

MIDDLE SCHOOL AT ASA THRIVE 2022-2023



“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go...”

- Dr. Seuss

The middle school courses and schedules for the 2022-2023 school year have been revamped largely in response to what you, our Wolves, have shared would create a rich middle school experience.

WHAT'S NEW IN MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR?

Honors Courses in 8th Grade

Mixed Cohorts

Expanded Choices in Elective Courses



HONORS COURSES IN 8TH GRADE



Allegiance is proud to offer a variety of HONORS courses to middle school students. The purpose of these courses is to meet the needs of students eager to engage in a challenging curriculum as they consider the multiple pathways that will lead to future college and career success. HONORS courses will offer an additional layer of depth and complexity applied to the standard core content alongside the high expectations and authentic learning experiences found in all Allegiance courses.

Students are recommended by their teachers for HONORS courses in English-Language Arts and Math (Integrated Math 1). An Honors Distinction can be achieved in Social Studies and/or Science through strong academic performance across the year in addition to completing additional tasks provided by classroom teachers.

MIXED COHORTS

Your schedule will include mixed cohorts throughout the day. Mixed cohorts means that your classes will not consist of 100% the same students all day long. While you will still share some classes with the same students, this will not be the case for your entire schedule.

EXPANDED CHOICES IN ELECTIVE COURSES

Instead of taking the same course as everyone else in your grade, you will be able to select from a variety of elective courses. Some courses, such as P.A.L., are available through an application process, only.

All other elective courses will be offered based on student interest and availability. Elective Courses include:

- Art
- Instrumental Music
- Music Production & Engineering
- Drama
- Journalism/Yearbook
- P.A.L.
- Mandarin
- Digital Literacy
- Financial Literacy
- Coding



WHAT'S NEW IN 2022-2023?



Honors Courses:

- **Integrated Math 1:** Integrated Math 1 is a high school level math course that is taken concurrently with Math 8. Students who successfully complete Integrated Math 1 will be on an accelerated track once they start high school. Students are placed into Integrated Math 1 based on a combination of academic performance and teacher recommendation.
- **English Language Arts Honors:** ELA Honors offers students rich and robust reading and writing instruction and application designed to prepare students for high school advanced placement ELA courses. Students are recommended by their teachers for English Language Arts Honors.

Honors Distinction:

Middle School Science and Social Studies: Students in Middle School Science and Social Studies may attain an Honors Distinction on their transcripts in either Science or Social Studies by meeting the following criteria:

- earn a grade of 96% or higher in all three trimesters
- complete and submit all assigned graded assignments in all three trimesters
- demonstrate mastery of grade level content standards in one additional alternate project* per trimester

**Additional projects are determined by classroom teachers and provide students opportunities for authentic application of grade level skills and content.*

Math Intervention:

Math Intervention is an extension of the regular math classes that provides students who need it additional focused instruction and support in order to successfully complete Middle School Math. Students are placed in Math Intervention based on teacher recommendation.



WHAT'S NEW IN 2022-2023?



Elective Courses:

Elective courses are offered based on the level of student interest and scheduling availability. *Once you read through the descriptions below, choose your preferred electives [here](#).*

- **Art:** This course provides students the opportunity to experience various artists, study their biographies, immerse themselves into the history and background of various genres and art media while planning and creating their own unique pieces of art.
- **Instrumental Music:** Students will learn the basics of reading music and playing a band instrument, and will perform at a variety of events throughout the school year. The course will prepare students for future participation in high school band and other similar endeavors.
- **Music Production & Engineering:** This course will explore the fundamentals of creating and organizing music with an emphasis on the use of technology. Students will use different software applications to create and arrange music. Students will learn how to manipulate music by creating medley mixes, music re-arranging, and exploring the digital world of music.
- **Drama:** Students explore the various skills and techniques utilized in putting together dramatic presentations. Through the use of various fun activities including music, movement, memory, rhythm, and short play scripts, students examine the wonderful world of the theater.
- **Journalism/Yearbook:** This class helps tell the story of Allegiance STEAM Academy. In addition to publishing the school yearbook, students write and produce Paw-Cast, the official student-driven podcast of Allegiance STEAM Academy. Students learn to use digital photography, and how to create page layouts, conduct interviews, write captions, and publish articles and podcasts.
- **Mandarin:** The course allows students to perform basic functions of Mandarin using increasingly complex structures as students become familiar with some detailed elements of the culture. The emphasis is placed on the ongoing progressive development of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and viewing skills within a given context extending outside of the classroom setting. The context focuses on adolescents' lives, needs, and experiences but also expands to other aspects of life and exposes students to a variety of customs. Grammar is integrated throughout the course and is based on thematic units.