

Middle Program (Raven) Course Offerings, 2019-2020

*** For mathematics offerings, please see the Math Continuum.**

Raven Literacy & Humanities

Full Year

Instructor: Hannah Earhart

Raven Literacy and Humanities aims to expose learners to varied voices in literature. Exploring these voices, learners will seek to understand and listen to the perspective of other individuals through shared reading and class-wide discussions.

Through mini-lessons and writing exercises, Raven learners will continue to develop their skills in close reading and critical thinking, as well as study more in depth writing development, organization, and style. Additionally, mini-lessons will provide practice on the traditional conventions of writing, grammar, and spelling.

In late winter and spring, focus will turn to non-fiction research and writing with our annual Interest Project. Learners will research any topic of interest and navigate the writing process, culminating with a final paper and formal presentation in front of peers, friends, and family.

Our learners will navigate novels, mini-lessons, research, response writing, and group dialogue to further their skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking.

Required Texts:

Watership Down, by Richard Adams
To Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee

Additional books TBD.

Raven Literacy & Humanities

Full Year

Instructor: Cam LaFlam

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Required Texts:

Watership Down, by Richard Adams

The Last Cherry Blossom, by Kathleen Burkinshaw

To Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee

On a Sunbeam, by Tillie Walden

Additional books TBD.

Anthropology

Full Year

Instructor: TBD

Anthropology is a vast field of inquiry, which includes: physical and cultural anthropology, archeology, and linguistics. Anthropologists ask questions like: How did human beings evolve? How do societies form? How are “outsiders” perceived? How might social media impact language development? In this course, students will gain an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of human experience as explored through indigenous and colonial perspectives. We will utilize science, mythology, and personal storytelling to interpret the history of humankind.

Social Science Workshop

Full Year

Instructor: Ileana Almog

In this class, we will think critically about people, the many ways they interact, and the effects of these interactions. Students will explore social science concepts through a variety of modalities, such as writing, visual arts, games, and role play. Teacher and students will work together to

select discussion content that is relevant and interesting, drawing from literature, film, music, media, and current events. Based on individual interest, students will use social science tools and specific methodologies to formulate and test hypotheses, presenting their research in a workshop format.

Middle School French Language and Culture (MT)

Full Year

Instructor: Will Rose

First year French students, or those returning for a second foundational year, will experience guided activities, such as the kinetic TPR model (Total Physical Response), dialogues, videos and guided lessons in the textbook and workbooks of *Discovering French Nouveau*, and immersion in spoken language, songs, poetry and film. Emphasis is on comprehension and basic conversation, vocabulary, and familiarity with French culture. Kids will also read from guided vocabulary readers by *Fluency Matters*.

Foundational verb forms will be introduced and/or reinforced, along with numerous ER-pattern and irregular verbs. The main goal of this class is to respond to kids' various levels of familiarity and ease with French, build and develop it at each kid's pace, and help kids construct a foundational understanding of French and its differences and similarities with English.

Middle School Chinese Language and Culture (MT)

Full Year

Instructor: Hui Chen

This course is both an introduction to and/or a continuation of Chinese I: Introduction to Chinese Language and Culture. Using *Ni Hao level 2* as the primary text, students will continue to learn to communicate effectively in Chinese by listening and reading authentic Chinese materials, participating in role plays and class discussions, and carrying out goal-oriented projects. Students will also have opportunities to explore Chinese culture and modern life in China by visiting authentic Chinese restaurants, participating in holiday food and art making, watching and studying popular shows in China, and communicating with pen-pals in China. While the emphasis will continue to be on listening and speaking proficiency through familiar topics, students will also continue to learn reading and writing basic Chinese characters through recognizing them in different contexts, and engaging in short reading and writing activities. Student learning will be demonstrated and evaluated through class participation, weekly homework completion, student project portfolios, and careful class observations.

Required texts:

Ni Hao Level 2 Textbook (Simplified Character Edition), by Shumang Fredlein & Paul Fredlein
Ni Hao Level 2 Workbook (Simplified Character Edition), by Shumang Fredlein & Paul Fredlein

Middle School Spanish Language and Culture (MT)

Full Year

Instructor: Damaris Garcia

This Spanish course will offer learners an introduction to/continuation of the basics of the language and culture, familiarizing them with basic-intermediate vocabulary, plus oral and written use of this bank of words. Learners will study the culture to better understand the Spanish speaking people and their customs.

Learners will develop an enduring understanding that: Effective communication requires knowing how, when, and why to say something to someone. An ability to communicate in another language fosters an appreciation of cultural similarities and differences and an understanding of my place in the world. Learning other languages and exploring their cultures enables an individual to interact within our global community and beyond the classroom skills acquired in one language support, reinforce, and develop skills in other languages and disciplines.

Required text: TBD.

World Culture: Power and Government in the United States (MT)

Full Year

Instructor: Dylan Ruef

This course will be a foundational exploration of the divisions and exercise of political power in the United States of America. After setting the historical context of Colonial America, the course will explore the colonial criticisms of British administration which eventually sparked the American Revolution. While the history of America's founding will be explored in the course, we will be focusing on the efforts of the American framers to establish a new government that would protect them from the abuses of British rule. Students will be given access to the arguments made in the *Federalist Papers* and will be encouraged to explore America's founding documents so that they can begin to conceptualize their own opinions about who should be empowered and how that power is exercised politically.

Quest (W)

Full Year

Instructors: Hannah Earhart and Cam LaFlam

What is the middle school learner's quest?

To Question. Understand. Explore and empathize. Self-discovery and solidarity with peers. Teen voices matter.

No two paths are alike, and yet it's through questing, understanding, open-hearted exploration, and the development of empathy that human beings grow as individuals and bond over shared experiences. This class seeks to hold a space where our middle level learners can explore these ideas and concepts. We will look at social and personal identities, learners will be empowered to voice their perspective, explore what 'identity' entails and learn to respect and connect with various differing identities. Identity concepts to be explored in depth: race, gender, class, education, ability, and religion.

Natural Disasters (MT)

One Semester

Instructor: Chris Baynham

This course will cover the causes and effects of natural disasters, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunami, landslides, subsidence, flooding, severe weather. Students will conduct labs to recreate these issues on a smaller scale as well as conducting research in and outside of class.

Required Text:

Catastrophic Events (Student Guide and Source Book), by Carol O'Donnell (ISBN-10: 0892789204)

Science for Muggles (MT)

One Semester

Instructor: Chris Baynham

Grab your broomstick! In this course we will explore magical creatures using dichotomous keys, the botany behind Herbology, the chemistry behind potions, the physics behind flight, the astronomy of stars, the genetics of muggles, wizards, dragons, etc.

Where in the World Are We? (MT)

One Semester

Instructor: Brian Harris

If you've ever gone someplace and thought, "I can't wait to tell my friends about this", or "I am so looking forward to coming back (or staying away from) here", you have felt the roots of navigation. How do we do it? What makes one place different from another? Let's navigate the world, discover new places, record our findings and come back home to share about it...and somehow stay in Woodinville?

Simply Machine Science (Aka: The Mechanical Advantage) (MT)
One Semester
Instructor: Brian Harris

No need to worry about the machines taking over...they already have. They are hiding in plain sight, closer than you think! Inclined planes, levers, expanding gasses, excited electrons, all working together and influencing your life. Let's step out of the matrix, look more deeply into the world around us, and root out the influence of machines in our lives.

Robotics (MT)
Full Year or Semester
Instructor: Jeremy Thomas

This class is an introduction to robotics using the Lego Mindstorms EV3 system, no experience required. You will have the opportunity to design and build your own robots, based on existing plans, or totally from scratch. By creating and developing your own projects you can discover many engineering and programming techniques. We will program using a visual system which is intuitive and easy to explore, though later in the year those who are interested could switch over to Python, a text based programming language. Those learners new to robotics can go through a set of projects using a basic robot to explore how to use the various sensors and motors and how to write programs to solve different tasks. Learners with previous experience can start building on what they know right away. This is a rich field of engineering and science and we have a lot of options and opportunities available to us. Open to Raven and High School learners.