

The Attic Learning Community  
**Middle School (~ages 11-12)**  
**Course Descriptions 2008-09**  
*Schedule, Course Descriptions*

**Math**

**Two groups**

Instructors: Shelley Maurer and Alison Farrell

**M, T, W 9:00 - 10:00**

**Reading and Writing**

**M, T, 10:10 – 12:10, W, 10:10 – 11:10**

**Social Science**

**Activism**

Instructor: Lee Rottweiler

**W, 11:10 - 12:15**

For this class, your group will join the HS 1 class. While our broad goal will be to affect positive change in the world, the particular focus of this course will be determined by the group. We might continue to do a little environmental work (maybe the greenhouse and composting). We might focus some energy on providing aid to developing countries. We might choose issue advocacy, writing letters to politicians or media outlets. Or, the group might choose something completely different. Basically, we'll find some things about the world that we think should be better. Then, we'll try to help.

**Science**

**Investigations in Environmental Science**

Instructor: Rob Sandelin supported by Micheala Ranz

**M, T, 1:00 - 2:15**

Together we will explore the natural history of the Lowland Pacific Northwest and how scientists study animals and plants in the field. Class meets Monday and Tuesday. One of the two weekly classes will usually be held outdoors where we will engage in field biology research using the same tools and methods as professional field scientists. Students will become familiar with dichotomous keys and other resources and have the opportunity to pick one or more special projects to study over time.

**Foreign Language****Introduction to Modern Chinese – Level 1****M, T, 2:15 - 3:15**

MS, HS1, HS2

Instructor: Hui Chen

This is an introductory course to modern standard (Mandarin) Chinese. It will introduce students to Mandarin Chinese pronunciation, tones, grammar, conversation, reading, and writing, with an emphasis on basic oral proficiency. Through learning the language, the students will also have the opportunity to learn about daily life in China and to explore, discover, and develop an appreciation of Chinese music, arts, literature and culture. The course will be taught in a very entertaining environment in a highly interactive manner, with the goal of inspiring the students to discover the enjoyment of learning another language and exploring another culture.

Required texts:

**[Chinese Made Easy Textbook: Level 1 \(Simplified Characters\)](#)**

Author: Yamin Ma

ISBN: 9620425847

Amazon.com [8 used & new](#) available from \$29.95[www.childbook.com](http://www.childbook.com) \$29.95**[Chinese Made Easy Workbook: Level 1 \(Simplified Characters\)](#)**

Author: Yamin Ma

ISBN: 9620425855

Amazon.com [4 used & new](#) available from \$19.95[www.childbook.com](http://www.childbook.com) \$21.95**Introduction to Conversational Spanish****M, T, 2:15 - 3:15**

MS, HS1, HS2

Instructor: Micheala Ranz

In this introductory Spanish course, emphasis will be on building effective listening, speaking, and conversational skills. Students will practice basic conversational skills in simulated real life situations, such as ordering food in a cafe or introducing a friend in Spanish. We'll also begin to explore reading and writing. Through language study, students will also be exposed to the geography and cultures of Latin America, inspiring a greater interest in that vast and exciting region.

**Required text:** TBD**Electives****Video Editing****W, 1:00 - 2:10**

Instructor: Micheala Ranz

This course will give students a basic overview of some of the visual media production technologies available today. Students will become familiar with the basics of iMovie and/or Movie Maker by using photos, video footage, and other media to present an idea. Students will eventually work together in a cooperative process of production, including story boarding and script writing. Student participation, leadership, and ownership are essential to the success of this dynamic course.

**Chess**

**W, 1:00 - 2:10**

Instructor: Lee Rottweiler

Chess is really, really cool. If you agree, maybe you should join us for a couple games.

P.S. When it's really nice outside we might decide to play a game of football, wiffle ball, volleyball, badminton, basketball, etc.

Fun, fun!

**Ceramics: Introduction to Wheel Throwing**

**W, 1:00 - 2:10**

Instructor: Jessica Rottweiler

Course fee: \$25.00

Students will explore wheel throwing, glazing, and firing. Through the creation of ceramic pieces, students will express and grow their artistic voice. Throughout the course, our art will also reflect an understanding and adaptation of the styles and techniques studied. Homework will include: sketchbook planning, research and collection of design ideas (magazine pictures, pottery, famous ceramic work etc.), and self-evaluations of each piece created. This class is designed to resemble a college level art course. Students can expect a challenging and rewarding experience.

**Book Binding with Pat**

**W, 1:00 - 2:10**

Course description and supplies TBD