band also serves as a steppingstone to greater involvement in the music world in Albuquerque; students have the opportunity to join Pep Band, to audition for District Honor Band, participate in the Solo/Ensemble Festival, and audition for All-State Band, and the Albuquerque Youth Symphony. The Band also participates in the Music Performance Assessment, where they receive scores and feedback for their performance.

Middle School - Visual & Performing Arts

MIDDLE SCHOOL THEATRE

In this course, students are welcomed into the world of theatrical arts, where they will build a solid foundation of skills and knowledge essential for understanding and appreciating drama. Special focus is placed on cultivating the actor's craft, guiding students through the physical, vocal, and analytical techniques that form the backbone of performance. Through hands-on experiences with creative drama exercises, short monologues, and scene work, pupils will not only learn but actively apply these methodologies, enhancing their ability to express and interpret dramatic works. This immersive approach is designed to spark a passion for theater in young minds and prepare them for more advanced studies in the performing arts.

INTRODUCTION TO INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (UKULELE)

Students will learn to play the ukulele, read basic music notation and perform in a traditional music ensemble setting. Introduction to Instrumental Music is a place for students to build confidence, concentration and performance skills in a supportive environment. Students who advance quickly in music skills will be able to join the Middle School Band in the spring. Students are issued a school ukulele to use throughout the year.

INTRO TO BAND

This foundational course is tailored for beginners, emphasizing the essentials of instrumental play and music literacy. Sixth graders will become acquainted with 5 to 6 fundamental notes and immerse themselves in a variety of folk songs, which serve as practical exercises for reinforcing their note reading and playing skills. As a compulsory part of the 6th-grade curriculum, this course lays the groundwork for future musical education and enjoyment, ensuring all students have a solid base from which to grow their musical talents.

DANCE

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of dance styles, while building confidence and learning how to be creative on their own. Some of the different styles include ballet, jazz, lyrical, hip hop, bachata, salsa, etc. We also dive into the history of each style of dance. By the end of the course, students should have a solid foundation and be able to execute different dances through performance.

Middle School - Physical Education

A stronger body
helps build a
stronger mind.



Middle School - Physical Education & Sports

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (BOYS AND GIRLS) YEAR-ROUND

Physical Education is an important part of students' education about healthy lifestyles. This activity-oriented class helps students develop knowledge, skills and appreciation for sports and other types of recreation, along with the practices of good sportsmanship. The Physical Education class will take place at the end of the school day and overlap with middle school sports practices. For students not participating in an organized sport, strength training and aerobic conditioning will be the focus of Physical Education.

BASKETBALL (BOYS AND GIRLS) WINTER

Middle School Basketball offers students an opportunity to develop basketball skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Led by experienced coaches, this course emphasizes fundamental aspects such as dribbling, shooting, passing, and defensive strategies. Through structured practice and gameplay, students can enhance their proficiency while fostering camaraderie with their peers. Join us for a focused and engaging basketball experience that promotes skill development and teamwork.

VOLLEYBALL (GIRLS) FALL

Middle School Volleyball offers students an opportunity to develop volleyball skills and teamwork. Led by experienced coaches, this course focuses on serving, passing, setting, spiking, and defensive tactics. Through practice and gameplay, students will refine their abilities while fostering camaraderie with fellow participants. Team members will participate in interscholastic competitions, providing students with a chance to test their skills against other schools. Join us for a rewarding volleyball experience that encourages skill development, teamwork, and friendly competition.

CROSS COUNTRY (BOYS AND GIRLS) FALL

Middle School Cross Country is an excellent opportunity for students to delve into the world of long-distance running and teamwork. Under the guidance of experienced coaches, this course emphasizes running techniques, endurance building, and race strategies. Through regular training sessions and practice races, students will enhance their running skills on the individual and group level. Students will participate in regular meets, allowing them to showcase their progress and determination on the racecourse. Join us for an exhilarating cross country experience that promotes physical fitness, goal achievement, and friendly competition.

Middle School - Physical Education & Sports

FLAG FOOTBALL (BOYS) FALL

Middle School Flag Football offers students a dynamic introduction to the world of football and teamwork. Led by experienced coaches, this course emphasizes flag football fundamentals, including passing, receiving, defense, and strategy. Through regular training sessions and practice games, students will refine their skills while building strong bonds with their teammates. An exciting aspect of this course is the opportunity for students to compete in interscholastic flag football competitions, where they can put their skills to the test against other schools. This competition not only provides a chance to showcase their abilities but also fosters sportsmanship, teamwork, and a sense of achievement. Join us for an action-packed flag football experience that promotes physical fitness, strategic thinking, and friendly competition.

TRACK AND FIELD (BOYS AND GIRLS) SPRING

Middle School Track and Field provides students with a diverse sporting experience, covering a range of events from sprinting and long-distance running to jumping and throwing. Under the guidance of dedicated coaches, students will develop their athletic skills while fostering teamwork and individual achievement.

Participants will refine their running techniques, including sprints and longer distances, and explore jumping events such as long jump and high jump. Additionally, they will learn the art of throwing, with a focus on shot put and discus. One of the course highlights is the opportunity to compete in local track and field meets, allowing students to showcase their abilities, compete against other schools, and nurture sportsmanship and determination. Join us for an exciting track and field experience that promotes physical fitness, skill development, and a sense of accomplishment.



Upper School Curriculum Guide

Current Course Offerings





Graduation Requirements

SUBJECT	NOTES	REQUIRED CREDITS																										
English	One credit per year is required.	4	29 CREDITS ARE REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION A single-semester course is worth 0.5 credits. A full-year course is worth 1.0 credits. GPA is calculated by dividing the total number of grade points by the number of credits earned in a given period.																									
Mathematics & Science	Three years of math and three years of science are required. After that, students may choose one elective from math, science or technology.	7																										
Social Studies	Students take World Geography in 9 th grade, World History in 10 th grade, U.S. History in 11 th grade, and Government in 12 th grade.	4																										
Physical Education	Four semester of P.E. or Athletics are required.	2	GRADING SCALE <table><tr><td>A+</td><td>97.00</td></tr><tr><td>A</td><td>93.00</td></tr><tr><td>A-</td><td>89.50</td></tr><tr><td>B+</td><td>87.00</td></tr><tr><td>B</td><td>82.50</td></tr><tr><td>B-</td><td>79.50</td></tr><tr><td>C+</td><td>77.00</td></tr><tr><td>C</td><td>72.50</td></tr><tr><td>C-</td><td>69.50</td></tr><tr><td>D+</td><td>67.00</td></tr><tr><td>D</td><td>62.50</td></tr><tr><td>D-</td><td>59.50</td></tr></table>		A+	97.00	A	93.00	A-	89.50	B+	87.00	B	82.50	B-	79.50	C+	77.00	C	72.50	C-	69.50	D+	67.00	D	62.50	D-	59.50
A+	97.00																											
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A-	89.50																											
B+	87.00																											
B	82.50																											
B-	79.50																											
C+	77.00																											
C	72.50																											
C-	69.50																											
D+	67.00																											
D	62.50																											
D-	59.50																											
Fine Arts	Four semesters of either performing arts or visual arts are required.	2																										
Modern Languages	Courses must be taken in order and in consecutive years.	2																										
Religion and Philosophy	One semester per year is required.	2																										
Electives	A variety of elective courses are available.	3																										
Capstone Project	Students work on a project of their own design throughout the fall semester of their senior year, culminating in a formal presentation to the Menaul community.	0.5																										
Community Life	Students engage in their advisory class activities, College Seminar, and volunteer work, including Mission Week.	2																										
TOTAL		29																										

Upper School - Curriculum

All students must enroll in eight courses per semester every year, unless taking multiple AP courses or having completed significant portions of credit requirements, at the discretion of the Upper School Director. Many courses are year-long, and some are semester-long. A student receives one credit for a year-long course and one-half credit for a semester-long course. Required and suggested college preparatory courses for each grade level are listed to the right on this page and the next, but these should be understood as rough guidelines only.

CREDIT COUNSELING

The Upper School Director and School Counselor are available to assist students in the perusal of credit requirements and planning their course of study. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the students and parents/guardians to ensure that all graduation requirements are met.

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

With permission from the Upper School Director, junior and senior students may participate in a variety of special academic programs, including Independent Study, the Concurrent Enrollment Program at the University of New Mexico or Dual Credit at CNM and the various offerings of the Albuquerque Public Schools Career Enrichment Center. Students wishing to apply for these programs must give the Upper School Director a written proposal requesting permission, and the completed appropriate forms from the institution the student plans to attend. Students enrolled in these programs must provide their own transportation.

Credit for off-campus learning is accepted towards graduation only with the permission of the Upper School Director. Plans to receive credit from a study regimen outside the established curriculum must be reviewed by the Upper School Director before approval will be given. Students must submit their request for alternative credit to the Upper School Director before the planned study is undertaken.

FRESHMEN

- * English 09
- * Biology
- * World Geography (one semester)
- * Integrated Mathematics 1-2 or 2
- * Modern Language
- * Covenant (one semester)
- Performing or Fine Arts (one semester)
- Physical Education (one semester)
- Try a number of electives based on interest

SOPHOMORES

- * English 10
- * Chemistry
- * World History or AP World History
- * Integrated Mathematics 3
- * Modern Language
- * World Religions (one semester)
- Performing or Fine Arts (one semester)
- Physical Education (one semester)
- Continue trying different electives, including testing the waters with an
- Take their first AP course or two

*** Required**

Upper School - Curriculum

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

As a college preparatory school, Menaul encourages students seeking admission to selective schools to take Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Students may choose from a number of AP courses in both the Humanities and STEM fields. AP courses are formulated to be equivalent to an introductory college course and, as such, are graded on a different scale than most high school courses, with a grade above 90% being equivalent to a 5.0 on the grade-point scale. Colleges understand that a student who has succeeded in AP courses is a great candidate for admission. Students at Menaul will be well-prepared to take AP courses in their junior and senior years, with a select few being allowed to take AP courses their sophomore year with the permission of the instructor.

CREDITS AND COURSE LOADS

Seniors in good academic standing who have earned enough credits to graduate may opt for certain alternatives; see Concurrent Enrollment on the previous page for more information.

Students taking summer school courses must consult with the Upper School Director to ensure that the courses taken will meet Menaul School requirements and standards.

ONLINE COURSES

Menaul School offers students the opportunity to take online courses for credit, provided they complement the school's existing curriculum or meet specific credit requirements. Prior approval from the Upper School Director or the College Counselor is mandatory for any online course to be recognized for credit. This approval process ensures that the online coursework meets the school's standards in terms of content, quality, and academic rigor, and it must be completed before the student enrolls in the course.

JUNIORS

- * English 11 or AP English Language
- * Advanced Biology or Physics track
- * US History or AP US History
- * Transition to College Math or AP Precalculus
- * Ethics (one semester)
- Advanced/AP Languages
- Performing or Fine Arts (one semester)
- Physical Education (one semester)
- Electives and AP courses by interest and specialization

SENIORS

- * English 12 or AP English Literature
- * Advanced Biology or Physics track
- * Government (one semester)
- * Mathematics
- * Credo (one semester)
- * Capstone (one semester)
- Advanced/AP Languages
- Performing or Fine Arts (one semester)
- Physical Education (one semester)
- Electives and AP courses by interest and specialization

*** Required**

Upper School - Curriculum

ADDITIONAL COURSES AVAILABLE THROUGH MENAUL SCHOOL

Students also have the opportunity to take online courses not offered in this Curriculum Guide. These courses include French, German or another foreign language. Other possibilities include computer courses such as Visual Basic or Java Programming, and courses in psychology and sociology. Students must receive permission from the Upper School Director before registering for these online courses.

REGISTRATION

Students will register for courses in the spring of the prior school year. The school will make every effort to accommodate students' elective requests without compromising core discipline requirements. Once classes begin, schedule changes will be made only for the purpose of balancing courses or to correct the improper placement of a student, and only on the first day of the semester with the permission of the Director of the Upper School.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

The grade point average (GPA) for each student is based on the following grade-point scale: A = 4; B = 3; C = 2; D = 1; F = 0. GPA is calculated by dividing the total number of grade points earned by the number of courses taken over a given period. Please note: Menaul School does not recognize or grant E grades.

HONORS AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT GRADE POINT SCALE

Due to their increased difficulty, the grade-point scale for Honors courses is calculated as follows: A = 4.5; B = 3.5; C = 2.5; D = 1.5; F = 0. For AP courses it is calculated as follows: A = 5; B = 4; C = 3; D = 2; F = 0. A student who receives an A in an Honors or AP course may, as a result, have an overall grade-point average higher than 4.0.

HONOR ROLL

Students who earn a GPA of 3.25 to 3.74 in two consecutive quarters are placed on the Honor Roll. Students with a GPA of 3.75 or higher in two consecutive quarters are placed on the President's Honor Roll.

Upper School - Curriculum

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR

A distinguished scholar is a graduate who has taken two credits in excess of graduation requirements while maintaining an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher. This honor was implemented to recognize students who focus their education on their interests, challenge themselves with a rigorous schedule and strive for success even with those additional challenges. Being recognized as a distinguished scholar will help our students stand out during the college admissions process. All distinguished scholars will have their status and specialization noted on their transcripts.

GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING & ELIGIBILITY

Sports eligibility is tied to good academic standing. For example, any sports or extracurricular activity participant who falls below a 2.0 GPA or has received an F during the grading period will be ineligible to participate for the following six weeks.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Menaul School maintains an active chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). Students may be nominated to apply for membership in the NHS sometime after 10th grade, having completed at least two years of study in the Upper School. During the application process, students will need to demonstrate their adherence to the four core values of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Successful candidates will be inducted into the National Honor Society and that status will be noted on their transcripts.

SELECTION OF VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

To be eligible to be named valedictorian or salutatorian of their graduation class, students must have attended Menaul School for the entirety of grades 10 through 12. The student with the highest overall GPA for those years is named valedictorian. The student with the second highest overall GPA for those years is named salutatorian. When multiple valedictorians are named, there is no salutatorian.

ASSISTANCE

From time to time, students may need extra help with academic subject matter. Teachers are available after school and, by arrangement, before school and during advisory. Menaul School also offers recommendations to families for securing outside tutors. Assistance with study and test-taking skills is also available on campus during Flex period on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. The opportunity exists for day student families to remain in the evening for study hall Monday-Thursday.

Upper School - English

We make the
world smaller
by expanding
theirs.



Upper School - English

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The English program, in preparing students to succeed in college and beyond, is planned around a core of literary works. Faculty endorse that reading and writing are connected and that skill in each area feeds the other. Many other facets of the communicative arts are included, such as speaking and discussion skills, listening for detail, study and organizational skills, research, editing, and writing for a variety of purposes. We emphasize critical thinking and encourage students to make connections to other fields of knowledge. Students delve into universal themes and gain insight into their own life experiences through both classic and modern literary selections.

TOTAL CREDITS NEEDED: 4

English 09	1
English 10	1
English 11	1
English 12	1
AP English Language and Composition	1
AP English Literature and Composition	1
English Elective	0.5

ENGLISH 09

Freshman Composition and Reading Readiness

1 Full Year

Freshmen study basic elements of the expository essay such as outlining, explicit thesis design, unified development, and transitional links. Grammar study focuses on basic sentence patterns, subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement, and sentence completeness. The short story and novel elements are the focal points of the multicultural reading component, along with literary analysis and correct MLA documentation. Essay exams, class discussions, in-class and take-home essays, and a final exam are required.

ENGLISH 10

Advanced Sophomore Composition and Language Skills

1 Full Year

Sophomores explore the four genres of multicultural literature with a focus on universal themes. To improve inference skills, students study the nuances of connotation, selective diction and context clues. Grammar will focus on refining basic skills, such as sentence style, parallelism, clear modification, and verb tense consistency. Students will write argumentative essays based on research as well as occasional analytical essays. Essays, projects, discussions, and semester exams/projects are also required.

Upper School - English

ENGLISH 11

The American Literary Experience

1 Full Year

Juniors experience American literature from the colonial to the modern periods with a focus on the distinct qualities of the American character. To advance writing proficiency, students will focus on mastery of analytical, argumentative and research-based writing. Essays, projects, discussions, and semester exams will culminate each semester.

ENGLISH 12

Literary Analysis

1 Full Year

English 12 invites seniors to improve their proficiency as readers and writers through encounters with increasingly sophisticated texts and demands on the quality of their thinking and writing. Through an intensive study of several novels (by Toni Morrison, Anthony Doerr, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Khaled Hosseini), this class puts special emphasis on literary analysis. Working toward a high level of skills in critical reading, analytical writing, creative criticism, and especially essay composition, students will write in-class frequently. Students practice communication skills through presentations and regular classroom discussions, and they engage in activities and projects facilitating critical and creative thinking in response to texts, the self, and the world at large.

CREATIVE WRITING

1 Semester

In Creative Writing, students will explore the English language to develop a deeper understanding of what “creative” writing means and how to best employ creative writing techniques. Students will write constantly in order to develop themselves as creative writers and artists. The class will focus on several genres of writing: descriptive essays, short stories, poetry, scripts, memoirs, and personal narratives, among other possibilities.

POETRY

1 Semester

In Poetry, students will approach poetry as both readers and writers in this semester-long elective. The goal of the class will be both to increase students’ familiarity with, and comprehension of, poetry, and to improve their own skills as poets. Students will read, analyze, and write poetry, gaining a well-rounded understanding of this literary genre. Students will read and analyze a variety of poems from different cultures, time periods, and styles. Students will have opportunities to write and share their own poems, receiving constructive feedback from both peers and the instructor.

Upper School - English

INTRO TO JOURNALISM

1 Semester

In Introduction to Journalism, students will engage in news stories from the outside world as they explore the field of journalism, including news literacy, press freedom, news writing, photojournalism, and multimedia. Throughout this course, students will develop an understanding of the importance of journalism in a democratic society including the ethical implications, acquire knowledge of proofreading and copyediting skills, and apply their knowledge in an end of course, multi-media project.

YEARBOOK

1 Full Year

In Yearbook, students work together to develop a theme and design for the school yearbook. Using a variety of software applications as well as photojournalism skills, students will have the opportunity to document the highlights of the school year, including significant events, student achievements, and school traditions. By the end of the course, students will have created a professional-quality yearbook that captures the spirit and character of Menaul School.

FILM ANALYSIS

1 Semester

Film Analysis is a semester-long elective. Our focus is on the power and complexities of film across genres, geographical borders, and time periods. We will “read” film in the manner that we do texts in an English or Literature class: focusing on style, structure, imagery, tone, mood, point of view, plot, character, setting, symbol, and how these contribute to meaning. Our analysis of dramatic films will align these technical considerations (and more cinematic, theatrical, and literary elements, as well) to a director’s purpose, helping us analyze films through cultural, social, historical, artistic, and political lenses. Accordingly, this course presents a platform for critical thinking, academic writing, and discussion. As students view films and read texts, they will learn numerous close-reading skills in order to analyze, understand, and compare films in a scholarly, critical manner. In addition to carefully viewing films—a process that demands intellect, emotion, memory, and senses—students will research, discuss, and write about films.

Upper School - English

LEVIATHAN IN LITERATURE

1 Semester

This course will examine the symbol of the giant monster in literature and film alongside the historical contexts that produced them. It will analyze figures such as Moby Dick, King Kong, and Godzilla. In doing so, students will practice literary analysis, develop their writing skills, and acquire familiarity with various eras of film / world history. This course has no prerequisites though students will be expected to know the structure of a five-paragraph analytical essay and basic literary terms (i.e. character, plot, setting, theme, etc.).

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

1 Full Year

AP English Language and Composition is an introductory college-level composition course. Students cultivate their understanding of writing and rhetorical arguments through reading, analyzing, and writing texts as they explore topics like rhetorical situation, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, and style. The course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Additionally, they read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts—including images as forms of text—from a range of disciplines and historical periods.

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

1 Full Year

The AP English Literature and Composition course is designed and taught with an emphasis on core readings along with modern and contemporary selections that illuminate and expand upon a variety of themes. AP English Literature and Composition closely follows the requirements described in the AP English Literature and Composition Course and Exam Description, including the fundamentals of literary analysis and introductory college composition. Each week students discuss and engage in a variety of writing activities focusing on interpretation, analysis, structure, and style. Students read and study a variety of novels, plays, poems, and short stories from the 16th century to the present. In addition to major works, students read shorter works provided by the instructor. The course seeks to imbue students with confidence and skill in oral and written language to include critical reading, writing and thinking in analytical, evaluative and experiential ways; it focuses on the experience of literature, the interpretation of literature, the evaluation of literature, and writing to develop stylistic maturity and sophistication. This is a college-level course, and as such, students can expect to encounter texts and materials that are challenging, engaging, provocative, and perhaps even controversial. Students will prepare extensively for class and are expected to enter class each day ready to engage in challenging discussion with their peers.

Upper School - Mathematics

Everyone is
a student.
Everyone is
a teacher.



Upper School - Mathematics

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Menaul School is a college preparatory school and the goal of the Mathematics Department is to teach advanced math skills that will prepare students for college and the real world. As the world changes, students need to know that math is important in designing rockets, airplanes, bridges, and much more. It also is important in everyday activities such as calculating salary, measuring ingredients and determining how long an endeavor will take. A variety of methods are used in the hope that all students will come to enjoy problem solving.

Menaul School has made the change from traditional math progression to the internationally-aligned “Integrated Math” system. The traditional progression in U.S. high schools is Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and then Trigonometry and Precalculus. This approach silos each subject, making retention difficult. Data shows that the majority of students are more successful on an integrated mathematics track, further demonstrated by superior testing and math fluency in most developed countries worldwide when compared with the United States.

Integrated Math teaches the same material, but combines algebra, geometry, and probability in each course, rather than separating them. It is based on the best current educational theory and is proven to lead to better outcomes for students by constantly reinforcing and connecting math skills across disciplines. It is practiced worldwide and accepted by all colleges and universities in the United States and is truthfully preferred and understood better worldwide.

INTEGRATED MATHEMATICS 1 & 2

1 Full Year

Integrated Mathematics 1 & 2 is a dual mathematics course that focuses on foundational Algebra and Geometry. In the first semester, students take daily Integrated Mathematics 1 classes, and in the second semester, the focus shifts to daily Integrated Mathematics 2 classes. The course provides a comprehensive understanding of basic concepts of Algebra and a deeper understanding of Geometry. With daily practice, students refine their understanding of mathematical concepts and prepare for more advanced math courses. By the end of the course, students will have the necessary skills and knowledge to progress onto more advanced math courses with confidence.

TOTAL CREDITS NEEDED: 3 or 4

Integrated Mathematics 1 & 2.....	2
Integrated Mathematics 2	1
Integrated Mathematics 3	1
Trigonometry/Precalculus	1
AP Precalculus	1
AP Calculus	1
Math Electives	0.5 or 1

Upper School - Mathematics

INTEGRATED MATHEMATICS 2

Prerequisite: Integrated 1

1 Full Year

Integrated Mathematics 2 continues teaching the basic structure and abstract nature of mathematics that began in 8th grade with Integrated Mathematics 1. The emphasis is on logical thinking and the application of algebraic and geometric skills and concepts. Problem-solving and graphing techniques are taught throughout This course. This course will cover, but not be limited to the following topics: operations with real numbers, exponent and root functions, polynomials and factoring, quadratics, complex numbers, triangle relation, quadrilaterals, circles, and probability.

INTEGRATED MATHEMATICS 3

Prerequisite: Integrated 2

1 Full Year

Integrated Mathematics 3 continues teaching the structure and abstract nature of mathematics with an emphasis on logical thinking and applications of algebraic and geometric skills and concepts. This course focuses on furthering understanding of the types of functions while connecting to the similarity between all functions. Topics covered include, but are not limited to systems of linear functions, polynomial functions, rational functions, radical functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometric functions and identities.

TRANSITION TO COLLEGE MATHEMATICS

Prerequisite: Integrated 3

1 Full Year

This course is geared towards preparing you for the College Algebra Math exam. This course will review fundamental concepts studied in Math Integrated 1, 2, and 3 providing you with a solid foundation in algebraic and geometrical concepts to master the problem-solving skills as preparation for college. This course includes topics, such as Foundations of Algebra, Basic Geometry, Exponents, Polynomials, Rational Expressions, Linear Equations and Inequalities, Lines, Quadratic Equations and Functions, Systems of Linear Equations, and Additional Topics.

Upper School - Mathematics

AP PRECALCULUS

Prerequisite: Integrated Math 3 or Transition to College Mathematics and Instructor Permission

1 Full Year

AP Precalculus is designed to be the equivalent of a first semester college precalculus course. It provides students with an understanding of the concepts of college algebra, trigonometry, and additional topics that prepare students for further college-level mathematics courses. This course explores a variety of function types and their applications—polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, polar, parametric, vector-valued, implicitly defined, and linear transformation functions using matrices. The course framework delineates content and skills common to college precalculus courses that are foundational for careers in mathematics, physics, biology, health science, social science, and data science.

AP CALCULUS

Prerequisite: AP Precalculus and Instructor Permission

1 Full Year

This course will begin with a review of fundamental concepts that are necessary to the study of calculus and will introduce limits and their properties. Students will be introduced to derivatives, develop the concepts of explicit and implicit differentiation and explore applications of the derivative. This course also introduces the concepts of anti-derivatives and integrals.

Differentiation and integration will be used to explore exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions in calculus. This course will enhance students' algebraic skills and will familiarize students with concepts they will encounter in college math courses. A graphing calculator (such as Texas Instruments model 83-Plus) is strongly recommended.

STATISTICS

Prerequisite: Integrated Mathematics 3

1 Full Year

Students will demonstrate understanding of the basic concepts involved in statistics including experimental design, probability distributions, random variables, estimation, hypothesis testing, and visualization of data. In addition, students will apply the methods of statistics to real-world application, problems involving estimation, experimental design, and relationships between variables.

Upper School - Mathematics

MATH GAMIFICATION

1 Semester

This course will illustrate how mathematics is essentially a game. Understanding the rules (called axioms in math) of any game and practicing it will make any player an expert. This course will use an isomorphism between playing Italian card games (“scopa”, “briscola”, and “tresette”) and the theory of numbers. During the course, the book Gödel, Escher, Bach (GEB), “An Eternal Golden Braid” (1979), will be used to introduce math concepts about paradoxes (e.g., Epimenides, Zeno, etc.), to “intuitively” understand Gödel’s Theorem that appeared as a Proposition VI in his 1931 paper “On Formally Undecidable Propositions in Principia Mathematics and Related Systems I.” The author of GEB, D.R Hofstadter (Ph.D.), winner of the Pulitzer Prize, uses different concepts, including Bach’s music and Escher’s art, to lead the student reader to a remarkably high understanding of finite and infinite ideas. An understanding of “All consistent axiomatic formulations of the theory of numbers include undecidable propositions.” The goal is to provide access to upper students, who like mathematics, to advanced concepts through their curiosity and develop a higher intuition towards logic.

INTRO TO AEROSPACE

1 Semester

This class is geared to enhance your flying curiosity and prepare you for professional courses in aeronautics, becoming an astronaut, a pilot, an air traffic controller, an engineer, an aircraft technician, an airline manager, an air force officer, or a satellite specialist. This course will review fundamental concepts studied in mathematics applied to aerospace engineering subjects. Part of the course will be in a shop laboratory, where the students will build an aircraft model. This course includes elements of the following subjects: Aerodynamics, Aircraft Engines, Flight Mechanics, Aircraft Systems, Air Traffic Control, Air Navigation, Aerospace Engineering, Remote Piloting (small drones), Air Regulation, and additional topics.

Upper School - Science & Technology

We prepare
kids for
anything.
Including
college.



Upper School - Science & Technology

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Literacy in science and technology are necessary for survival in today's world. To this end, students at Menaul School are introduced to physical, chemical, biological, and environmental topics as well as the technological and reasoning skills that are inherent in these subjects. Computers are increasingly used as a tool to gather and generate information and students need to be comfortable in their use. The ability to analyze, problem solve and think and write logically is emphasized in the science and technology curriculum. Graduates are aware of current debates and ethical/moral dilemmas raised by scientific and technological advancements and are familiar with the historic contributions of important scientists.

9th graders begin with Biology, then progress to Chemistry in 10th grade. In 11th grade, students have the option of continuing along a Physics-based track (Physics or AP Physics) or an Advanced Biology pathway (AP Biology, electives in Biology). Students may also take both pathways, and many strong science students do so. The Physics track is recommended for students considering college level coursework towards a career as in materials science, physics, engineering, chemistry, aerospace, astronomy, or many others. The Advanced Biology track is recommended for students considering college level coursework in ecology, environmental science, biology, genetic engineering, medicine, health care, pharmaceuticals, among many others. Menaul School's pathways open the doors to any number of rewarding and high-earning careers.

TOTAL CREDITS NEEDED: 3 or 4

Biology	1
Chemistry	1
Physics	1
AP Biology	1
AP Environmental Science	1
AP Physics 1	1
Science Electives	0.5 or 1

BIOLOGY

1 Full Year

Biology is the study of the chemical and physical properties of living organisms. The teaching style of this class is very similar to a college level biology class. Technical skills developed in this course are concept mapping and empirical analysis; it also serves as an introduction to scientific literature. Areas of study will include cellular structure, metabolism, biotechnology, and human environmental impact. This is a laboratory course that builds on the concepts taught in Chemistry and introduces students to cell biology through the use of microscopes, scientific methodology and critical thinking. These foundations form a platform for the study of organ systems. This course is designed to prepare students for 12th grade Physics.

Upper School - Science & Technology

CHEMISTRY

Prerequisite: Biology

1 Full Year

This is a general chemistry course with life applications and basic math requirements. Many of the scientific concepts that students were previously exposed to will be explored in greater depth using cooperative learning, inquiry, research, and discovery methods. Students will soon understand how the basic principles of general chemistry can be used to explain the world around them. This course enables students to acquire useful laboratory, communication and reasoning skills that will be of great use to them in future science programs. This course also provides multiple opportunities for integration with math and technology and will make use of various resources including audio visual and electronic text.

PHYSICS

Prerequisite: Chemistry

1 Full Year

Physics is a course that combines the study of motion based on the physics of Galileo Galilei and Isaac Newton with an exploration of the principles of thermodynamics. This conceptual physics course, requiring knowledge of algebra and geometry, offers real-life applications and delves into scientific concepts with depth, employing cooperative learning, inquiry, research, and discovery methods. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of how the basic principles of classical mechanics and thermodynamics can be applied to explain the world around them. The course enhances laboratory, communication, and reasoning skills, preparing students for future science programs. Multiple opportunities for integration with math and technology are provided, utilizing various resources, including audiovisual and electronic text. This course provides a holistic approach to physics, offering students a rich understanding of both classical mechanics and thermodynamics, fostering critical thinking and analytical skills in the realm of physical science.

GREENHOUSE SCIENCE

Prerequisite: Biology

1 Full Year

This is a science elective course with real life applications. Scientific concepts related to the study and growing of food plants will be explored using hands-on, project-based learning. Students will soon understand how a basic knowledge of greenhouse gardening can be a useful and beneficial skill in today's world. This course also provides multiple opportunities for integration with technology and will make use of various resources including audio visual and text.

Upper School - Science & Technology

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Prerequisite: Biology

1 Full Year

This course is designed to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. This AP level course gives students the ability to earn college credit with a score of 3, 4, or 5 on the AP Environmental Science exam.

AP PHYSICS 1: ALGEBRA-BASED

Prerequisite: Integrated Math 3

1 Full Year

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore these topics: systems, fields, force interactions, change, and conservation, kinematics, dynamics, circular motion and gravitation, energy, momentum, simple harmonic motion, torque and rotational motion.

AP BIOLOGY

Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry

1 Full Year

This course is designed to offer students a solid curriculum in introductory college-level biology. The course emphasizes fundamental concepts and the supporting biological content necessary for deep understanding. Students are expected to employ scientific practices, such as inquiry-based learning, to develop their scientific reasoning and investigative skills. The course is structured around overarching themes and enduring understandings that facilitate the identification of unifying principles in the diverse biological world. By the end of the course, students should be well-prepared to take the AP Biology exam and succeed in higher-level biological studies.

Upper School - Science & Technology

MICROBIOLOGY

Prerequisite: Biology

1 Semester

This course explores the world of microorganisms and their impact on our planet. The course covers the structure of viruses, bacteria, protists, and fungi. Students will learn about the diseases these organisms can cause, and their impact on human health. They will compare the effectiveness of vaccinations and different drugs in fighting diseases caused by these organisms. Additionally, students will learn about beneficial microorganisms and how they are used in society.

Students will learn to identify microorganisms using common laboratory methods. Lab work will include hands-on experience in both macro and microbiological techniques.

GENETICS

Prerequisite: Biology

1 Semester

This course explores the world of microorganisms and their impact on our planet. The course covers the structure of viruses, bacteria, protists, and fungi. Students will learn about the diseases these organisms can cause, and their impact on human health. They will compare the effectiveness of vaccinations and different drugs in fighting diseases caused by these organisms. Additionally, students will learn about beneficial microorganisms and how they are used in society.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Prerequisite: Biology

1 Full Year

This course focuses on the understanding of relationships between structures and functions of the human body. Students will carefully study the complex systems of the human body and engage in lab work that includes detailed dissections and hands on activities examining the physiology of several of the human systems. Students will learn to identify the parts of different systems and their functions within the human anatomy.

Upper School - Science & Technology

HONORS ECOLOGY

Prerequisite: Biology

1 Semester

Embark on an immersive journey into the intricate web of life with our Honors Ecology course. This class is not just about studying ecology; it's about becoming ecological detectives. Each student will undertake a unique project, formulating hypotheses to restore farmland impacted by grazing and wildfire. Through hands-on experimentation, they will explore sustainable solutions and present their findings, fostering a deep connection to the land and its restoration. Beyond the scientific exploration, we'll delve into the wisdom of American Southwest indigenous cultures, discovering their harmonious relationship with nature. Engage in captivating discussions on practices like using native flora as medicine and culminate your ecological adventure by creating personalized salves. If you're a nature enthusiast ready for a transformative experience, this class is your gateway to understanding, appreciating, and restoring our precious ecosystems.

EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

Prerequisite: Biology

1 Semester

Embark on a fascinating journey through the tapestry of life in our high school evolutionary biology course. Explore the fundamental principles of evolution, unravel the intricacies of natural selection, and discover the gradual transformations that shape diverse species. Dive into the captivating process of speciation, unveiling the secrets of how new species emerge over time. Unearth the evidence supporting the concept of common ancestry, connecting the branches of the evolutionary tree. Finally, challenge conventional thinking as we delve into the world of nonselective breeding, examining its impact on genetic diversity. Get ready to witness the unfolding drama of life's evolution and gain a deeper understanding of the forces that have shaped the biodiversity we see today.

CHEMISTRY IN THE KITCHEN

Prerequisite or Corequisite: Chemistry

1 Semester

In this course, we will explore the chemical and physical processes that take place when cooking food. Through both classroom instruction and delicious labs, students will learn how to explain the scientific concepts behind various recipes and cooking techniques.

Upper School - Science & Technology

INTRODUCTION TO STEM CAREERS

1 Semester

This course will provide students with an in-depth understanding of the various careers available in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Students will conduct independent research and collaborate in small groups to analyze and synthesize information on different topics. The primary objective of this course is to encourage students to engage with professionals in the field, conduct short interviews, and invite them as guest speakers. Short field trips may also be organized to provide students with hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of different careers.

INTRO TO AEROSPACE

1 Semester

This class is geared to enhance your flying curiosity and prepare you for professional courses in aeronautics, becoming an astronaut, a pilot, an air traffic controller, an engineer, an aircraft technician, an airline manager, an air force officer, or a satellite specialist. This course will review fundamental concepts studied in mathematics applied to aerospace engineering subjects. Part of the course will be in a shop laboratory, where the students will build an aircraft model. This course includes elements of the following subjects: Aerodynamics, Aircraft Engines, Flight Mechanics, Aircraft Systems, Air Traffic Control, Air Navigation, Aerospace Engineering, Remote Piloting (small drones), Air Regulation, and additional topics.

STEM SUPPORT 9 & 10

1 Semester or 1 Full Year

These courses are designed to build skills in reading comprehension, mathematical reasoning, problem solving, understanding the scientific process and study skills to help students succeed in their Math and Science classes at Menaul School. Organization and self-advocacy are a focus throughout. STEM Support classes work to build student skills at the 9th and 10th grade level through carefully organized lessons developed through careful collaboration within the STEM department, supporting students in feeling more confident in their STEM classes.

Upper School - Social Studies

When you cross
international
borders, you
leave social
barriers behind.



Upper School - Social Studies

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The Social Studies department believes students should learn how to access and organize information to make it beneficial. We believe students should study specific content areas and be able to think about content using critical thinking to form judgments and put ideas together. Every opportunity is taken to encourage students to develop an appreciation for and interest in the content areas. We believe that students who work through our offerings will emerge ready to take on the responsibilities of citizenship with an appreciation of their position in time and space as well as an appreciation for the events that have shaped their past.

TOTAL CREDITS NEEDED: 4.0

World History & Geography	0.5
World History/AP World History.....	1
U.S. History/AP US History	1
U.S. Government	0.5
AP Art History	1
AP U.S. Govt and Politics	0.5
Social Studies Electives	1

WORLD GEOGRAPHY 09

1 Semester

This is a global geography and history course that provides a study of the world in which humans have developed and organized themselves into communities. In this course, you will learn the basic tools that world geographers and historians use to study the development of human communities and you will put those tools to use. The primary goal of this course is to welcome students into the fascinating study of human history and understand how that history was shaped by several factors including, but not limited to, world geography. This course is not a typical march-through-time history class covering one event after another. Students instead focus on overarching inquiry problems and narrative frames, situated at a variety of scales, to organize and explore this significant period.

WORLD HISTORY 10

1 Full Year

The World History course presents students with a chronological and geographical survey of historical events and cultural developments from the Enlightenment to the modern day. Emphasizing a global perspective, the curriculum includes in-depth studies of Asian and African histories, consciously avoiding an exclusively Western lens. Students are expected to engage in critical thinking and to demonstrate their understanding through competent writing. The course challenges students to critically analyze historical events, develop a nuanced understanding of diverse cultural narratives, and refine their ability to articulate these insights in a clear, academic manner.

Upper School - Social Studies

UNITED STATES HISTORY 11

United States History

1 Full Year

This course provides students with the opportunity to acquire an understanding of the development of the people and government of the United States by examining the political, economic, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural events that have affected the rise and growth of the nation from 1750 to the Modern Era. Content covered includes, but is not limited to: an understanding of the political geography of the US, changes and trends in US culture through the centuries, the impact of US military engagements, the technological and urban transformation of the country, and the development of US participation on the international stage

HONORS UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT 12

1 Semester

Because participation is essential to the continued success and well being of our political system, this course is designed to enrich students' understanding of the US government and empower them to become active participants in our political system. Throughout the course we will cover important political topics from the past including voting rights, representation, and slavery, as well as modern issues regarding immigration, citizenship and protected groups. Projects and exams are designed to assess constitutional understanding as well as policy evaluation and incorporation.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

1 Semester

This course builds foundational skills in writing college level research papers by examining integral components of research-based essays and formats. Throughout the course, students will engage in active research projects, including field work at the Menaul Historical Library, to develop high-level, engaging essays. Students will also learn skills in editing, citing, and peer review in their final research project.

PERSONAL FINANCE

1 Semester

This is an introductory course that aims to help students develop real-world financial skills for today's changing, global economy. Students will weigh the relative value of investments in their own lives, including education, job and career training, and common financial products. This course will focus on budgeting, investing, marketing products, and innovative ideas. Projects, presentations and argumentation will be expected of all students.

Upper School - Social Studies

ECONOMICS

1 Semester

In this course, students will learn to analyze human decision-making on both the macro- and micro-economic scale. Students will work from a theoretical base to understand the nature of our market-based economic system, its successes and difficulties and concepts such as supply and demand, employment, inflation, the business cycle, debt, and monetary policy. How do governments turn economics to political purpose? What are the positive and negative outcomes which may result? This course will emphasize research and debate, demanding a high standard of evidence-based argumentation to sway the invisible hand of the instructor.

INTRO TO BUSINESS

1 Semester

Introduction to Business is an immersive course where students will open and operate a campus coffee and snack shop. Through practical experiences, students will delve into budget management, staffing, leadership, product listing development, and market research. The course emphasizes hands-on learning, allowing students to apply theoretical business concepts to the day-to-day operations of their own small business. Collaborative projects with local business professionals and direction and advice from local industry leaders will provide valuable insights into effective business practices. A significant focus will be placed on understanding the responsibilities associated with working in and managing a small business, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and rewards of entrepreneurship. This course is an excellent introduction for those considering a career in business, large or small.

INTRO TO LAW

1 Semester

In Intro to Law, students will explore the foundations of their constitutional rights through caselaw. They will research landmark Supreme Court cases as well as current cases on the docket to understand the extent and restrictions of our fundamental rights. Are you allowed to burn your draft card in protest (if we still had them and carried them around)? Does a teacher need probable cause to search a student's bag? Does the Fourteenth Amendment incorporate the Second Amendment? This course will analyze the reasoning behind these questions in order to make judgements on new legal scenarios with associated new facts. This course is an excellent introduction for those considering a career as a lawyer or legal professional.

Upper School - Social Studies

HOME ECONOMICS

1 Semester

This course will provide students with essential life skills in cooking, baking, child development, housing maintenance, car maintenance, and financial literacy. They will learn to prepare a variety of dishes, understand how to take care of themselves and others based on basic first aid and safety measures, and gain knowledge in personal finance to make informed decisions for their everyday lives.

INTRO TO PUERTO RICO

1 Semester

This course will provide students with a comprehensive overview of Puerto Rico's history, from its indigenous peoples to its modern status as a U.S. territory. Students will explore the island's colonial history, cultural diversity, and contributions to the broader Caribbean and American contexts. By the end of the course, students will be able to understand the key events and figures in Puerto Rico's history; analyze the impact of colonialism on Puerto Rico; examine Puerto Rican culture, including its music, literature, and arts; explore the political status and relationship of Puerto Rico with the United States; and develop critical thinking and research skills through various assignments.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

1 Semester

WWII is a semester-long high school course that delves into the complexities of the Second World War, exploring its causes, key events, and lasting repercussions. Students will examine the interwar period, major military campaigns, political strategies, civilian and soldier experiences, and significant outcomes like the Holocaust and the formation of the United Nations. Utilizing diverse sources, from documents to multimedia, the course cultivates critical thinking and historical analysis, with students engaging in research, writing, and presentations to deepen their understanding of the war's impact on global history and its enduring influence on the modern world.

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

1 Semester

This course examines the American Civil War and its impact on American society. Through a study of the conflict's causes, events, and aftermath, students will analyze the government strategies, social and economic changes, and political developments of the era. This course aims to foster an understanding of the complexities of the Civil War and its lasting effects on American society.

Upper School - Social Studies

HISTORY OF ROME

1 Semester

History of Rome is a semester elective course spanning from the mythical foundations to the establishment of the Lombard Kingdom, covering key periods such as the Roman monarchy, the republican era, the rise of the empire, the Pax Romana, and its eventual collapse. This course offers an in-depth exploration of pivotal moments in Roman history, emphasizing critical touchpoints that shaped the course of the civilization. Students will gain insights into the foundational myths, the evolution of Roman political systems, and the socio-political dynamics that defined the rise and fall of the Roman Empire. With a focus on preparing students for advanced classical history study at the university level, the course fosters critical thinking and analytical skills, encouraging a nuanced understanding of the complexities within Roman society, politics, and culture.

AP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

1 Semester

This is a more rigorous version of our Government course. This course will delve more deeply into the primary source documents and discussions between the founders about the nature of the American republic. Students will engage with multiple primary source documents such as the Federalist Papers, a wide variety of Supreme Court cases, the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution. Topics will include the foundations of American democracy, the interactions between the three branches of government, civil liberties and civil rights, American political ideology, and how students themselves can participate in the political process. There will be a strong focus on primary source documents and analysis. The goal of this course is to prepare students not only for college, but for citizenship.

AP WORLD HISTORY

1 Full Year

In AP World History: Modern, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation.

Upper School - Social Studies

AP US HISTORY

1 Full Year

In AP U.S. History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change. The course also provides eight themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migration and settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures.

AP ART HISTORY

1 Full Year

The AP Art History course welcomes students into the global art world to engage with its forms and content as they research, discuss, read, and write about art, artists, art making, and responses to and interpretations of art. By investigating specific course content of 250 works of art characterized by diverse artistic traditions from prehistory to the present, the students develop in-depth, holistic understanding of the history of art from a global perspective. Students learn and apply skills of visual, contextual, and comparative analysis to engage with a variety of art forms, developing understanding of individual works and interconnections across history. AP Art History is the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university art history survey course.

HUMANITIES SUPPORT 9-12

1 Semester

This course is designed to build skills in reading comprehension, listening, writing, speaking and study skills to help students succeed in their English, Religion and Philosophy, and Social Studies classes at Menaul School. Organization and self-advocacy are a focus throughout. Support teachers regularly enter the classrooms, directly understand the content and teacher expectations for work, then support the students in producing strong work. Support teachers also identify gaps in knowledge or skills, especially in students entering Menaul School from other education systems with differing expectations.

Upper School - Visual & Performing Arts

Some of the
best learning
environments
aren't just in
classrooms.



Upper School - Visual & Performing Arts

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

TOTAL CREDITS NEEDED: 2

The Menaul School Fine Arts Program focuses on providing students with diverse exposure to the arts as well as to nurture authentic idea development, tenacity, creativity, and performance skills. All courses encourage students to be both inquisitive and inventive. Our program offers supportive classes with instructors who are professional artists and performers with the goal of preparing students for excellence in the community and the world.

FOUNDATIONS OF ART 1

1 Semester

This course will give students the opportunity to develop their own artistic voice while building technical skills. Students will be introduced to a variety of techniques, tools, and media to develop new ways of seeing, transposing, and communicating while focusing on the elements and principles of design. In this course we aim to: Foster a learning environment that supports confidence in creative self-expression, allow students plentiful opportunities to test technical skills and aesthetic values, and provoke critical thinking by linking and studying related topics in art history and the humanities.

FOUNDATIONS OF ART 2

Prerequisite: Foundations of Art 1

1 Semester

This course is an extension of Foundations of Art, in which students seek deeper understanding of the connections between technical ability and artistic expression. The course will enable students to further develop their capacities for making art, interpreting and evaluating visual images, understanding the cultural and historical contexts of art, and raising questions about the nature of art.

CERAMICS

1 Semester

This course is an introduction to the basics of three-dimensional design. Students will learn the properties and methods of working with clay and will acquire an appreciation for space, mass, and structure. They will test their understanding by forming, glazing, throwing, and firing their own work.

Upper School - Visual & Performing Arts

SCULPTURE

Prerequisite: Ceramics

1 Semester

This course is a hands-on studio course promoting creativity and personal artistic expression based on a foundation of proven design principles. By exploring a variety of media including, wire, plaster, metal, and clay, students will learn to identify key elements of art and basic tenets of strong design. Students will learn to bridge their visual and actual perceptions, and will hone their ability to discern shape, form, and aesthetic content.

SENIOR VISUAL ART

1 Semester

This course is designed for students who plan to study visual arts in higher education as well as those who are seeking lifelong enrichment through visual arts. Students are encouraged to push their own creative boundaries and question their own cultural expectations. This is a thought-provoking course in which students develop analytical skills such as problem solving and divergent thinking while working towards technical proficiency and confidence as art-makers. In addition to exploring and comparing visual arts from various perspectives and in various contexts, students are expected to engage in, experiment with and critically reflect upon a wide range of contemporary practices and media.

STUDIO ART

Prerequisite: Foundations of Art 2 or Sculpture

1 Semester

This course is for students who have a passion for art and excelled at the entry level courses. In this course, students will be required to take projects further on their own, making their own creative decisions that will lead them down a unique path of artistic individuality. We will take the foundations of what they learned about elements and principles of design and build upon that, becoming more complex, and earning more creative freedom.

Upper School - Visual & Performing Arts

BEGINNING THEATER

1 Semester or 1 Full Year

This course is structured around preparation for one or two public performances. Students learn about character development, gestures, facial expressions, projection, memorizing lines and blocking, improvisation, and working as an ensemble. In addition to preparing for performances, students learn about theatre history, technical theatre, stage directions, types of stages, parts of the theater, and the roles of theater staff. Students gain self-confidence, express their creativity, lose inhibitions, and learn how to tell a story through their developing acting skills.

ADVANCED THEATER

Prerequisite: Beginning Theatre and Instructor Approval

1 Semester or 1 Full Year

Advanced Theatre is an intensive next step that builds on foundational theatre skills to prepare students for complex public performances. Focused on enhancing character development, students refine their techniques in gesture, expression, vocal projection, and line memorization, while mastering advanced blocking and improvisation. The curriculum extends to the study of significant theatrical styles and movements, set and lighting design, and the intricacies of stage management. Students also delve into script analysis, directorial concepts, and the integration of technology in live performances. Through rigorous rehearsals and collaborative production work, students elevate their acting prowess, deepen their appreciation of theatre arts, and develop storytelling abilities that resonate with audiences.

MUSICAL THEATRE

1 Semester

Musical Theatre is a course designed for students to refine their talents in the distinctive blend of singing, dancing, and acting that comprises musical theatre. Participants will receive advanced training in vocal techniques, choreography, and character portrayal, with a strong emphasis on integrating these skills seamlessly on stage. The course culminates in practical applications of their craft through performances in a Fall Showcase and a Spring Musical, providing students with the opportunity to demonstrate their growth and proficiency in musical theatre. This immersive experience not only hones their artistic abilities but also fosters discipline, teamwork, and the confidence needed to excel in this vibrant performing art form.

Upper School - Visual & Performing Arts

CHOIR

1 Semester or 1 Full Year

This course is designed to teach young musicians the basics of choral singing. Students will learn proper vocal technique, sight singing, part singing, and elementary music theory. Choral literature spans many time periods and styles. Requirements include performances within and beyond the Menaul School community.

BEGINNING BAND

1 Semester or 1 Full Year

This is an introductory course designed for any students who have never played an instrument or have less than one year of experience. The course aims to provide students with a solid foundation in the fundamentals of music performance. Through a combination of individual instruction and ensemble rehearsals, students will develop technical proficiency on their chosen instrument, learn to read music notation, and gain an understanding of basic music theory concepts. Emphasis will be placed on building strong practice habits and developing ensemble skills. Students will demonstrate their newfound skills at concert performances throughout the school year.

ADVANCED BAND

1 Semester or 1 Full Year

This course is designed to challenge students who have played an instrument for more than one year with a higher level of technical proficiency and musicality. Students will continue to develop their individual abilities, with a focus on refining their tone, technique, and expression. Emphasis will be placed on building independent musicianship skills, as well as advanced ensemble skills when rehearsing and performing as a group. Students will have opportunities to perform at our school and at special events in the community, such as the Spring Soiree.

INTRO TO MUSIC THEORY

1 Semester

Intro to Music Theory offers a comprehensive exploration of various musical elements within a structured framework. Organized into four units, the course ensures depth of study and prepares students for professional studies of music at the collegiate level. Unit 1 delves into rhythm, providing students with hands-on experience in percussive techniques. Unit 2 introduces music notation and theory, laying the groundwork for a solid understanding of fundamental musical principles. Unit 3 focuses on chord progressions, applying theoretical knowledge to practical musical application. Unit 4 serves as a culmination phase, offering students the opportunity to explore composition along a thematic route, such as world music, pop music, or film music, as well as broadening their musical horizons beyond Western traditions. Intro to Music Theory will be a rigorous yet engaging exploration of music theory, history, and instrumentality.

Upper School - Modern Languages

Differences
should be
celebrated.
Not feared.



Upper School - Modern Languages

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Language and communication are the core of human experience. We educate students so that they are linguistically and culturally equipped to communicate successfully in a pluralistic American society and abroad. All students are expected to develop and maintain proficiency in English and at least one other language.

TOTAL CREDITS NEEDED: 2

The graduation requirement in Modern Languages is two years of a language, or equivalent proficiency as determined by a written test and an oral interview. Courses should be taken in order and in consecutive years.

SPANISH 1

1 Full Year

In this course students will begin to acquire the skills needed to communicate in Spanish. Lessons will consist of common vocabulary, common expressions and emphasis of the practice necessary to become skilled in using the language effectively. Themes covered in class will be taken from the student's everyday life experiences and will include topics such as family, home, descriptions of people and neighborhoods, food, clothing, school, etc. The grammatical focus will be on the present tense. Students will be exposed to activities in class throughout the year where Spanish is used for listening, speaking, writing, and reading.

SPANISH 2

1 Full Year

In this course students will continue their acquisition of the skills needed to communicate at an intermediate level in Spanish. Lessons will consist of common theme-based vocabulary, common theme-based expressions and emphasis of the practice necessary to become more skilled in using the language effectively. Themes covered in class will be more global than those covered in Spanish 1 including travel, airports, train stations, geography, hotels, restaurants, car travel, directions, shopping, banks, and journeys into Spanish-speaking countries. History and culture of Spain and Latin America will be incorporated into lessons. Tenses mastered will include the past and future. Class presentations and projects in Spanish will be assigned throughout the year as students strengthen their listening, speaking, writing, and reading skills.

Upper School - Modern Languages

ADVANCED SPANISH

1 Full Year

Students will continue their growth and development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in Spanish. An emphasis will be placed on conversation and writing using more sophisticated Spanish. Student will do frequent projects and presentations on a variety of topics reflecting students' interests such as world sports, Latino traditions, foods, film, music, Latino holidays, heritage, travel, current events, current trends in fashion and culture, etc. throughout the year. These projects and presentations will be used to acquire and strengthen the use of theme-based vocabulary, writing in Spanish, and oral skills at a more advanced level. The grammatical focus will be on the more advanced tenses and expressions used in spoken and written Spanish.

AP SPANISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

1 Full Year

AP Spanish Language and Culture is equivalent to an intermediate level college course in Spanish. Students cultivate their understanding of Spanish language and culture by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication in real-life situations which includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness as they explore concepts related to family and communities, personal and public identities, beauty and aesthetics, science and technology, contemporary life, and global challenges. The course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions).

CHINESE 1

1 Full Year

This course introduces first-time students to the modern Chinese language while focusing on listening and speaking fluently and intelligibly. This course also introduces students to reading both simplified and traditional characters. Students will work with both other learners and with native speakers to create dialogues, read and discuss short stories, explore differences and similarities between Chinese and other languages, and describe themselves and their own world to a Chinese-speaking audience while exploring the Chinese-speaking world through listening, speaking, and reading. The goal of this course is to develop expressive fluency, confidence and basic literacy. Therefore, writing will not be taught, and Pinyin Romanization will be used to support learning goals.

Upper School - Modern Languages

CHINESE 2

1 Full Year

This course builds upon the foundation laid in Chinese 1, increasing students' command of grammar and vocabulary and beginning to build strong foundations for reading and writing Chinese characters without the aid of Pinyin Romanization. Through dialogues, composition exercises and frequent exchanges with native Chinese students on campus and at Menaul's daughter school in Qingdao, students will develop the command and confidence they need to use Chinese in everyday contexts with speakers from a variety of locations. By the end of the year, students should be ready to attend a scaffolded study-abroad program at Menaul Qingdao or another Chinese school, if they so desire.

CHINESE 3

1 Full Year

Building on the proficiency developed in Chinese 1 and 2, Chinese 3 aims to deepen students' grasp of grammar and vocabulary while furthering their ability to read and write Chinese characters independently, moving beyond reliance on Pinyin Romanization. Through engaging dialogues, composition exercises, and continued interactions with native Chinese students on campus and at Menaul's sister school in Qingdao, students will refine their language skills and cultural understanding. The course places a strong emphasis on practical language use in various everyday contexts, enabling students to communicate confidently with speakers from diverse locations. As a culmination, students will be well-prepared to participate in a structured study-abroad program at Menaul Qingdao or another Chinese school, should they choose to pursue this opportunity. The Menaul-Qingdao connection is further expanded in Chinese 3, advancing students to the next logical steps in their linguistic and cultural journey and preparing them for success in AP Chinese Language and Composition in the next year.

Upper School - Religion and Philosophy

Every school
has spirit.
Not every
school has
spirituality.



Upper School - Religion & Philosophy

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The Department of Religion and Philosophy aspires to develop within Menaul students a basic understanding of world religious teachings and traditions, an appreciation of the centrality of the religious and spiritual dimension of human experience, and the curiosity to struggle with the “big questions” about the purpose and meaning of life.

An emphasis on Scripture and the Reformed Christian tradition reflects Menaul’s Presbyterian roots and continuing affiliation with the Presbyterian Church (USA); however, the department has no sectarian or doctrinal agenda. Students are encouraged to explore their own faith and beliefs freely and creatively.

TOTAL CREDITS NEEDED: 2

Students must take one semester of religion/philosophy each year.

COVENANT

Freshmen Required 1 Semester

An Introduction to Biblical Narrative - The Hebrew scriptures and the New Testament are not merely religious books but the most influential collections of literature in our Western culture, comprised of texts which are at the heart of the art, literature, ethics, and politics of our world today. This course will introduce students to the content and context of these books, focusing on the foundational theme of covenant as it is developed first in the Hebrew scriptures and later in the gospel tradition.

COMPARATIVE WORLD RELIGIONS

Sophomore Required 1 Semester

This course will provide students with a brief introduction to the development of religion from prehistory to the present and focus on the origins, beliefs and practices of eight major religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto.

Upper School - Religion & Philosophy

ETHICS

Juniors Required 1 Semester

This course will provide students with an introduction to the philosophy of ethics, offer approaches to moral decision-making and encourage reflection on the values that will shape their lives. Students will learn the classic theories of normative ethics, wrestle with the larger questions of meta-ethics (what makes an action right or wrong) and then choose a contemporary issue in such areas as bioethics, the environment, law, or business as an exercise in applied ethics.

CREDO: SENIOR RELIGION SEMINAR

Seniors Required 1 Semester

This class provides seniors the opportunity to reflect on their beliefs and values, specifically how their life experiences have shaped their current religious, ethical and spiritual worldview. Short literary texts, poetry and film will be introduced to spark philosophical and theological discussion, but the primary text of the class will be each student's own life story. Students will write spiritual autobiographies to help them recognize and critically examine the genesis and development of their beliefs. The goal is that every senior will graduate with good self-understanding and the ability to articulate thoughtfully not only what they believe, but also why.

APOCALYPSE: THE BOOK OF REVELATION

1 Semester

The last book of the New Testament, the Revelation or Apocalypse, is a violent and puzzling text that offers a very different vision of Christ from the one portrayed in the gospels. Curiosity about the book intrigues many for whom the rest of the Bible holds little interest.

This course will provide students the opportunity and tools to read, interpret, discuss, and animate their imaginations with this strange yet incredibly powerful and ultimately hopeful text. What did the book mean for its original first century audience, and how might it speak to us today? While our focus will be on the text of Revelation, we will also consider other apocalyptic literature, the history of millenarian and apocalyptic movements and contemporary interpretations of the Revelation in film, music, popular literature, and the visual arts.

Upper School - Religion & Philosophy

RELIGION IN AMERICA

1 Semester

This course will survey the central role of religion, especially Biblical themes and theology, in the unfolding history of the United States from the colonial period to the present. From the Puritan vision of the ‘city on a hill’ to current ideas of American exceptionalism, it is impossible to understand American society, political life and national psychology without an appreciation of the history of religious motivation and conviction in the most religious wealthy country in the world. Religion has been at the core of the development of an American identity. Students will study court decisions and interpretations of the First Amendment, consider the recent sharp rise in religious non-affiliation, the impact of pluralism, and debate the proper place of religion in public life.

FAITH AND SCIENCE

1 Semester

Are faith and science mutually exclusive? Can people affirm both the claims of modern science and their religious beliefs? Students will consider diverse perspectives on these questions, from conflict to contrast to convergence. We will of course look at the ongoing debate between evolution by natural selection and creationism/intelligent design, but most of the class will focus on recent discoveries and theories about cosmology, quantum mechanics, mathematics, fractals, neurotheology, and artificial intelligence. The development of AI raises important questions about consciousness and what it means to be human.

INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY

1 Semester

This course serves as an introduction to one of the oldest areas of study in the world. The earliest known records of formal education, from all over the globe, show that philosophy is one of the primary subjects that human beings ever perused. Simply put, philosophy is the study of life’s most basic questions. Questions about existence: why is there something rather than nothing? Questions about knowledge: how do we know things? Questions about morality: what is the right thing to do and why do we care? Questions about meaning: what does all of this matter? Critical thinking, careful writing, and deep, deliberate reading are skills we will practice in this course. These skills will help us as we seek to think clearer, understand better, and empathize deeper for the hope that we might gain a little more perspective on ourselves and our world.

Upper School - Physical Education

Physical
health is
academic.



Upper School - Physical Education

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The goals of the Menaul School physical education program include general physical fitness, mastery of skills that ensure a lifetime of personal enjoyment and acquiring the specific skills students need for the sports in which they are involved.

TOTAL CREDITS NEEDED: 2

Four semesters are needed to complete this requirement.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

1 Semester

Upper School PE has three elements. First, we mirror the activities of the varsity teams in training. Second, we engage in non-varsity sports that are intramurals at many colleges and universities. Finally, we place special emphasis on muscular and cardio-vascular development. Students have access to the weight room, where they are introduced to a free-weight training program to strengthen all muscle groups.

FOOTBALL

1 Semester

This class is for students who will participate in team football. During the season, football players will participate in practice to develop and improve skills. When the sport is not in season, students will work on muscular and cardiovascular development. This class requires time outside of school hours for extra practice, games and events. Students will be required to travel with the team to events. Enrollment in this class requires approval from the coach.

VOLLEYBALL

1 Semester

This class is for students who will participate in team volleyball. During the season, volleyball players will participate in practice to develop and improve skills. When the sport is not in season, students will work on muscular and cardiovascular development. The class requires time outside of school hours for extra practice, games and events. Students will be required to travel with the team to events. Enrollment in this class requires approval from the coach.

Upper School - Physical Education

CROSS-COUNTRY

1 Semester

This class is for students who will participate in cross-country running. During the season, cross-country runners will participate in practice to develop and improve skills. When the sport is not in season, students will work on muscular and cardiovascular development. The class requires time outside of school hours for extra practice, games and events. Students will be required to travel with the team to events. Enrollment in this class requires approval from the coach.

BASKETBALL

1 Semester

This class is for students who will participate in team basketball. During the season, basketball players will participate in practice to develop and improve skills. When the sport is not in season, students will work on muscular and cardiovascular development. The class requires time outside of school hours for extra practice, games and events. Students will be required to travel with the team to events. Enrollment in this class requires approval from the coach.

SOCCER

1 Semester

This class is for students who will participate in team soccer. During the season, soccer players will participate in practice to develop and improve skills. When the sport is not in season, students will work on muscular and cardiovascular development. The class requires time outside of school hours for extra practice, games and events. Students will be required to travel with the team to events. Enrollment in this class requires approval from the coach.

TRACK AND FIELD

1 Semester

This class is for students who will participate in track and field. During the season, track athletes will participate in practice to develop and improve skills. When the sport is not in season, students will work on muscular and cardiovascular development. The class requires time outside of school hours for extra practice, games and events. Students will be required to travel with the team to events. Enrollment in this class requires approval from the coach.

Upper School - CAPSTONE

We don't just
learn about
the world.
We learn about
ourselves.



Upper School - Capstone

The Senior Capstone Project is an activity of discovery, exploration and participation. Each student chooses a topic of personal interest that requires creativity and curiosity and explores personal competencies, future goals and personal biases. The Senior Capstone Project requires the student to be an independent learner, creating and engaging in personally meaningful activities. With the aid of faculty and a community mentor, students will complete a research paper, a product and portfolio, and give a presentation about their project. During the Capstone experience, seniors also hear from guest speakers and participate in life-skill lessons.

EXEMPLARY CAPSTONE PROJECTS:

Growing up in the hot and sunny climate of Morocco and then coming to Menaul School in sunny Albuquerque, Inas El Ouazguiti (class of 2019) was drawn to the topic of solar energy and its possibilities for her Capstone Project. Mentoring with an associate professor and a postdoctoral researcher at UNM's Center for High Tech Materials, Inas conducted in-depth research on thermophotovoltaic (TPV) solar cells, a new technology in the field, and gained experience working in a cleanroom environment at UNM. By the end of her Capstone Project, after arduous trial and error, Inas succeeded in building a functioning TPV cell, an achievement that will help advance her educational and professional pursuits in the engineering field.

Bonita Murara (class of 2019) grew up in Rwanda watching her deaf grandmother become more and more marginalized. Rwanda does not recognize sign language as an official language. Bonita decided to do something about that. With the help of a mentor in Rwanda and one in Albuquerque, Bonita learned advocacy skills that helped her build a website to help advance the cause of the deaf in Rwanda. Bonita also partnered with existing NGOs in Rwanda that are working on behalf of the deaf. Thanks to Bonita and others, Rwanda is closer to completing an official sign language dictionary, which is the first step towards having sign language recognized by the Rwandan government.

Dylan Lerch (class of 2019) combined his skill in woodworking with his passion for music in his Capstone project entitled "Luthiery." Dylan apprenticed with a local luthier to make his own electric guitar, with the ultimate goal of bringing happiness to others through music. During his time with his mentor, Dylan sketched a design, created a template and followed the steps necessary to create a work of art that played music. His unique design was informed by research into the history of luthiery, as well as common design tropes. The expert guidance of this mentor allowed Dylan to deepen his research and put his creative ideas into practice. He worked with wood and hardware that eventually, through trial and error, became a successful finished product. The song "Sultans of Swing," played to an audience of faculty, family and friends, sounded incredible on a truly one-of-a-kind electric guitar.





Menaul School Accreditation

Menaul School is accredited by the New Mexico State Board of Education and Cognia. Our graduation requirements meet or exceed those of the accrediting agencies. The special focus of the school prescribes additional requirements.



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