

# Middle School Course Guide

## **Philosophy**

The Rosslyn Academy Middle School Course Guide is designed to inspire and equip each student to develop their God-given gifts for Christ-like service in the world community. Through a balanced curricular and co-curricular program, there is continued emphasis on the spiritual, academic, social, emotional, and physical development of students. Students are encouraged to develop a personal identity based on a proper understanding and acceptance of themselves as unique individuals, created in the image of God. They are also encouraged to nurture positive interpersonal relationships and acquire a Christian worldview, as they learn to integrate Scripture with life.

Rosslyn's curricular programs emphasize the natural relationship among academic disciplines; this facilitates cohesive learning experiences for students. Academic skill emphasis within a well-defined continuum is used as the basic guide in each curricular area.

It is Rosslyn Academy Middle School's hope that every student would be exposed to a wide range of experiences (albeit at a very surface level) in order to perhaps spark a student's interests for further studies before they enter into High School and beyond. The core classes that are offered in each grade are standard American-based curriculum classes that would be similar to any American curriculum school. The daily schedule and amount of time given to each subject has been carefully balanced over the years and represents the culmination of many different discussions between departments.

## **Promotion**

The ultimate aim of Rosslyn Academy is to do what is best for the student socially, spiritually, psychologically, and academically. In most instances, this results in promotion. In some cases, however, this may mean retention in the same grade for another year or not being able to re-enroll for the next school year.

The following guidelines facilitate decisions regarding promotion:

1. Each case will be evaluated individually.
2. The case will be evaluated by a number of individuals (which may include the parents, the teachers of the student, and a counselor) who make a recommendation to the principal. The principal dialogues with and officially communicates any school decision to the parents.
3. In most cases, appropriate mastery of the material as reflected by a student's earned grades will be the primary factor in determining promotion. A "C" average (i.e. grade of 70 or better) with no F averages in core courses is indicative of basic successful accomplishments even though a "D" is passing.
4. Our goal is that a promoted student has the knowledge and ability to achieve successfully at the next grade level.

All recommendations and decisions are made with the student's best interests in mind.

## 6th Grade

Course Name	Length of Course	Possible Choices
English Language Arts (ELA)	1 Year	
Social Studies	1 Year	
Science	1 Year	
Math	1 Year	
Christian Religious Education	1 Semester	
Physical Education	1 Semester	
Music	1 Semester	Band or Choir
World Languages	1 Semester	French, Spanish, Kiswahili, Korean
Art	1 Semester	
Technology	1 Semester	

## 7th Grade

Course Name	Length of Course	Possible Choices
English Language Arts (ELA)	1 Year	
Social Studies	1 Year	
Science	1 Year	
Math	1 Year	
Christian Religious Education	1 Semester	
Music	1 Semester	Band or Choir
Physical Education	1 Semester	
Art	1 Semester	
World Languages	1 Semester	French, Spanish, Kiswahili, Korean
Speech	1 Quarter	
Health	1 Quarter	

## 8th Grade

Course Name	Length of Course	Possible Choices
English Language Arts (ELA)	1 Year	
Social Studies	1 Year	Model United Nations
Science	1 Year	
Math	1 Year	
Christian Religious Education	1 Semester	Christian Discipleship
Physical Education	1 Semester	
Music	1 Semester	Band or Choir
Art	1 Semester	
World Languages	1 Semester	French, Spanish, Kiswahili, Korean
Technology	1 Semester	

## Notes for Specific Academic Subjects

### Mathematics

Rosslyn offers two sixth grade math courses - Sixth Grade Math and Sixth Grade Math Plus (Advanced 1). The Sixth Grade Math course moves students along a traditional path through middle school (with the possibility of moving into the advanced track in seventh grade), taking Algebra 1 in 9th Grade. The Sixth Grade Math Plus course allows students to take Algebra 1 in 8th grade. Rosslyn will use multiple factors to place students in the two courses. We propose the following criteria for determining where each current 5<sup>th</sup> grader would be most successful.

1. The Big Ideas Math Pre-Course Test - This curriculum has a pre-course test that will be given to students in May to determine each student's math ability.
2. 5th Grade Teacher Recommendations – Recommendations are based on grades, effort and interest in math.
3. Standardized Assessment – If necessary, teachers and administrator could consider prior standardized testing results, including Terra Nova testing given by Rosslyn. This could also help with parental issues when students are not placed in the upper group, but have a “good” grade in math.

Why have two routes? Each route has its benefits. The regular route suits students who are developing their mathematical understanding at a normal rate, while the advanced route provides a challenge for those students who are ready for it. The advanced route sets students on pace to take one math course per year, culminating in 12th grade Calculus. However, Calculus is not a necessary course for the majority of students. Regular route math students interested in taking Calculus are able to design their high school schedule to achieve the necessary prerequisites. In summary, it is our desire that every student be able to succeed while being appropriately challenged in whatever math course they take.

### Music

Band is offered as a voluntary option to students in Middle School. The school has some instruments, which may be rented. Participating in Band is excellent preparation for High School Band or instrumental ensembles and personal musical talent development.

Choir is one of a 2 music opportunities required of students in Grades 6 to 8. This is excellent preparation for High School Choir and/or Rosslyn Singers

The Middle School participates in the Band and Choir concerts before Christmas and at the end of the school year. Attendance is mandatory.

## Physical Education (PE)

The goal of the Physical Education program is to engage students in a variety of physical activities and teach them skills that are appropriate to their age and maturity level. A further purpose is to help students discover areas of activity that they enjoy and can further explore as a means of maintaining personal physical fitness.

All students are required to participate in Physical Education activities unless excused by a physician, the principal, or the school nurse. Students are required to dress out in their purchased PE uniform for class unless excused by their PE teacher. Lack of dressing out affects the PE grade.

## World Languages

The MS World Languages program at this time offers students an introduction to another language. While we are hoping and working for more in the future, it is not currently designed to be the equivalent of the first year of language in high school. Concepts are introduced at a more relaxed pace, with emphasis on gaining familiarity with the sounds and basic patterns of the language as well as the cultural contexts in which it is spoken. We have found that this eases the transition to the more rigorous vocabulary development and grammar study that is the hallmark of high school language study.

Each year, however, there are students who show the interest, the aptitude, and even the need to move directly into level 2 of a language in high school. This is typically done by taking and passing the HS level 1 final exam. As many of the skills required for this exam are not developed in the regular course of MS language study, a significant amount of effort must be made outside of class to prepare for the exam. Appropriate materials and guidance to build these skills can be provided by our MS language teachers, but the majority of the preparation must be done individually. Continued consideration for moving to level 2 is contingent upon superior performance in class, successful completion of periodic assessments, and a passing grade on the level 1 final. If a student is found deficient at any time in any of these areas then their candidacy for level 2 will be reconsidered.