



## 2021-2022 School Year

# Middle School Online Course Catalog

This course catalog provides descriptions for the online courses available to students enrolled at Pivot Charter School. In addition to these courses, Pivot Charter School offers a variety of elective courses that can be taken by students at the resource center. Ask your EC for a current list of available on-site elective courses.

<b>Electives</b>	MS 2D Studio Art MS Career Exploration 1 MS Career Exploration 2 MS Coding 1 A MS Coding 1 B MS Digital Art and Design MS Exploring Business MS Exploring Health Science MS Exploring Information Technology	MS Exploring Music MS Fitness MS Game Design 1 A MS Game Design 1 B MS Healthy Living MS Journalism MS Learning in a Digital World MS Photography 1 A MS Photography 1 B
<b>English</b>	English 6 A/B English 7 A/B	English 8 A/B
<b>Mathematics</b>	Math 6 A/B Math 7 A/B	Math 8 A/B Algebra 1 A/B
<b>Physical Education</b>	Physical Education A/B	
<b>Science</b>	Science 6 A/B Science 7 A/B Science 8 A/B	Integrated Science 6 A/B Integrated Science 7 A/B Integrated Science 8 A/B
<b>Social Studies</b>	Social Studies 6 A/B Social Studies 7 A/B	Social Studies 8 A/B

## Electives

Any course not fulfilling a specific graduation requirement or that goes over the minimum requirements may be counted as an elective course. Elective courses can also be found in the CTE, Technology, or VAPA categories.

## MS 2D Studio Art

Close your eyes and imagine you're standing in an art studio—the smell of paint, the heat of the kiln, and the infinite creative possibilities that linger in the air. This is where art is born, and in 2D Studio Art, you'll learn how to bring your art visions to life. Whatever medium you prefer—painting, drawing, photography—this course will teach you the design elements and principles needed to create a work of art, explore your artistic inspirations, travel back in time to look at art in different cultures, and gain insight about the art of critiquing. If you've ever dreamed about making a living as an artist, this course will give you the tools and background that you need to turn those dreams into a reality!

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

## MS Career Exploration 1

How do you pick a career path when you're not sure what's even out there? This course allows you to begin exploring options in fields such as teaching, business, government, hospitality, health science, IT, and more! You'll align your interests, wants, and needs to career possibilities, including the required education for each. Let's find a pathway that works for you.

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

## MS Career Exploration 2

Imagine that it's 20 years from now. What career do you see yourself in? What do you imagine that you'll be doing? Will you be fighting forest fires or engineering the next rocket into space? With all the careers available, it can be difficult to narrow them down. In Middle School Career Exploration 2 we'll explore more careers and see what it takes to succeed. You'll learn more about what steps are needed to prepare for your career and how to compare the pros and cons of different career choices. Finally, you'll get the chance to try out parts of different careers to see if you're a perfect fit!

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

## MS Coding 1 A

Do you find yourself wondering how your favorite apps, websites, and games were made? Maybe you want to try building your own. Well, now you can! In Middle School Coding 1a, you will get an introduction to the basics of computer science, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and Python. You'll leave the course with a portfolio of work you can show off.

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

## MS Coding 1 B

Let's take the coding skills you learned in the previous course to the next level! You'll expand your knowledge with Advanced Python, HTML, and JavaScript. You'll further build out your portfolio and start thinking about a career in the fast-growing IT field.

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

## MS Digital Art and Design

There are so many different types of art in this world—fine art, classical art, visual art—but the impact of digital art and design is all around us, often in ways that you probably aren't even aware of! After taking Digital Art and Design, you'll enjoy a deeper understanding and appreciation for all things digital as you explore this special genre of art found in everything from advertising to animation to photography and beyond. In this course, you'll learn about the evolution of art, the basic principles of art and design, and the role of art in politics and society. Additionally, you will actually create your own digital art and make it come alive. Give your creative side a boost with this Digital Art and Design course!

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

## MS Exploring Business

Are you interested in business, leading people, or making decisions to help a business be successful? While there are many different career choices in the field of business, in this course, you'll discover options such as management, human resources, business operations, information management, and accounting. Explore the skills you'll need, common tasks, the technology used, and characteristics of various business careers.

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

## MS Exploring Health Science

Where do healthcare workers spend their days? What do they really do? From cruise ships to sports arenas, you can find healthcare workers in many places that you might not expect. Explore this field, including what it would be like to work in a medical lab. Learn what it takes to keep you and your patients safe, and begin to learn about the human body and basic first-aid.

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

## MS Exploring Information Technology

Are you interested in creating a website or app, or managing various technology solutions, but not sure where to start? If so, then it's time to explore the different career options available to you in IT and learn the foundations of IT to get you started. Examine various IT pathways of web and digital communications, information and support services, network systems, and programming and software development. Let's investigate which career pathway is right for you!

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

## MS Exploring Music

What comes to mind when you hear the word 'music'? Do you think about your favorite band or artist? Do you think about instruments and scales and chords? The word 'music' means something different to everyone. This is why in Exploring Music there is a little bit of something for everyone! You will learn about how we hear music and how music affects our lives. You will explore important elements of music like rhythm, pitch, and harmony, as well as different musical genres. You will discover more about your singing voice and musical instruments and composition while taking in the history and culture of music over the years. Tune up your understanding and appreciation for all things music by signing up for this course!

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

## MS Fitness

Are you physically fit? What does being fit mean to you? Physical fitness is a lot more than just a number on a scale, and that's exactly what you'll learn in this course! Middle School Fitness helps you understand the basics of being physically fit and allows for a deeper understanding of your body's functions. You will learn about the complex science behind exercise and determine how you can test your current level of fitness. Explore what it means to be mindful and discover what inspires you. Improving your physical fitness is a smart choice to make at any age, and by signing up for this course, you will be taking the first step on your exciting journey to understanding and improving your physical fitness.

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

## MS Game Design 1 A

We love to play video games, but have you ever wanted to build your own? If you are interested in a career in technology but also want a creative outlet, Game Design might be the field for you. Learn how to build a game from the ground up in this interactive and hands-on course that will teach you all the ins and outs of making your own game.

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

## MS Game Design 1 B

It's time to take your Game Design knowledge up a level! You built your game design skills and Scratch techniques in the first part of this course. By the end, you wrote your game design document. Now you are ready to start developing that game! You'll create details and add component pieces in a game while learning to prototype, troubleshoot, and test.

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

## MS Healthy Living

Learn how to adopt the habits of a healthy lifestyle. In this course, students will assess their sleeping patterns, understand the benefits of a nutritious diet and active lifestyle, learn how to identify food labels and create healthy meal plans. We will analyze the benefits of restorative practices such as meditation, gratitude, journaling, and visualization. Students will discover strategies, exercises, and resources that can improve their emotional and mental health. Class will include group activities, short assignments, and a cumulative final project.

*Curriculum: Google Classroom*

## MS Journalism

Are you someone who likes to get the story straight? Do you always want to know more? Who? What? When? Where? How? These are the details that make for a great story. Knowing how to find these key facts and then write them up in a way that makes it easy for others to read about it is the skill of a true journalist. In Middle School Journalism: Tell Your Story, you'll learn how to ask the right questions, look for the details, and find the story in any situation. You'll learn how to gather information effectively, organize ideas, format stories

for media production, and edit your articles. Get ready to break that news!

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

## MS Learning in a Digital World

The digital world seems to change every day, and touch more of our lives. We use technology to communicate with friends and family, find never-ending entertainment options, follow our favorite sports teams and fashion trends, and do our school work. In Learning in a Digital World you will get the tools to navigate this exciting and always changing world. Learn about real-world issues and how to solve real-world problems through interactive and hands-on assignments. Discover what it means to be a responsible digital citizen, expand your digital literacy, and become a successful online student. Consider the best ways to find, create, and share information, learn to maximize information and communication technologies, and explore digital content creation, from emails and blogs to social media, videos, and podcasts.

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

## MS Photography 1 A

Photographs are all around us, and each helps to tell a story. Now it's time for you to create your story through photos you learn how to take in this course. Learn the basics of using a camera, lighting, and how to choose great subjects to create magazine-worthy photos and amaze your friends and family with your skills.

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

## MS Photography 1 B

Do you have vacation photos or pics of your pet that need a little editing? How about getting ready to add that new selfie you took to your social media platform? Taking photos is an art, and editing photos is a skill that many photographers seek to master. Explore how to manipulate angles and lighting, the purpose for different types of photo files, how to use different software to edit photos, and safe places you can store them. You'll be well on your way to being an editing guru when you're done with this course.

*Curriculum: Edmentum*

# English

## English 6 A/B

English 6 delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to build students' communication and reading comprehension skills. Reading comprehension lessons strengthen students' critical analysis skills as they study how nonfiction and literature can be used to share ideas. Writing lessons combine free-response exercises with drafting strategies and exemplars to help students communicate clearly and credibly in narrative, argumentative, and explanatory styles. To develop skills specific to public discourse, speaking and listening lessons guide students as they evaluate clips and readings from speeches and discussions. In language lessons, students build foundational grammar skills they need to articulate their ideas and understand challenging words.

*Curriculum: Apex Learning*

## English 7 A/B

English 7 delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to build students' communication and reading comprehension skills. Reading comprehension lessons strengthen students' critical analysis skills as they study how nonfiction and literature can be used to share ideas. Writing lessons combine free-response exercises with drafting strategies and exemplars to help students communicate clearly and credibly in narrative, argumentative, and explanatory styles. To develop skills specific to public discourse, speaking and listening lessons guide students as they evaluate clips and readings from speeches and discussions. In language lessons, students build foundational grammar skills they need to articulate their ideas and understand challenging words.

*Curriculum: Apex Learning*

## English 8 A/B

English 8 delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to build students' communication and reading comprehension skills. Reading comprehension lessons strengthen students' critical analysis skills as they study how nonfiction and literature can be used to share ideas. Writing lessons combine free-response exercises with drafting strategies and exemplars to help students communicate clearly and credibly in narrative, argumentative, and explanatory styles. To develop skills specific to public discourse, speaking and listening lessons guide students as they evaluate clips and readings from speeches and discussions. In language lessons, students build foundational grammar skills they need to articulate their ideas and understand challenging words.

*Curriculum: Apex Learning*

# Mathematics

## Math 6 A/B

Math 6 delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to develop computational fluency, deepen conceptual understanding, and apply mathematical practices. Course topics include ratios and rates, fraction and decimal operations, and signed numbers. Students continue to build their algebra skills by plotting points in all four quadrants of the coordinate plane and solving equations and inequalities. Geometry topics include area, surface area, and volume, and statistical work features measures of center and variability, box plots, dot plots, and histograms.

*Curriculum: Apex Learning*

## Math 7 A/B

Math 7 delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to develop computational fluency, deepen conceptual understanding, and apply mathematical practices. Throughout the course, students gain a deep understanding of proportions and their use in solving problems. They extend their fluency with operations on rational numbers and translate among different forms of rational numbers. Algebra topics include simplifying and rewriting algebraic expressions and solving more complex equations and inequalities. Students also

sketch geometric figures and explore scale drawings, investigate circle properties and angle relationships, and deepen their understanding of area, volume, and surface area. They see how statistics uses sample data to make predictions about populations and compare data from different data sets. Students gain a fundamental understanding of probability and explore different ways to find or estimate probabilities.

*Curriculum: Apex Learning*

## Math 8 A/B

Math 8 delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to develop computational fluency, deepen conceptual understanding, and apply mathematical practices. In this course, students focus on understanding functions — what they are, how to represent them in different ways, and how to write them to model mathematical and real-world situations. In particular, students investigate linear functions by learning about slope and slope-intercept form. Students' understanding of linear functions is extended to statistics, where they make scatter plots and use linear functions to model data. They solve linear equations and equations involving roots, and explore systems of linear equations. Additional topics include exponents, powers of ten, scientific notation, and irrational numbers. Students learn about transformations, and extend that understanding to an investigation of congruence and similarity. Other geometric concepts explored include the Pythagorean theorem, angle relationships, and volumes of cylinders, cones, and spheres.

*Curriculum: Apex Learning*

## Algebra 1 A/B

Algebra I builds students' command of linear, quadratic, and exponential relationships. Students learn through discovery and application, developing the skills they need to break down complex challenges and demonstrate their knowledge in new situations.

Course topics include problem-solving with basic equations and formulas; an introduction to functions and problem solving; linear equations and systems of linear equations; exponents and exponential functions; sequences and functions; descriptive statistics; polynomials and factoring; quadratic equations and functions; and function transformations and inverses.

This course supports students as they develop computational fluency, deepen conceptual understanding, and apply mathematical knowledge. Students discover new concepts through guided instruction and confirm their understanding in an interactive, feedback-rich environment.

*Curriculum: Apex Learning*

## Physical Education

### Physical Education A/B

Physical Education for middle school students is a log-based PE course for Pivot students. Students must record their physical activity, averaging 40 minutes per school day, as well as complete journals, discussions, and other written activities.

*Note: Physical Education A is the fall semester course. Physical Education B is the spring semester course.*

# Science

## Science 6 A/B

Middle School Earth Science delivers instruction, practice, and review to help students develop scientific literacy, deepen conceptual understanding, and apply scientific practices. Students explore concepts including Earth's systems, engineering design, the nature of the universe, and the interaction between humans and the environment.

*Curriculum: Apex Learning*

## Science 7 A/B

California Middle School Life Science delivers instruction, practice, and review to help students develop scientific literacy, deepen conceptual understanding, and apply scientific practices. Students explore concepts including the relationship between structure and function, the flow of energy and matter through living systems, heredity, and the diversity of life.

*Curriculum: Apex Learning*

## Science 8 A/B

California Middle School Physical Science delivers instruction, practice, and review to help students develop scientific literacy, deepen conceptual understanding, and apply scientific practices. Students explore concepts including the interactions of matter; motion and stability; waves and their technological applications; and energy.

*Curriculum: Apex Learning*

## Integrated Science 6 A/B

California Middle School Grade 6 Science delivers instruction, practice, and review to help students develop scientific literacy, deepen conceptual understanding, and apply scientific practices. Students explore concepts such as the flow of energy and matter through both living and nonliving systems, including Earth's systems; Earth's weather and climate; the interaction between humans and the environment; the relationship between structure and function; and growth, development, and reproduction in organisms.

*Curriculum: Apex Learning*

## Integrated Science 7 A/B

California Middle School Grade 7 Science delivers instruction, practice, and review to help students develop scientific literacy, deepen conceptual understanding, and apply scientific practices. Students explore concepts such as the structures and properties of matter; chemical reactions; the flow of energy through systems, including Earth's living and nonliving systems; and the history of Earth.

*Curriculum: Apex Learning*



## Integrated Science 8 A/B

California Middle School Grade 8 Science delivers instruction, practice, and review to help students develop scientific literacy, deepen conceptual understanding, and apply scientific practices. Students explore concepts such as waves and electromagnetic radiation, energy and forces on Earth and in space, genetics and natural selection, engineering design, and the impact of humans on Earth's resources.

*Curriculum: Apex Learning*

## Social Studies

### Social Studies 6 A/B

*Curriculum: Apex Learning*

### Social Studies 7 A/B

MS World History and Geography: Medieval and Early Modern Times delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to build middle school students' knowledge of world history, from the Middle Ages through to the Renaissance and the Enlightenment. By constantly honing their ability to analyze history, students build the depth of knowledge and higher-order thinking skills required to demonstrate their mastery when put to the test.

*Curriculum: Apex Learning*

### Social Studies 8 A/B

Middle School U.S. History and Geography delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to build middle school students' knowledge of U.S. history, from the peopling of North America through the era of Reconstruction. Students engage with the subject matter in an interactive, feedback-rich environment as they progress through standards-aligned content. By constantly honing their ability to analyze history, students build the depth of knowledge and higher-order thinking skills required to demonstrate their mastery when put to the test.

*Curriculum: Apex Learning*