

# Ranch View Middle School International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme School

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Course Description Guide  
2020 - 2021 School Year



Ranch View Middle School  
1731 Wildcat Reserve Parkway  
Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80129 - (303) 387-2300  
<http://rvms.dcsdk12.org>



**Ranch View Middle School**

*Erin Kylo, Principal*  
*Shelley Hyland, Assistant Principal*  
*Sandra Barrett, Assistant Principal*

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Ranch View Middle School! We are honored you and your family have chosen to join the Ranch View Wolf pack! Learning is a partnership at Ranch View where our aim is to develop the whole child while implementing the district strategic plan through the lens of International Baccalaureate (IB). Through the IB framework, students master the Colorado Academic Standards while engaging in global views and sustainable skills. We recognize that success in our rapidly changing world requires an ability to apply core concepts in innovative ways: to know where and how to access information, to embrace multiple perspectives, and work collaboratively when solving problems.

Ranch View Middle School is accredited through the International Baccalaureate Organization as a World School, Middle Years Programme (MYP). Different than the optional high school IB Diploma Programme, MYP is implemented school-wide. At Ranch View, MYP embodies the practices and most current educational research that combine high expectations and academic rigor while guiding students through developing personal value systems that inform their sense of place in their local and global communities. All RVMS students are students of the International Baccalaureate and are expected to demonstrate moral character, their best efforts toward academic endeavors and the characteristics of an internationally minded life-long learner.

At Ranch View Middle School we are committed to Excellence in all that we do. We are guided by the following anchors:

**Vision Statement:** Ranch View Middle School is a positive community of learners inspired to make the world a better place through authentic and challenging learning opportunities that foster strong global awareness.

**Mission Statement:** Ranch View Middle School exists to provide a high-quality International Baccalaureate education that develops inquiring, caring, open-minded, and thoughtful students who demonstrate intercultural understanding and respect for all people.

**Belief Statement:** Ranch View Middle School Inspires Excellence through meaningful relationships, because no significant learning happens without significant relationships.

At Ranch View you will find a balance of core classes, choices in extra-curricular activities, and academic electives. Please know our staff is dedicated to the most effective pedagogical practices to support, partner and inspire your child along his/her journey. At Ranch View Middle School, we value individual learners and their academic, social, and emotional needs.

On behalf of the entire faculty, we look forward to welcoming you to our Ranch View Middle School family. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us: (303) 387-2300.

Sincerely,

Erin M. Kylo

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**WEB SITE ADDRESS:** <http://rvms.dcsdk12.org>

**FACEBOOK:** <http://www.facebook.com/RanchViewMiddleSchool>

**TWITTER:** @ErinKyllo, @SandraJBarrett @shelleyahyland @RanchViewMS

**SCHOOL COLORS:** Burgundy, Navy Blue, and Silver

**SCHOOL MASCOT:** Wolf

**SCHOOL MOTTO:** *"The strength of the pack is the wolf and the strength of the wolf is the pack."*  
-Rudyard Kipling

**SCHOOL HOURS:** 7:30 A.M. – 2:45 P.M.

**NUMBER OF CLASSES PER DAY:** Five (5) core classes and three (3) elective classes.

**RANCH VIEW VISION:** Ranch View Middle School is positive community of learners inspired to make the world a better place through authentic and challenging learning opportunities that foster strong global awareness.

**RANCH VIEW MISSION:** Ranch View Middle School exists to provide a high-quality International Baccalaureate education that develops inquiring, caring, open-minded, and thoughtful students who demonstrate intercultural understand and respect for all people.

**RANCH VIEW BELIEF:** Ranch View Middle School Inspires Excellence through meaningful relationships, because no significant learning happens without significant relationships.

**STUDENT USE OF DISTRICT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (Policy JICJ):** It will be necessary for every parent/ guardian and student to sign the Acknowledgement Form- Student Rights and Responsibilities Code of Conduct and Discipline. Parents will do this during the online check- in process and students will do this at the beginning of the new school year. **We cannot allow students to use the internet without your permission.**

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION DISCLAIMER:** All Physical Education and activities classes are, by nature, classes that include risk of injury to the participants. Injuries may range in severity from minor to long-term catastrophic. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised Physical Education and activity classes, it is impossible to eliminate risk. Students must obey all safety rules, report all physical problems to their teacher, follow classroom rules and procedures, and act responsibly while in the class areas.

**DO NOT ATTEMPT ANY STRENUOUS CONDITIONING PROGRAMS UNTIL YOU HAVE CONSULTED A PHYSICIAN. STUDENTS ENROLLING IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION SHOULD HAVE A PHYSICAL.**

**PLACEMENT ON TEAMS.** All student schedules are created through the use of a computer program. Student placement on teams is random.



**MEDICAL RECORD REQUIREMENTS:** It is state law that every middle school student has specific immunizations:

- 5 DTP
- 4 Polio
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 2 MMR
- 2 Varicella
- 1 Tdap for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Must be complete before being allow to begin 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes.

**Immunization Exemption:** To qualify for exemptions, parents must provide documentation of a medical, religious or personal exemption to be filed with school records.

**Proof** must be provided to the school at the time of registration. Any student, who does not have these by opening day, **may not attend school.** We ask parental cooperation on this matter.

ALL FEES/CHARGES SHOWN WITHIN THIS COURSE GUIDE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## **FEES: Fees may be changed upon notification from the Board of Education**

Instructional Fee: \$15.00 (determined by the Board of Education)

Book Fines: Replacement for lost or severely damaged textbooks is based on replacement purchase price.

First year:	100% of the cost of the book
Second Year:	80% of the cost of the book
Third Year:	60% of the cost of the book
Fourth year:	40% of the cost of the book
Fifth year:	20% of the cost of the book

Elective and Lab Classes: Fees are determined by the materials used. Please see the courses below for current fees.

Library Media: Lost, damaged or defaced materials will be charged at full replacement cost

Athletics: The fee is \$85.00 per sport with the exception of Tackle Football being \$115.00 (subject to change). Fees are set by the Board of Education.

### **7th Grade REQUIRED Courses**

**Science - Mathematics - Language Arts - Physical Education and Health -  
Individuals in Society**

#### **MYP Science 07**

In 7th grade, science class encompasses life, earth sciences, and forces. The study of living organisms, their systems, and their interrelationships are part of class as well as geologic time, changing life forms, events related to plate movement, and how mass affects force and motion. Topics covered include: the cell, cell processes, human anatomy and body systems, genetics, change over time, plate tectonics, geologic events, force, gravity, and motion. Essential skills such as application of scientific method and using measurement tools related to science are infused into the curriculum. The course uses a variety of technology and lab oriented investigations to maximize student learning. This course is designed to explore a variety of life and earth science concepts and ideas.

There is a \$5.00 dissection fee.

#### **MYP Math 07**

Students completing this course will acquire a thorough understanding of proportional reasoning, geometric resonating, and problem solving skills through project based learning focused on a global view. Each skill will be delivered through 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills by collaborating, communicating, creating, and critical thinking to apply these skills. Students will have a strong foundation based on algorithms, equations, visual displays and statistics.

## **MYP Mathematics 07 Accelerated**

Prerequisites:

- Results from i-Ready
- Results From State Test
- Teacher recommendation
- Student interest

This course involves rigorous, faced paced preparation for the demands of mastering Algebra I in eighth grade using a world lens. This course is intended for those students who have excelled beyond intermediate standards during their sixth grade year. Students completing this course will develop an excellent foundation in algebra, graphs, geometry concepts, rational numbers, inequalities, transformations, linear equations, polynomials, integers, and real numbers. The general expectation of students placed in advanced math is that they maintain an IB score of 5 or above.

## **MYP Algebra I**

This course is the equivalent of a ninth grade Algebra I course. It includes the critical areas from High School Algebra I and contains content from Mathematics Grade 8. Algebra 1 demands a faster pace for instruction and learning. The students will master the following critical areas: quantities and rates, including simple linear expressions and equations; interpreting linear and exponential functions given graphically, numerically, symbolically, and verbally, translate between representations, exploring systems of equations and inequalities; using linear models to describe relationships between quantities and analyze the appropriateness of linear models; the laws of exponents to include rational exponents, creating and solving equations, inequalities, and systems of equations involving quadratic expressions; solving quadratic equations; graphing of quadratic functions; comparing the key characteristics of quadratic functions to those of linear and exponential, specialized functions that also include absolute value.

## **MYP Language/Literature 07**

Our language arts courses concentrate on the Colorado Academic Standards for reading, writing, and communicating. Incorporating a variety of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, students will work toward proficiency in the following areas: oral expression and listening, reading for all purposes, writing and composition, and research and reasoning. Students are expected to demonstrate grade level proficiency in each of these areas as they exit 7<sup>th</sup> grade. In addition, this course is guided by the IB MYP fundamental concepts of holistic learning, intercultural awareness, and communication. Students and teachers will use the IB areas of interaction to work toward proficiency in the IB language aims and objectives.

## **MYP Advanced Language/Literature 07**

Advanced language arts courses concentrate on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) for reading, writing, and communicating. Incorporating a variety of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, students will work toward advanced proficiency in the following areas: oral expression and listening, reading for all purposes, writing and composition, and research and reasoning. Students are expected to demonstrate above grade level proficiency in each of these areas as they exit 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Skills are addressed and practiced through complex and abstract thinking and students read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts to help make connections in and among disciplines. A collaborative approach to learning is emphasized with a focus on depth, complexity, analysis, and interpretation. In addition, this course is guided by the IB MYP fundamental concepts of holistic learning, intercultural awareness, and communication. Students and teachers will use the IB areas of interaction to work toward proficiency in the IB language aims and objectives.

## **MYP Individuals/Societies 07**

The 7th grade Social Studies curriculum consists of students investigating historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas and themes within regions of the Eastern Hemisphere from ancient civilizations through the Middle Ages. This curriculum is aligned with the four Colorado State Standards - History,

Geography, Economics, and Civics. This course is taught through the IB objectives of Knowing and Understanding, Investigating, Communicating, and Critical Thinking.

## **MYP Physical Education 07**

Expenses: A combination lock is required and provided for the PE locker room. The school will provide one. If the lock is lost or damaged the student will be assessed \$5.00.

Clothing: A RVMS PE uniform is required and can be purchased during express check-in or in the main office. Sturdy athletic shoes with laces are required daily.

Curriculum: The major components of physical education in 7th grade are; physical fitness, team sports, individual sports, and activities that promote personal and social responsibility. Activities include but are not limited to; basketball, tennis, volleyball, badminton, softball, flag football, dance, and fitness testing.

## **MYP Health 07**

Health Education is real practical application that promotes critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity. Students and apply thru the concepts of Social Emotional Wellness, Healthy Eating, Violence Prevention, Sexual Reproduction, Substance Abuse and Injury Prevention.

# **8th Grade REQUIRED Courses**

## **Science - Mathematics - Language Arts - Physical Education and Health - Individuals in Society**

### **MYP Science 08**

Physical Science is designed to serve as a foundation course for high school sciences. This year long course is a study of pre-chemistry principles (matter, atomic structure and periodic table, chemical bonds and reactions) and pre-physics principles (forces and motion, energy and electricity, wave characteristics and behavior including electromagnetic/sound/light waves) as given in the Colorado Grade Level Expectations. Meaningful laboratory investigations are an integral part of this course so that the student may grasp an understanding of the experimental nature of science. Emphasis will be placed on problem solving and the development of critical thinking skills.

### **MYP Math 08**

Students completing this course will develop an excellent foundation in algebra, data analysis, graphs, rational and irrational numbers, percent's, inequalities, linear equations, polynomials, integers, and real numbers. Students will be expected to be proficient in the Douglas County Middle School Standards at the completion of this course.

### **MYP Algebra I**

**Prerequisite: Students must have completed the advanced 7th grade course with an IB score of 5 or better as well as have teacher recommendation.**

This course is the equivalent of a ninth grade Algebra I course. This course builds from Accelerated Mathematics Grade 7. It includes the critical areas from High School Algebra I and contains content from Mathematics Grade 8. Algebra 1 demands a faster pace for instruction and learning. The students will master the following critical areas: quantities and rates, including simple linear expressions and equations; interpreting linear and exponential functions given graphically, numerically, symbolically, and verbally, translate between representations, exploring systems of equations and inequalities; using linear models to describe relationships between quantities and analyze the appropriateness of linear models; the laws of exponents to include rational exponents, creating and

solving equations, inequalities, and systems of equations involving quadratic expressions; solving quadratic equations; graphing of quadratic functions; comparing the key characteristics of quadratic functions to those of linear and exponential, specialized functions that also include absolute value, step functions, and piecewise-defined functions.

### **MYP Geometry:**

Students will master the following critical areas: establishing triangle congruence criteria, based on analyses of transformations and formal constructions and using triangle to develop formal proof; identifying criteria for similarity of triangles, using similarity to solve problems, and applying similarity to understand right triangle trigonometry, with particular attention to special right triangles and the Pythagorean theorem; circumference, area and volume formulas using the Pythagorean Theorem and a rectangular coordinate system to verify geometric relationships, including properties of special triangles and quadrilaterals proving basic theorems about circles, chords, secants, and tangents and using the Cartesian coordinate system to explore circles and parabolas; ability to compute and interpret theoretical and experimental probabilities for compound events, attending to mutually exclusive events, independent events, and conditional probability and using probability to make informed decisions.

### **MYP Language/Literature 08**

Our language arts courses concentrate on the Colorado Academic Standards for reading, writing, and communicating. Incorporating a variety of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, students will work toward proficiency in the following areas: oral expression and listening, reading for all purposes, writing and composition, and research and reasoning. Students are expected to demonstrate grade level proficiency in each of these areas as they exit 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In addition, this course is guided by the IB MYP fundamental concepts of holistic learning, intercultural awareness, and communication. Students and teachers will use the IB areas of interaction to work toward proficiency in the IB language aims and objectives.

### **MYP Language/Literature 08 Advanced**

Advanced Language Arts courses concentrate on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) for reading, writing, and communicating. Incorporating a variety of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, students will work toward advanced proficiency in the following areas: oral expression and listening, reading for all purposes, writing and composition, and research and reasoning. Students are expected to demonstrate above grade level proficiency in each of these areas as they exit 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Skills are addressed and practiced through complex and abstract thinking and students read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts to help make connections to their world. A collaborative approach to learning is emphasized with a focus on depth, complexity, analysis, and interpretation.

### **MYP Individuals/Societies 08**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies curriculum consists of the students investigating the historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas and themes from the origins of the American Revolution through Reconstruction and their relationships with one another. This curriculum is aligned with the four Colorado State Standards - History, Geography, Economics and Civics. This course is taught through the IB objectives of Knowing and Understanding, Investigating, Communicating, and Thinking Critically.

### **MYP Physical Education 08**

Expenses: A combination lock is required and provided for the PE locker room. The school will provide one. If the lock is lost or damaged the student will be assessed \$5.00.

Clothing: A RVMS PE uniform is required and can be purchased during express check-in or in the main office. Sturdy athletic shoes with laces are required daily.

Curriculum: The major components are; physical fitness, team sports, individual sports, and activities that promote personal and social responsibility. Activities include but are not limited to; basketball, tennis, volleyball, badminton, softball, flag football, dance, and fitness testing.

## **MYP Health 08**

Health Education is real practical application that promotes critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity. Students and apply thru the concepts of Social Emotional Wellness, Healthy Eating, Sexual Reproduction, Substance Abuse and Disease Prevention.

### **ELECTIVE Courses**

**All elective course offerings are based on the number of student requests and available staffing. We hope students will register if interested, but also be flexible should we have to make changes.**

*The purpose of electives or explanatories;*

- *To provide students with variety in class offerings.*
- *To provide opportunities for students to discover and develop their talents.*
- *To provide experiences that compliment and enrich the regular curriculum.*
- *To allow students to identify areas of personal interest.*

**Elective Fees** are determined by the Board of Education and **are subject to change without prior notification.**

### **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade YEAR-LONG Elective Courses**

**Spanish 1A - Spanish 1B - Spanish I - American Sign Language I - French 1A - French 1B - French I - Band - Treble Choir - Orchestra - Symphonic Wind - Electronic Publishing**

### **Electronic Publishing**

#### **Need Yearbook Teacher Approval**

This is a yearlong course focusing on using a computer and other technologies as a publication tool. The students will learn elements of publishing including page layout, graphic design, digital photography and journalism all with the end goal of creating the school yearbook and other print products. Students will use the Adobe Creative Suite as well as other programs to work independently and collaboratively. Students need to possess the ability to complete projects on deadline, a strong sense of responsibility and be able to produce high quality products. Students will be introduced to video production for RVMS audience purposes. Students and families also need to be aware that there is an after school commitment for taking photographs and covering sporting events, concerts, dances, plays and other performances.

### **MYP Spanish 1A**

This is a yearlong course for students who have had little or no previous experience with Spanish. Students will learn the skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking the target language. Students will also learn about aspects of Hispanic culture. Students are required to pass standards based assessments with IB Score of 5 or higher during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter in order to progress to the next level the following school year. Study time outside of class is necessary.

### **MYB Spanish 1B**

**Prerequisite: Spanish 1A**



Students who passed the 1A standards based assessments with an IB score of 5 or higher during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the previous school year may sign up for this course. Students will continue to build upon skills learned in Spanish 1A. Upon successful completion of this course students will be prepared to enter Spanish 2 in high school. Students are required to pass standards based assessments with an IB score of 5 or higher during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter in order to progress to the next level the following school year. Study time outside of class is necessary.

## **MYP Spanish I**

Designed to introduce students to Spanish language and culture, Spanish I courses emphasize basic grammar and syntax, simple vocabulary, and the spoken accent so that students can read, write, speak, and understand the language at a basic level within predictable areas of need, using customary courtesies and conventions. Spanish culture is introduced through the art, literature, customs, and history of Spanish-speaking people.

## **MYP French 1A**

This is a yearlong course for students who have had little or no previous experience with French. Students will learn the skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking the target language. Students will also learn about aspects of French culture. Students are required to pass standards based assessments with an IB Score of 5 or higher during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter in order to progress to the next level the following school year. Study time outside of class is necessary.

## **MYP French 1B**

### **Prerequisite: French 1A**

Students who passed the 1A standards based assessments with an IB score of 5 or higher during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the previous school year may sign up for this course. Students will continue to build upon skills learned in French 1A. Upon successful completion of this course students will be prepared to enter French 2 in high school. Students are required to pass standards based assessments with an IB score of 5 or higher during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter in order to progress to the next level the following school year. Study time outside of class is necessary.

## **MYP French I**

Designed to introduce students to French language and culture, French I emphasizes basic grammar and syntax, simple vocabulary, and the spoken accent so that students can read, write, speak, and understand the language at a basic level within predictable areas of need, using customary courtesies and conventions. French culture is introduced through the art, literature, customs, and history of the French-speaking people.

## **MYP American Sign Language I**

This year-long course will expose students to American Sign Language, focusing on visual/receptive skills and basic communication. Students will develop syntactic knowledge of ASL, finger spelling, numbers, common phrases, basic vocabulary, specialized signs, and basic communication skills.

## **MYP Band 7/8**

This class is an intermediate level of band instruction designed as a continuation of elementary and middle school instruction (students who have played for at least 6 months prior). We do welcome beginners to the class who are inviting of the challenge that reading music and playing an instrument provides. Emphasis will be placed on learning to read and write musical notation, learning to playing correct articulation, an understanding of dynamics, playing a wide variety of music representing many cultures and styles, listening critically to music, creativity and working together as an ensemble. Classes are performance-oriented: **students must attend all concerts**. Expected Concert Wear: Black long-sleeved shirts, black slacks or black skirts with opaque black tights, black shoes. Home practice is expected of all students.

**Expenses:** All woodwind and brass players must provide their own instrument unless arrangements

have been made to rent an instrument from the school. The school has limited instrument selection and rental is determined on a need and availability basis (\$50/semester). All students will also be required to purchase a band method book. The information about purchasing the method book will be available at the beginning of the school year. A band lock is provided by the school. If the lock is lost or damaged, a new one may be replaced for \$5.00.

Any other equipment needed, such as reeds, valve oil, cleaning kits, neck straps, mutes, etc. must be purchased by the student.

## **Select Treble Choir**

No previous singing experience required! Students begin to or continue to develop their skills in singing, music-reading, and ensemble performance. In the course, elements of comprehensive musicianship such as creating music, reading music, singing/playing music and analyzing/ describing music are approached through the lens of large ensemble performance. Vocal Ensemble courses help students develop vocal techniques and refine their ability to sing parts in small ensembles (e.g., madrigal, barber shop, gospel). Course goals may include helping students develop their solo singing ability and emphasize one or several ensemble literature styles. These ensembles may include both instrumental and vocal music. Each class requires occasional after-school rehearsals and several evening performances. Choir at RVMS provides and develops essential skills for communicating through music.

Class is performance-oriented: **Students must attend all concerts.**

## **MYP Orchestra 7/8**

Expenses: All orchestra players must provide their own instrument unless arrangements have been made to rent an instrument from the school. The school has limited instrument selection and rental is determined on a need and availability basis (\$50/semester).

The class is a beginner/intermediate level orchestra experience with emphasis on reading, skill development, theory and ear training, and ensemble playing. Several concerts are presented throughout the year both in school and away from school. These performances include festivals and concerts. Attendance is required at all performances. Home practice is expected of all students.

## **Symphonic Wind**

Small Ensemble courses help students perform a variety of musical styles in a more soloistic setting, where each player is on an individual part, compared to the full sections of a traditional concert band. Particular focus is placed on ensemble balance, style, and blend. At the same time, this course helps cultivate students' technique on instruments appropriate to the style(s) performed. Classes are performance-oriented: students must attend all concerts. Expected Concert Wear: Black long-sleeved shirts, black slacks or black skirts with opaque black tights, black shoes. Home practice is expected of all students. Expenses: All woodwind and brass players must provide their own instrument unless arrangements have been made to rent an instrument from the school. The school has limited instrument selection and rental is determined on a need and availability basis (\$50/semester). All students will also be required to purchase a band method book. The information about purchasing the method book will be available at the beginning of the school year. A band lock is provided by the school. If the lock is lost or damaged, a new one may be replaced for \$5.00. Any other equipment needed, such as reeds, valve oil, cleaning kits, neck straps, mutes, etc. must be purchased by the student.

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade SEMESTER ONLY Elective Courses**

**Dimensions in Literacy - Dimensions of Math - Art: Paint and Draw - Art: Sculptures - Drama - Drama B - World Music: Percussion - Jazz Band - Choir - Music Appreciation - Conditioning & Wellness for Life - Family/Consumer Sciences - Digital Design -**

# Multimedia Productions - Exploring Computer Science - Innovation and Design Lab - Speech and Debate

## **MYP DIMENSIONS IN LITERACY**

Targeted, small group instruction for students who need extra support with their literacy development. This class is designed to increase students' literacy self-confidence and enjoyment of reading and writing through high interest materials on a variety of topics, while remediating topics covered in core language arts classes. Students are placed in this class based on a body of evidence and is offered according to literacy need.

## **MYP DIMENSIONS IN MATHEMATICS**

This one-semester course is designed to target students who need reinforcement with mathematics' skills. The students will use technology and hands-on projects to bring mathematics to life and develop insights and conceptual knowledge necessary to achieve in mathematics.

## **Art: Sculptures**

Expenses:        \$20.00 material fee

Visual Arts - Sculpture courses promote creative expression through three-dimensional works. These courses explore real and abstract sculpture through subtractive (carving), additive (modeling), and assemblage techniques in one or more media. Visual Arts—Sculpture courses typically include the production of real and abstract sculptures while incorporating elements of art and principles of design, along with a study of historical and contemporary sculpture and sculptors from a worldwide perspective. These courses also provide instruction in the critique process.

## **Art: Paint and Draw**

Expenses:        \$20.00 material fee

Visual Arts - Drawing courses provide a foundation in drawing using a variety of techniques and media (such as pen-and-ink, pencil, chalk, and so on), emphasizing observation and interpretation of the visual environment, life drawing, and imaginative drawing. These courses typically include applying the elements of art and principles of design, along with a study of art and artists from a worldwide perspective, and instruction in the critique process. Advanced courses may encourage students to refine their creative processes and develop their own artistic styles.

## **MYP Drama**

Students in Drama will learn about the history of theater, pantomime, group work, monologues, and scene work. They will also learn about the audition process, audience etiquette, research, and other relevant areas. They will explore new acting skills, improvisation, and memorization. They will learn self-confidence and get more at ease with public speaking.

## **MYP Drama B**

Perform at a higher level! You don't have to take Drama to enroll in this course. This class focuses on advance acting techniques regardless of skill. At the end of the course, you will have the opportunity to produce a play in class.

## **MYP Theater Stagecraft**

Theater Stagecraft course provides students with experience and skill in one or more aspects of theatrical production, such as lighting, costuming, sound, set construction, makeup, and stage management.. Initial courses are usually introductory in nature, while more advanced courses

emphasize improving technique, expanding students' exposure to different types of techniques and traditions, and increasing their chances of helping to mount public productions.

## **World Music: Percussion**

This is an extension of the band program that will focus on the fundamentals of percussion, including all battery (drums) and mallet (xylophone, etc) percussion. Percussionists are the only musicians in band and orchestra that are required to learn multiple instruments, and this class will allow students to really focus on the techniques for all percussion instruments. This is a performing class: percussionists are an important part of the band, and will be performing with the band at all concerts. Home practice is expected of all students.

***Experience is not necessary.***

Percussionists will not need their snare drum or bell set at school, but will be required to pay a \$60.00 annual percussion usage fee.

## **Jazz Band**

Formerly known as Contemporary Band, Contemporary Instrumental Ensemble courses help students perform a variety of contemporary styles, such as traditional jazz, jazz improvisation, and rock. At the same time, these courses cultivate students' technique on instruments appropriate to the style(s) performed—brass, woodwind, string, percussion instruments, and/or electronic. These ensembles emphasize instrumental music but may also include vocal music. Advanced coursework provides students with opportunities for growth through rehearsal and performance, improvisation, or creating and performing their own compositions.

Several concerts are presented throughout the semester both in school and away from school. These performances include festivals and concerts. *Attendance is required at all performances.* Home practice is expected of all students.

## **Choir**

No previous singing experience required! Chorus courses develop students' vocal skills within the context of a large choral ensemble in which they can perform a variety of styles. These courses are designed to develop students' vocal techniques and their ability to sing parts.

Several concerts are presented throughout the semester both in school and away from school. These performances include festivals and concerts. *Attendance is required at all performances.* Home practice is expected of all students.

## **Music Appreciation**

***This is coded as Music Lab 7/8 on schedules***

Music lab is an exploratory course designed for students with an interest in music but little music experience. No previous musical experience is required. Students acquire basic knowledge of writing Western musical notation. There is also a focus on giving students an appreciation and understanding for music as well as building basic musical proficiency. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of music from diverse styles and cultures and will develop the skills necessary to think, speak and write critically about music.

This is NOT a performance based class.

## **MYP Conditioning & Wellness for Life**

***Elective PE Course***

The Physical Education department offers an elective class that gives students an opportunity to enhance their physical conditioning and overall well-being. Students can use this class to achieve their personal fitness goals and/or as a foundation for sports conditioning. All activities in the class will

focus on health-related components of physical fitness (cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance and flexibility). Activities and principles covered are lifelong oriented and go beyond the typical team and individual sports and games covered in the Physical Education curriculum. Activities may include, but are not limited to: aerobics, functional fitness, running, weight training, circuit training, fitness games, yoga, interval training, and Pilates.

## **MYP Innovation and Design Lab**

Expenses: \$30.00 material fee.

In a semester, students will rotate to several modules on a 10 day rotation schedule. They can select from the following modules: Lab Manager: Robotics: Lasers: Bridges: Drafting: Widgets and Gadgets: Problem Solving: Flight: Simple Machines / Simple Machines: Rocketry: Drivers Education: Mag Level: Manufacturing: Digital Photography: Embroidery / T-shirt design: Video: Dragsters / COs Cars: Instructional facilitation and structured navigation is used to insure the students read, watch videos and answer questions that relate to their specific module. The curriculum is hands-on in nature because we know that students are engaged when they are using their hands to apply what they have learned. International Baccalaureate core themes have been integrated in to each module to enhance that module's specific content. Students use open-ended projects to develop technological problem solving skills. Students will be evaluated on how they have applied what they have learned to their specific project.

## **MYP Family/Consumer Sciences**

Expenses: \$30.00 material fee.

Family and Consumer Science introduce students to problem solving skills and practical knowledge that they will need to function in the world outside of the school environment. This includes, but is not limited to, introductory cooking skills, financial management, career exploration, community involvement, and basic principles of design. Critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity are all integrated into authentic learning tasks that allow students to apply their learning in fun and meaningful ways.

## **Exploring Computer Science**

Expenses: \$35.00

In this course, students will learn how to create stories and games using computer coding concepts. Students will learn the basics of a computer system from hardware to operating systems. They will learn problem solving techniques using computational thinking concepts. This course will prepare students for entry level computer science high school courses.

## **MYP Digital Design**

Expenses: \$20.00 material fee.

Digital Design is intended for middle level students to gain an understanding of digital print media. Students will design and create original works using a variety of software in order to communicate, and will learn principal concepts of photography and graphic design. This course will focus on the use of computer technology for the creation of digital print media. Students will use digital photography equipment, photo editing software, graphic design software to demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using digital photography and computer technology. Students will communicate information and ideas effectively using a variety of digital print media.

## **MYP Multimedia Productions**

Expenses: \$20.00 material fee.

This course will focus on the use of computer technology for the creation of multimedia presentations. Students will use multimedia tools such as iMovie, Garage Band, video cameras, microphones, and other video editing equipment to demonstrate creative thinking, critical thinking, project planning

collaboration, construct knowledge and develop innovative products and processes using technology. Students will communicate information and ideas effectively using a variety of different media, including but not limited to multimedia presentation, audio production, and video production. **Acknowledgement Form is required for this class.**

## **Speech and Debate**

A research-based public speaking course with a concentration on development of good speaking habits. Assignments include, but are not limited to, writing and presenting short stories, demonstration, informative, current event, and persuasive speeches. Students are required to use visuals, which can turn an average speech into an impressive presentation. Students are given class time to research and rehearse their speeches.

## **Middle School Philosophy At Ranch View**

**Welcome to the middle school. This age of the young adolescent is very exciting and full of challenges for the parent, child, and educator. At Ranch View, we strive to serve all students and work to provide learning experiences and activities that offer success to each and every individual. We realize that students at the middle level are enduring a great many changes and our staff offers understanding of adolescent issues and at the same time we have high expectations of students both behaviorally and academically.**

**Ranch View Middle School is a fully accredited Middle Years Programme (MYP) through the International Baccalaureate. One of the reasons why we pursued MYP was that it both honored the research and educational pedagogy that we know is best for the developmental stage of our students. Along with supporting the framework described previously around Middle School Philosophy, MYP takes us one step further with insistence upon high academic rigor and high behavioral expectations while preparing students for a Global Workplace and Economy. We integrated holistic IB core values into classes, our teams, units of study, and daily life each day at RVMS.**

**Some of the characteristics of our school environment are:**

**INTERDISCIPLINARY TEACHER TEAMS** - Your child will be working with a team of teachers. These teachers work together to provide appropriate and student-centered learning experiences and activities. This offers the advantage of a smaller “community” within the larger school. Teachers also strive to make their learning dependent and integrated with their colleagues so that concepts can be taught and reinforced through multiple means and disciplines.

**TEAM/DEPARTMENT PLANNING** - Each day the teacher teams and departments plan together. These planning sessions are used to coordinate assignments, plan interdisciplinary units of study, problem solve different student issues, meet with parents for specific reasons, be collegial, share ideas, and strategies with teammates.

**ENRICHMENT** - Most all middle schools have a short time during the day that students link with one adult for the purpose of advisory. Students go to this either before or after lunch. It is very important time because this is where the students find out important information; connect with a special teacher to talk over issues, link with other teachers on missed homework assignments, and a variety of other activities that provide a consistent structure for the student.

**EXPLORATORY ELECTIVE CLASSES** - At the middle level we encourage students to take a variety of electives. This is for the purpose of “exploring” interests, talents, areas of strength, and to try out other learning styles.

**POSITIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT** - We work hard to establish an environment where every person feels safe, accepted, loved and welcomed. An environment where all are invited to participate and many are encouraged to be in leadership roles. We expect each child and adult are treated with dignity and respect.

**ASSESSMENT THAT CONSIDERS THE INDIVIDUAL** - We record individual academic achievement while providing a variety of assessments in all curricular areas.

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT** - Parents are welcome and encouraged to be involved with us in the teaching and learning process. Our school will be strong with the collaboration and cooperation between parents and school. Much of our time is spent working with parents to ensure student success.

**COUNSELING MISSION STATEMENT** - The Counseling Center at Ranch View Middle School will create a warm, caring, and accepting environment. The Counseling Center will be committed to helping students develop skills for personal and social competency, to include educational development and emotional well-being. The counselors will serve as a student advocate and will interact with students purposefully with integrity and respect while recognizing the individuality and potential of each student.