



**Madrona Middle School  
Course Catalog  
2023-2024**

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<https://www.tusd.org/schools/madrona>



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## Class Schedule Overview



***BE RESPONSIBLE! BE RESPECTFUL!***

Madrona Middle School offers a variety of exciting courses and programs to meet the needs of all our students, focusing on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (**STEAM**).

This booklet describes curriculum for core subjects as well as a wide variety of enrichment, elective and activity offerings in detail and is designed to help parents guide students into courses that both challenge and inspire them towards successful careers and life pursuits.

Please read through all the selections in order to determine elective course preferences.

Understand that staffing will influence course/section availability. **Course requests are not guaranteed and are subject to change.**

All students will be enrolled in the following courses:

English Language Arts

Math

Science

Social Studies

Physical Education

Enrichment/Elective Class\*

\* Note: English Language Development students will be placed in an ELD class as their elective. Students in Special Education may be placed in Study Skills as their elective.

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## **Core Classes**

**All students will be enrolled in one of each of the 4 core classes**

English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ENG/LA)**

**English/Language Arts 6:** The 6th grade Common Core-based Language Arts curriculum will include instruction in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. In reading, students will focus on close-reading to improve comprehension, analyze the author's message, and critically respond to literary and informational texts. In writing, students will actively engage in three modes of writing: argument, informative/explanatory, and narrative. In speaking and listening, students will focus on comprehension through collaborative discussions and presentation of knowledge and ideas. Vocabulary, grammar, and the mechanics of language are developed throughout the curriculum.

**English/Language Arts 7:** The 7th grade Common Core-based Language Arts curriculum will include instruction in four main areas: reading, writing, language, and listening and speaking. Students will read literature and informational texts. In writing, students will focus on composing narrative, explanatory, argumentative, and research pieces. Language instruction included further development of conventions: knowledge and use, and vocabulary acquisition and use. In speaking and listening, students will focus on comprehension, collaboration and presentation of ideas.

**English/Language Arts 8:** English/Language Arts 8: The 8th grade Common Core-based Language Arts program will emphasize reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Students will read a variety of genres, including essays, poetry, drama, novels, short stories, and articles. An integral component of the language arts program is the development of critical thinking skills. Students will actively and vigorously engage in the writing process through multiple types of both academic and creative writing.

### **MATH**

**6th-Grade Math:** In Grade 6, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

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**Possible Pathway for Math:**

Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
5th Grade Math	6th Grade Math	7th Grade Math	8th Grade Math

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Algebra 1	Geometry Geometry Honors	Algebra 2 Algebra 2 Honors	PreCalculus PreCalculus Honors Trigonometry Statistics AP Statistics

**Accelerated 6th-Grade Math:** In this accelerated course, sixth grade students will be taught all of the CC Math 6 standards and roughly half of the CC Math 7 standards. This course will place students on track to complete a high school level CC Algebra I in eighth grade. This course is open to all students who feel they are able to meet the challenge of this course. The fast pace movement of this course requires students to have a high level of mastery with math facts and computation to be successful.

**Possible Pathway for Accelerated Math:**

Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
5th Grade Math	Accelerated 6th Grade Math	Accelerated 7th Grade Math	Algebra 1

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Geometry Geometry Honors	Algebra 2 Algebra 2 Honors	PreCalculus PreCalculus Honors Trigonometry Statistics AP Statistics	AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC Statistics AP Statistics

**7th-Grade Math:** In Grade 7, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

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**Accelerated 7th-Grade Math:** (Prerequisite: Accelerated 6th Gr Math) In this accelerated course, seventh grade students will be taught the remainder of CC Math 7 standards and the CC Math 8 standards. This course will place students on track to complete a high school level CC Algebra I in eighth grade.

**8th-Grade Math:** In Grade 8, instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

**Algebra I:** (Prerequisite: CC Math 7/8) The fundamental purpose of Algebra I is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in their previous math courses. This course includes standards from the conceptual categories of Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, and Statistics and Probability. In this course, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships; (2) contrast linear and exponential relationships with each other and engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions; (3) extend the laws of exponents to square and cube roots; and (4) apply linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Mastery of this course will allow students to move on to CC Geometry in high school.

## **SCIENCE**

**Science 6:** Per the Next Generation Science Standards, students in Science 6 will study integrated science topics such as Earth's systems, weather and climate, energy, human impact, cells, body systems, organism growth, development, and reproduction, and engineering design. As students engage with these topics, they will gain a deeper understanding of the concepts and apply their understanding to real-world phenomena.

**Science 7:** Per the Next Generation Science Standards, students in Science 7 will study integrated science topics such as matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems, interdependent relationships in ecosystems, geoscience processes and Earth history, Earth systems and resources, human impact, structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, and engineering design. Throughout the year, students will be guided by the theme of energy and how energy can create changes as they experience hands-on activities that encourage critical thinking and problem solving.

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**Science 8:** Per the Next Generation Science Standards, students in Science 8 will study integrated science topics such as space systems, forces and interactions, energy, Earth history, waves and electromagnetic radiation, natural selection and adaptation, genetics, human impact, and engineering design. Emphasis will be placed on exploration, investigation, and authentic science experiences allowing students to strengthen their use of science and engineering practices.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

**Social Studies 6:** This Ancient Civilizations course will provide an overview of prehistory and the rise of civilizations in Asia, Africa, and Europe. Students will learn about these early civilizations through studying their geography, religion, achievements, government and social structures. Through this course, students will have the opportunity to develop critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills through the use of primary and secondary sources in order to establish their own perspective on historical events.

**Social Studies 7:** This World History course is a survey of Medieval and Early Modern Times. Students will study the political, economic, social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas in the years A.D. 100-1789. This course is designed to help students examine the growing interaction among civilizations as well as the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. Students will have the opportunity to develop critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills through the use of primary and secondary sources in order to establish their own perspective on historical events and make modern day parallels.

**Social Studies 8:** Students will be equipped with an understanding of the ideas, issues, and events from the founding of the country up to the Reconstruction after the Civil War, with an emphasis on the structure and functions of the US government. The course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills, all of which are necessary to succeed in the 21st century world. Over the course of the class students will be asked to take on the role of historical detectives, going beyond the who, what, where, and when, to gain a deeper understanding of why these events took place. Students will utilize primary and secondary sources in order to establish their own perspective on these historical events using evidence to support their views.

**English Language Development (ELD)** These classes are designed to provide instruction to students learning English as a second language by developing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in English based on ELD standards and state ELD framework. Placement is based on ELPAC scores, ELD levels and ongoing progress monitoring and consultation. The ELD Class is considered the Elective course for these students.

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## **Study Skills**

**Study Skills 6-8:** This program is designed to assist students learn, understand, and reinforce concepts and/or assignments presented in the general curriculum. Study Skills is a support class for students taking regular education classes. Emphasis is placed on core classes. Students have opportunities to develop and strengthen good study habits and learning strategies through various instructional methods and strategies. Specific goals and objectives identified in the student's IEP will be integrated. The study skills teacher will collaborate with regular education teachers on an on-going basis to develop study strategies and design lessons to best meet academic requirements of the regular classroom.

## **Physical Education 6-8**

All students will participate in a developmentally appropriate physical education program and experience and practice a wide variety of movement skills, forms of physical activity, and the rules of common team sports. The goal is to develop physically literate individuals who have the knowledge, skills and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity. To pursue a lifetime of healthful physical activity, a physically literate individual:

1. Has learned the skills necessary to participate in a variety of physical activities.
2. Knows the implications of and the benefits from involvement in various types of physical activities.
3. Participates regularly in physical activity.
4. Is physically fit.
5. Values physical activity and its contributions to a healthful lifestyle.

## **Show Choir: Grades 6-8**

### ***On PowerSchool, course name PE, course number 0898***

Show Choir is an interdisciplinary course for a group of student vocalists, grades 6 - 8, that focuses on vocal and musicianship skills and technique, specifically in the styles of classic and contemporary popular music, musical theater, vocal jazz, and collegiate-style a cappella while simultaneously exploring and learning to integrate vocal performance with dance and other physical techniques. During this year-long course, students will be exposed to rigorous levels of musicianship, movement, physical activity (including 1-mile run and all activities included in Physical Fitness Testing), aerobic and anaerobic activities, vocal and physical health, solo and group activities and accountability, rhythm, movement patterns, and dance.

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**Independent Study PE:** (ISPE) allows for advanced study in activities not normally available in the District's program. **ISPE activities must be a significantly different program involving 10 or more hours per week in an activity in which the student is highly gifted and highly competitive at a national, state or regional level.** Acceptance or rejection of this request is determined by differences between recreational and competitive programs. Applications for ISPE are available in August by request. Email [madronainfo@tusd.org](mailto:madronainfo@tusd.org) with the child's name, grade, sport to receive an application. Applications must be submitted to the school to be approved by the site administrator. Students will be enrolled in a PE class until the application is approved. **Placement in ISPE is not guaranteed.**

### **Electives - STEAM & Service**

Madrona Middle School students will have the opportunity to take ONE period of elective coursework during the year. Electives are subject to change based on staff availability. **Request does not guarantee placement in the course.** Madrona Middle School focuses on **STEAM** (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) to inspire students towards successful careers and life pursuits. Elective courses are held during the instructional day with additional enrichment programs after school.

#### **Enrichment/Leadership Elective Courses**

##### **Wildcat Wheel: Grade 6:**

***On Powerschool, course name: Enrichment-6; course number 0858.***

Different emphasis and teacher each quarter. Students explore FOUR different areas of enrichment during the four quarters. These courses are: Art; Public Speaking, Intro to Music, Intro to Coding/Computer Science.

##### **Leadership: Grades 6-8. Limited to approx 8-10 spaces for each grade.**

***On Powerschool, course name: Leadership Middle School; course number 0994.***

Students must exhibit strong citizenship and appropriate behavior, plan school wide events including after school activities such as: philanthropic endeavors, lunchtime activities, Spirit Day/Week Activities, publicizing activities, participation in School Site Council and PTA Activities, to name a few.

##### **Sports Management: Grades 6-8.**

***On Powerschool, course name: TECH IN EDUCATION 0892***

"Do you love sports? This elective will help develop Madrona's sports program and explore the finer details in making sports happen. In this class you will:

- Organize and facilitate competitions for your fellow classmates
- Learn how to coach, coordinate, and officiate new sports



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- Successful sports management students:
    - Have high interest in sports
    - Are dedicated to developing fun school-based sporting events for all

### **Arts Appreciation Elective Courses**

#### **Contemporary Music Appreciation/Intro to Guitar/Ukulele: Grades 6-8**

***On Powerschool, course name: Guitar; course number 0925.***

Students will learn guitar theory and technique in the context of contemporary music.

#### **Drama: Grades 7-8:**

***On Powerschool, course name: Drama; course number 0923.***

No experience necessary. Students explore the world of theater production, the art of improvisation, writing/performing pantomimes through teamwork.

#### **Fine Arts: Grades 7-8:**

***On Powerschool, course name: Fine Arts; course number 0860.***

Explore elements of art, visual design, drawing, painting, art, as examples, and music history and appreciation.

#### **Yearbook & Multimedia Design: Grades 6-8**

***On Powerschool, course name: Journalism; course number 0880.***

Students will learn the basic principles of yearbook production including writing copy, captions and headlines; digital photography; graphic design; and desktop publishing while working in teams. Video production and other media and technologies will also be explored. Students are expected to attend select school events as part of this course.

#### **Art: Grades 7-8.**

***On Powerschool, course name: ART 0974***

Explore creating works of art in various mediums including drawing, painting, sculpture by learning the basic principals of design, color theory, and cross-cultural art history. Emphasis is placed on creative expression, craftsmanship, and art vocabulary.

### **Performing Arts/Theatre and Music Elective Courses**

Performing Arts/Music Electives are for students in all grades. Students learn a variety of musical styles and are expected to practice weekly, participate in after school coaching and performance opportunities several times per year including Holiday Concert, Central Area Music Festival, and Spring Concert. Students do not need to own their own instruments.

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**Beginning Theatre: Grades 6-8\***(A high school class that takes place at Torrance High School period 1. A bus returns students to Madrona at the conclusion of class.)

***On Powerschool, course name: Performing Arts; course number 0857.***

The Beginning Theatre curriculum is an introduction to all things theatre. In addition to acting, this high-school-level course also introduces students to set design, script writing, sound-design, lighting design and directing. All students interested in drama are welcome to apply; must have no N's or U's, good behavior history, and at least a 2.0 gpa to qualify. This class would take the place of your middle school elective class.

**Vocal Music - Grades 6-8:**

***On Powerschool, course name: VOCAL MUSIC 6-8; course number 0868.***

Group choir singing, learn all styles of music. No experience necessary.

**Instrumental Music Beginning Band - Grades 6-8:**

***On Powerschool this course is called Beg Instr Music ; course number is 0921.***

Learn to play in a concert band and learn all styles of music! No experience necessary, open to all grades, year-long course.

**Instrumental Music Advanced Band - Grades 7-8: (prerequisite is Beginning Band)**

***On Powerschool this course is called Adv Inst Music ; course number is 0920.***

Learn to play in a concert band and play various styles of music!

## **Science and Technology Elective Courses**

**STEM/Science Olympiad: Grades 6-8. Limited to approx 10 spaces for each grade.**

***On Powerschool, course name: MS Introduction/Engineer; course number 0843.***

The STEM/Science Olympiad gives students opportunities to explore a variety of science concepts and apply their scientific knowledge through project-based activities and at Science Olympiad competitions. Science Olympiad competitions and class organized activities, such as Family STEM Night, include after school and Saturday components.

**PLTW Computer Science for Innovators and Makers: Grade 7 Only: Spaces limited.**

***On Powerschool, course name: PLTW Computer Sci Innovators & Makers 0850.***

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) for 7th grade is an engineering course that introduces students to MIT App Inventor, GIMP, Adacity, and Python. Students learn to design and program apps and games.

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## **PLTW Automation & Robotics - Grade 8 only. Spaces limited.**

**On Powerschool, course name: *PLTW Automation & Robotics*; course number 0845.**

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) for 8th grade is an engineering and design course that introduces students to the design, build, and coding of robots. Students will work with the software Autodesk and will also learn how to code using VEXCode V5. Students have the opportunity to join teams and compete in school and district competitions.

## **Student Engagement**

Madrona is home to various service organizations and clubs, athletics, and extracurricular activities. Students are encouraged to participate in many activities to help shape their futures and become responsible community citizens. Faculty members volunteer lunchtime, before or after school for activities open to all students. Students will learn more about the various offerings once school begins, and may sign up throughout the school year.

### **Athletics Program**

Madrona participates in a TUSD Middle School athletic league with the other seven Torrance middle schools. The goal of this program is to foster school spirit, build engagement, and prepare students for high school sports. Students will learn about tryout schedules during daily announcements and through PE classes. All students are welcome to try out!

- Soccer
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Cross country
- Flag Football

### **Engagement Activities**

Various activities take place either during lunchtime or after school throughout the year. Daily school announcements will inform students about the week's activities. These clubs are voluntary and are supervised by participating teachers, **included but not limited to:**

- Art Club
- Gardening Club
- Esports
- Math Club (participates in the TUSD Regional Middle School Math Competition.)
- Classic Cinema Club
- Ultimate Frisbee Club

### **Volunteerism: California Junior Scholarship Federation (CJSF) (7th/8th grade only)**

Leadership/volunteerism to school and community are important skills to a well rounded and enriched life. CJSF emphasizes high academic standards and community service. Students must maintain a 3.5 GPA and all E/S in citizenship. Only grades earned in grades 7-8 count toward membership, assessed each semester. Members must serve at least 20 community service hours per semester. Students must be active for 2 semesters to earn recognition at 8th gr promotion. Students with 50 or more hours/one year receive "The President's Volunteer Service Award; students with 50-74 hours earn a Bronze pin/certificate; 75-99 hours earn a Silver pin/certificate; and 100 or more hours earn a Gold pin/certificate.