



NSA West Middle School Program (6th – 8th Grade)

The NSA West Middle School program will begin in the fall for the 2011 – 2012 school year and is based on a philosophy that prepares students to be intelligent, productive and contributing members of society. The Core Knowledge curriculum will continue to be the foundation, with the addition of other complementary supplemental programs and electives to ensure that every student has a well-rounded experience in the important years before high school.

All students will engage in an academically rigorous curriculum with an emphasis in foreign language instruction. Additionally, through thoughtful character education and service learning opportunities students will become independent, critical thinkers who demonstrate citizenship, respect, responsibility, excellence, and integrity.

The following is a list of core curriculum components covered in grades 6-8:

- **Language Arts** - The language arts program will continue to develop student's literacy in a variety of areas including reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and representing. There will be an emphasis on the ability to think critically about reading through a variety of well-known classic fiction, biography and drama works in addition to exploring realistic fiction through Junior Great Books and exposure to a selection of poems.
- **Writing** – The middle school writing program will provide students with advanced knowledge and experience with imaginative and expository writing, persuasive and research essays, technical writing (science/math), creative writing/narratives, and poetry among others. An emphasis will be placed on advanced grammar.
- **Social Studies** - The Core Knowledge curriculum has a strong social studies component that builds upon content that has already been introduced in the primary grades. This includes a more in-depth focus on World History and 20th Century U.S. History.
- **Math** – The Saxon series will be used as the school's middle school math program. This series is based on the belief that students can master the concepts of math through daily practice. Once a topic is presented, students are continually exposed to the topic in daily problem sets. As the year progresses, the complexity of the problems becomes increasingly difficult as the topics are reviewed. Each lesson is thus a cumulative review, and the problems require that the students develop fluency in problem solving to successfully complete the lessons.
- **Science** - The middle school science program will be based upon Earth science, Chemistry, Biology, and Physics. These branches of science will be taught thematically throughout each year of middle school spiraling upon itself each year.

Sixth grade at NSA West will be viewed as a transitional year with students alternating classes for core subjects while continuing to participate in the music, art and physical education programs offered at the elementary level. Seventh and eighth graders will rotate for core class instruction as well as participate in a variety of elective classes such as drama, speech, debate and others.

For additional information on NSA West, please visit our website at www.nsawest.org