



Palouse Prairie Charter School 2018-2019 Middle School Course Guide

Credit System

The Palouse Prairie Charter School credit system is focused on academic rigor and excellence. Each course is represented as 1 credit, and there are a maximum of 19 possible credits a student may receive in the 2018/2019 school year. By the end of the school year, students are expected to receive 6 credits for all three expeditions (2 credits each), a minimum of 2 credits in math, a minimum of 1 credit physical education/wellness and a minimum of 5 credits in enrichment and personal development courses. If a student does not meet the requirements to receive credit for a course the student will be provided an opportunity for credit recovery. When a student transfers to Palouse Prairie Charter School, their transcripts will be converted to this system.

1 Course per trimester = 1 Credit

2018-2019 School Year Middle School Credits

Total of 19 Possible Credits

Humanities Expedition	2 credits
Social Science Expedition	2 credits
Science Expedition	2 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Physical Education and Wellness	2 credits
Science (6th and 7th Grades)	1 credit
Enrichment and Personal Development (<i>Passage is mandatory</i>)	7 credits

Minimum Credit Requirements for the 2018-2019 School Year

Humanities Expedition	2 credits
Social Science Expedition	2 credits
Science Expedition	2 credits
Mathematics	2 credits
Physical Education and Wellness	1 credit
Science (6th and 7th Grades)	1 credit
Enrichment and Personal Development (<i>Passage is mandatory</i>)	5 credits



Middle School Schedule

Generalized Bell Schedule SY 2018-2019

Mon/Wed	Tues/Thurs	Friday	Class
8:25-9:35	8:25-9:35	8:25-9:35	Period 1
9:35-10:45	9:35-10:45	9:35-10:45	Period 2
10:45-11:55	10:45-11:55	10:45-11:55	Period 3
11:55-12:30	11:55-12:30	11:55-12:30	Lunch
12:30-2:50	12:30-1:50	12:30-2:15	Expedition
	1:50-2:55		Crew
		12:30-1:10	Middle School Community Circle - held 1-2 times per month

Trimester Calendar

Fall Trimester	Winter Trimester	Spring Trimester
8/31/18-11/15/18	11/26/18-3/1/19	3/4/19-5/29/19

Expedition Cycles

	Fall Trimester	Winter Trimester	Spring Trimester
Humanities	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Social Science	8 th Grade	6 th Grade	7 th Grade
Science	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	6 th Grade

Grade Scale

3.5-4.0 Accomplished

2.5-3.4 Proficient

0.0-2.4 Unsatisfactory



Humanities Expeditions

6th Grade Expedition- The Hero's Journey

2 Credits

In this Expedition, students are involved in a deep study of mythology, its purposes, and elements. Students will start to read Rick Riordan's *The Lightning Thief*. As they begin the novel in Case Study 1, students also will read a complex informational text that explains the archetypal storyline of the hero's journey, which has been repeated in literature throughout the centuries. Through the close reading of literary and informational texts, students will learn multiple strategies for acquiring and using academic vocabulary. In Case Study 2, students will conduct an independent study of an ancient civilization anywhere in the world. Students will work with mythology experts, storytellers, and artists throughout the trimester. They will continue to build informational reading skills through the close reading of texts about the elements of myth. Much of this expedition centers around Joseph Campbell's work with archetypal characters found in myths from around the world. As a whole class, students will closely read several complex Greek myths. In Case Study 3, students shift their focus to narrative writing skills. This series of writing lessons will scaffold students to their final product which includes an original narrative and a mixed media mask.

7th Grade Expedition- The People Could Fly

2 Credits

In this Expedition students explore historic and modern day Slavery and Abolition. We begin our work in collaboration with Dr. Anthony-Stevens at the University of Idaho discussing the historical roots of racism and racial taxonomies. Students will return to the classroom ready to study the life and work of Frederick Douglass: escaped slave, noted abolitionist, and author of *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. The Expedition focuses on the questions of what makes stories powerful and on understanding an author's purpose. In addition, students analyze how writers use figurative language and word choice to convey meaning. In Case Study 1, *The People Could Fly* introduces the topic that connects all three case studies. Next, students build the background knowledge that will allow them to more fully understand the context of the *Narrative*: they learn about slavery, Douglass's life, and the debate over slavery in the United States before the Civil War. They will learn how to read and analyze a poem, and be introduced to the tools that poets and other writers use to make stories powerful. Case Study 2 centers on the analysis of excerpts from *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. In Case Study 3, students will focus on human trafficking and the work of modern day abolitionists working to eradicate slavery around the globe. They will have the opportunity to work with experts Kenneth B. Morris Jr. and Robert Benz from the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives. Mr. Morris is a descendant of Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington who founded FDFI to honor his ancestors' legacies of abolition while working to eradicate human trafficking. This trimester's final product will be the creation of a Black History Month event at the University of Idaho.



8th Grade Expedition- A Midsummer Night's Dream

2 Credits

In this expedition, students read and analyze Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. As with any of Shakespeare's plays, many rich themes are present; students will focus primarily on the theme of control. Characters in this play are controlled by emotions, other characters, and even magic. They often attempt to manipulate others. Students will examine why the characters seek control, how they try to control others, and the results of attempting to control others. In Case Study 1, students will build background knowledge as they explore the appeal and controversy around the authorship of Shakespeare. Students will analyze differences between a film version of the play and Shakespeare's original script. In Case Study 2, students will study how Shakespeare drew upon Greek mythology as he crafted the play within the play. They will study characters who attempt to control or manipulate others to better understand their motivations. Students will work with actors from the Idaho Shakespeare Festival and local theater experts to bring the play to life. During Case Study 3 students will have the opportunity to learn the craft of paper cutting from expert Tierney Barden and will create an art piece inspired by the play. To conclude this expedition students will create a character confessional from the point of view of a character in the play.

Social Science Expeditions

6th Grade Expedition- More Perfect

2 Credits

This expedition is an in-depth study of economics, government, and US history. The first case study builds an understanding of basic economic principles, such as supply/demand and scarcity, free market, mixed, and planned economies, and GDP as a measure of economic growth. These concepts are taught both explicitly in various workshops, as well as through historical analysis of the latter half of the 19th century and the Great Depression era. In addition, the students will participate in a 'Crew Economy' where the entire classroom is transformed into a functioning economy. In this exercise students will participate in a small scale version of a free market, complete with a government, taxes, laws, and frequent elections. Students are placed in a position where they are allowed to be critical of their economy and government, run for office and create change that is regulated by a system of checks and balances. The second case study focuses on government. Specifically, students will participate in a rigorous exercise where they will learn about the historical context in which the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the US were ratified, and the political system that was created. Like the Crew Economy, students will participate in a hands-on exercise where a new constitutional convention will be held. During this exercise students will analyze the first several articles of the US Constitution, determine, based on the historical context in which it was ratified, who benefited and who didn't benefit from this document, and ratify a new constitution based on a more diverse representation of cultural and ethnic groups. Students gain an in-depth understanding of the US Constitution, while at the same time being able to offer an informed critique of this important historical document.



7th Grade Expedition- The Blackfish Effect

2 Credits

The Southern Resident Killer Whales are a genetically, culturally, and linguistically distinct group of orcas. During the course of the first case study students will gain an understanding of oceanography, marine mammal biology, and the legal aspects of governmental agencies and policies guiding the recovery efforts for these critically endangered killer whales. In addition, students will also study the ecological and cultural importance of chinook salmon (the primary diet of the Southern Residents) in both inland and coastal areas. As part of this study, we will visit and examine the impact of the Snake River Dams and meet with both western and indigenous scientists in our local area as well as the Puget Sound area. In the second case study students will develop an understanding of the role of killer whales in the Coast Salish cultures as well as traditional formline art. The central thread woven throughout this expedition is the use of art for expression across a multicultural spectrum. Each student will create several art pieces throughout the expedition that range in topic and medium.

8th Grade Expedition- The Roots of Conflict

2 Credits

The Roots of Conflict examines the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In this expedition students will develop a strong knowledge base around the specifics of the conflict, and will also gain a skill set in carefully examining complex geopolitical issues by analyzing multiple perspectives. After developing background knowledge around the geography and cultural history of the region, students will jump right into the contemporary state of the conflict (what it is, who is involved, etc). In this work students will rigorously analyze a swath of perspectives on the issue, both historical and contemporary, and from both Israeli and Palestinian perspectives. In the second case study, students will analyze and examine the historical context and events in which this conflict was born. Specifically, students will analyze the political context in Europe at the time of the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, the British invasion of Palestine in 1917, the British Mandate in Palestine between 1917 and 1947, the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Holocaust in the 1930s and 40s, and lastly the United Nations decision to partition the two states and the subsequent 1948 war. The third case study of this expedition will focus on the analysis and synthesis of spoken word poetry in two-voice format. The culminating project for this expedition will be a live poetry event at WSU, where students will express the roots of this conflict up to the contemporary state of the conflict through two voice poems.



Science Expeditions

6th Grade Expedition- Water is Life

2 Credits

Sixth graders explore water quality through the guiding question: *How clean is clean enough?* Students build background knowledge and explore conceptual models of the water cycle and water chemistry. In our first case study we explore the idea of a water footprint and water availability. In our second case study we explore water quality by asking the question *how do physical and chemical parameters affect water quality?* We will work with local community organizations to conduct a watershed project. We'll collect water-quality data and work to become experts with regards to what measurements such as turbidity or macro-invertebrate diversity is telling us about water quality. Our final product will showcase student work and provide a community service.

7th Grade Expedition- Farm to Food

2 Credits

In this expedition, Farm to Food, 7th Graders explore the Guiding Question: How do we feed ourselves and the world into the future? We read the young adult version of *Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan as an anchor text to learn about plants, what plants need, and how to evaluate different food chains of the American food system. The learning focuses on the carbon and nitrogen cycles to understand photosynthesis and how the two cycles interact. We also conduct hands-on plant experiments to evaluate first hand the role of nutrients and making scientific observations. Literacy is embedded in the expedition; student work culminates with a personal argumentative essay to defend which food chain can best feed us into the future. Our final product will incorporate the hydroponic bed system built by former PPCS students for the school's lunch program.

8th Grade Expedition- Plugging Into Sustainability

2 credits

Plugging into Sustainability focuses on energy: what it is; how do we use it; and what makes our use of energy sustainable. We spend the first part of the expedition examining the fundamental components of energy, atomic structure, and energy transfer. We visit the UI Steam Plant, the WSU nuclear reactor, and other local energy programs such as the UI diesel laboratory to evaluate energy transfer first hand. Then we focus on the components of our energy system, our reliance on carbon-based energy, the carbon cycle, and the impact on global climate. Finally, we examine our energetic impact by determining our ecological footprint. We'll brainstorm ideas around how to reduce our footprints and develop a compelling final product.



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Mathematics Courses

Mathematics I

3 Credits

Students in this class will spend the year exploring several foundational mathematical themes that prepare students for high level mathematics. In the fall, our focus is on Statistics and Proportional Relationships. We will collect and analyze data and learn about the many ways we can display and interpret data to help us make sense of the world. We will spend the second half of the trimester exploring ratio and rate relationships and modeling these relationships using tables, graphs and equations. During winter, our focus is on building fluency with rational number operations and exploring the patterns and processes that help us interpret negative numbers. In the spring, we begin to extend what we know about numbers to situations involving variables and algebraic inequalities. We close our year with a study of area, surface area and volume. Throughout the year, students use a variety of strategies to solving problems, communicate reasoning and develop procedural fluency.

Mathematics II: Pre-Algebra

3 Credits

Students in this class will extend many of the ideas introduced in Math I in preparation for Algebra. Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional and linear relationships; (2) extending 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. In addition, students in Math II will explore several of the grade level mathematics concepts through the topic of Idaho's forest products industry. Students will analyze forest management plans, learn about the economics of Idaho public lands, and visit a local sawmill to visualize the geometry that is utilized to process trees into usable lumber. Prerequisite: Math I

Mathematics III: Algebra 1

3 Credits

In Math III, all students will have the opportunity to take a high school level Algebra 1 class that extends the ideas of eighth-grade math to the topics of a typical Algebra 1 class. Instructional time will focus on four 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 that are both linear and nonlinear; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem; (4) developing a rich understanding of quadratics. Students will apply their understanding of systems of equations to answer complex



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mathematical questions using modeling and will collect and analyze bivariate data. We will explore how we make decisions using mathematical models and discuss the limitations of data and mathematical predictions. Prerequisite: Math II: Pre-Algebra

Geometry

3 Credits

This course is offered through the Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) in an online class format with in-class support from an instructor. The first semester of this course will dive into the concepts of basic geometry, transformations and congruence, proofs of theorems, dilations and similarity, and triangle similarity. We will connect these concepts to real-world applications. The second semester of this course covers concepts of coordinate geometry, right triangles, trigonometry, volume and figures, and circles. Students will practice these mathematical concepts while employing the standards of mathematical practice. Prerequisite: Math III: Algebra 1

Physical Education and Leadership Courses

Physical Education I

1 Credit

Physical Education I is a combination of sports activities, fitness, and health/nutrition education. The objective of the class is to give students the knowledge they need to be physically active throughout their adult lives. We will do different workouts to help specific parts of the body as well as stretches. The goal is to improve every day and experience a fun and exciting trimester of physical fitness.

Physical Education II

1 Credit

Physical Education II builds on the basic skills and knowledge developed in Physical Education I. This class will provide students with an opportunity to actively participate in a variety of cooperative fitness activities that promote lifelong fitness.

Physical Education III

1 Credit

Physical Education III builds on the basic skills and knowledge developed in Physical Education I and II. This class will provide students with an opportunity to actively participate in a variety of cooperative fitness activities that promote lifelong fitness.



Wellness I

1 Credit

In this course students will gain knowledge and skills to lead a healthy lifestyle. This course will emphasize nutrition, healthy food choices, and several issues related to brain development, and the impacts of social pressures on personal decisions. In addition, students will participate in a variety of movement activities. These activities will include a wide array of theatrical games designed to promote movement, self awareness, and listening skills, as well as a range of outdoor physical activities.

Wellness II

1 Credit

In Wellness II students will build on the skills developed in Wellness I. There will be several units of study in this wellness class. In the first unit, students will learn basic first aid skills. For example, students will gain an understanding of how to stay safe in an emergency, how to conduct an initial assessment of a hurt individual, and how to safely and properly dress bleeding injuries. The second unit of study in Wellness II is around drug and alcohol safety and awareness. In addition, students will participate in a variety of movement activities. These activities will include a wide array of theatrical games designed to promote movement, self awareness, and listening skills, as well as a range of outdoor physical activities.

Wellness III

1 Credit

In Wellness III, students will learn fundamental information about personal health and sexual education. The class content will focus on the value of good communication, safety in relationships, and growth and development to lay a foundation that can support healthy relationships and healthy behaviors throughout a person's lifetime. Topics will including: self-understanding, family, growth and development, sexuality, advocacy of self, and physical and emotional safety.

In addition, students will participate in a variety of movement activities. These activities will include a wide array of theatrical games designed to promote movement, self awareness, and listening skills, as well as a range of outdoor physical activities.



Enrichment and Personal Development Courses

CREW

1 Credit

During this class students engage in a culture-building meeting and activities to develop relational character and habits of scholarship. This meeting and activities focus on our school's CREW traits, Habits of Scholarship, and EL Design Principles.

Science Investigations I

1 Credit

Student learning will focus on the foundations of life and matter. Content includes learning about atoms, molecules, and the periodic table to communicate scientifically. Content then shifts to cellular biology, and body systems. Students explore the nervous system as a case study and learn about their brain's amazing development throughout adolescence. We learn about the human brain, namely the prefrontal cortex, limbic system, neurons, and neurotransmitters. Students evaluate how their developing brain influences their actions and emotions during adolescence. The trimester concludes with the fundamentals of cellular biology, cell division, cellular reproduction, and genetics and inheritance of traits. Throughout this class, students focus on creating strong conceptual models.

Science Investigations II

1 Credit

The development of critical thinking skills and problem-based learning is at the center of scientific inquiry. This course is designed to help students develop their understanding of scientific inquiry and knowledge. Scientific content focuses on matter and motion, including structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, properties of substances, forces and motion, and types of interactions. Class content is rooted in investigations, scientific observations, and problem solving.

The Joy of Writing

1 Credit

This class is designed to teach the conventions of writing through the lens of self expression. The students will be reading and analyzing the writing of other authors and using these texts as inspiration for their own writing. They will be reading and writing in 2 genres, poetry and personal narratives. The focus will be on using spelling and grammar conventions to clearly communicate thought, feeling, meaning and self expression. Also, art will be integrated as the students move through this workshop-style class to the production of their own anthology of work.



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Passages (8th Grade)

1 Credit

Passages represent a student *passing* from one level to the next, AND the presentation serves as a *rite of passage*. In the final trimester of their 8th grade year, students will be asked to review their portfolio of middle school work and create a Passage Portfolio that includes honest reflections of their growth, aspirations, and evidence of learning from their coursework at Palouse Prairie School. The Passage Portfolio will be used in their passage presentation, which is both a celebration of learning and an opportunity for each student to show their best work to a panel of community leaders. The presentation is a defense of their preparation and readiness for high school and college and career. Successful completion of the portfolio and public presentation are required for graduation from Palouse Prairie School. Students will craft a final word to share at their graduation ceremony.

Chinese I, II, and III

1 Credit

These classes give students an introduction to the Chinese language and Chinese culture. Students learn the basics of the Chinese language, including the Chinese Pinyin system, basic Chinese characters, and simple everyday Chinese including greetings, self-introduction, describing one's family, expressing gratitude, simple requests, likes and dislikes, and apology. They will acquire a basic Chinese vocabulary around numbers, animals, body parts, personal items, food, and ways to address family members and friends. Moreover, students will learn about various aspects of Chinese culture, including Chinese names, ethnic groups, geography, Chinese Zodiac, Chinese martial arts, Chinese music, etc. Students will work together with classmates participating in games, songs and various projects throughout each semester to accomplish these objectives. Chinese language classes are taught by instructors from the University of Idaho Confucius Institute and the South China University of Technology. Instructors are all bilingual and have a degree in teaching Chinese as a foreign language. Student who complete the 3-yr progression will build a Chinese language foundation and recommended for High School Chinese.