

**Porter-Gaud**

**Middle School**

**Course Guide**

**2020-2021**

## **Middle School Curriculum Guide**

This guide is designed to provide an overview of the Middle School curriculum. The chart on page 2 shows the sequence of courses for each grade level followed by course descriptions for each department. The core curriculum at each grade level is the same for the majority of students. In addition to the core courses, students will meet special area classes throughout the year in one of the blocks. Middle School Students have one elective choice: MS Choir.

The teachers at each grade level serve as academic advisors for the students in that grade. Due to our current Virtual Learning, parents will receive schedule information to confirm via our parent portal. Parents are encouraged to reach out with any questions and concerns to either their child's advisor in an optional conference or by contacting Maureen Daily.

Students will receive a copy of their schedules in the end-of-summer mailing. In addition to courses, times, and teachers, the schedule will also include the advisor's name and the student's locker number.

### General Course Information:

Courses required of all students have already been scheduled. Students entering 5th grade will need to confirm their choice of a world language. Students entering grades 6, 7, and 8 must continue the world language started in grade 5. Students electing to take Choir must check the appropriate space on the schedule card.

In 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades, students meet twice a week for Physical Education. Art, Music, Computer Science, and Religion meet on a quarterly rotation.

In 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Art, Music, Computer Science, and PE meet on a quarterly rotation.

### Upper School Course Credit:

Please note Algebra 1, Honors Algebra 1, Geometry, Honors Geometry, Spanish I, Latin I, French I, and Chinese I are Upper School credits. If these courses are taken in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grades, they are reflected on a student's Upper School transcript and included in their Upper School GPA.

UPDATED 2/26/2020	ENGLISH	HISTORY	MATH	SCIENCE	WORLD LANGUAGES	FINE & PERFORMING ARTS	COMPUTER SCIENCE	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	RELIGION	LIFE IOI TOPICS
<b>5TH GRADE</b>	<b>-READING &amp; WRITING</b>  <i>Workshop-based model, mini- lessons, conferencing, and student choices for reading &amp; writing</i>	<b>-CLASSICAL WORLD HISTORY</b>  <i>Classical world civilizations; cultural traditions &amp; historical developments</i>	<b>-MATH 5</b>  <i>Real numbers, operations &amp; relations, rational &amp; prime numbers, factoring, measurement, problem-solving, and graphing</i>	<b>SCIENCE 5</b>  <i>Life, earth, and physical science; scientific habits of mind</i>	<b>-CHINESE -FRENCH -LATIN -SPANISH</b>  <i>Cultural exploration &amp; foundational skill- building for all languages</i>	<b>-ART 5 -ART 6 -ART 7 -ART 8</b>  <i>MS art courses explore the principles of art &amp; design and allow students to work with different media to improve artistic skills in 2D and 3D art. Art history &amp; appreciation are included.</i>	<b>-COMPUTER SCIENCE 5</b>  <i>Block-based coding, physical computing, 3D design &amp; printing, game design, and robotics</i>	<b>-PE 5 -PE 6 -PE 7 -PE 8</b>  <i>Physical fitness, leadership skills, teamwork, and self- confidence</i>	<b>-RELIGION 5</b> <b>-Based on C.S. Lewis’ Narnia novels; common ethical framework aligned with the mission of Porter- Gaud School.</b>  <b>-RELIGION 6</b> <b>-OLD TESTAMENT</b> <i>Chronological study of events, themes, and lessons from the Old Testament.</i>	<b>-SEL</b> <i>(*Social Emotional Learning/Identity work)</i> *JUNG PERSONALITY TESTING *EMOTIONAL REGULATION *EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE *STRENGTH FINDERS *PURPOSE STATEMENTS & EXERCISES *PERSONAL VALUE STATEMENTS *CONFLICT RESOLUTION *BODY IMAGE & SELF-ESTEEM  <b>-LEADERSHIP OF SELF</b>  <b>-MINDFULNESS &amp; YOGA</b>  <b>-INTERPERSONAL SKILLS, POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS</b>  <b>-EMPATHY</b>  <b>-GRATITUDE</b>  <b>-RESILIENCE</b> <i>(DWEK’S WORK ON MINDSET)</i>  <b>-ETHICS</b>  <b>-DIVERSITY &amp; INCLUSION</b>  <b>-HUMAN GROWTH &amp; DEVELOPMENT</b>  <b>-DRUG &amp; ALCOHOL PREVENTION EDUCATION</b>  <b>-DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP</b>
	<b>-ENGLISH 6</b>  <i>Writing, formal &amp; informal speaking, and active listening in a collaborative environment</i>	<b>-AMERICAN HISTORY I</b>  <i>Part 1 of North American history survey</i>  <i>10,000 BCE – Present</i>	<b>-MATH 6</b>  <i>Number theory, data &amp; statistics, basic alg., decimals, fractions, ratios, probability, geometry, and more</i>  <b>-HONORS PRE- ALGEBRA</b>	<b>LIFE SCIENCE</b>  <i>Cells and heredity; diversity of life, human body systems</i>	<b>-CHINESE STUDIES -FRENCH STUDIES -LATIN STUDIES -SPANISH STUDIES</b>  <i>Introduction to language &amp; traditions; basic conversational phrases and grammar</i>	<b>-MUSIC 5 -MUSIC 6 -MUSIC 7 -MUSIC 8</b>	<b>-COMPUTER SCIENCE 6</b>  <i>Basic algorithmic thinking, more advanced game design, 3D design, and 3D printing</i>			
	<b>-ENGLISH 7</b>  <i>Narrative &amp; descriptive writing; Themes, character development, and connections between literary texts</i>	<b>-AMERICAN HISTORY II</b>  <i>Part 2 of North American history survey</i>  <i>Reconstruction – 1980s</i>	<b>-PRE-ALGEBRA</b>  <b>-HONORS PRE- ALGEBRA</b>  <b>-HONORS ALGEBRA I**</b>	<b>EARTH SYSTEMS SCIENCE</b>  <i>Movement, composition, environment, and history of Earth</i>	<b>-CHINESE IA -FRENCH IA -LATIN IA -SPANISH IA</b>  <i>Vocabulary building, grammatical structures, listening &amp; reading comprehension</i>	<i>MS music courses explore the fundamentals of rhythm, melody, and harmony. Students are exposed to a wide variety of musical genres; Students perform, improvise, and compose original pieces.</i>	<b>-COMPUTER SCIENCE 7</b>  <i>Problem- solving, 3D design and 2D game creation, robotics, electronics, and physical computing</i>			
<b>8TH GRADE</b>	<b>-ENGLISH 8</b>  <i>Expository, comparative, and persuasive writing; Wide variety of literary genres, active reading strategies</i>	<b>-WORLD REGIONS &amp; PEOPLE</b>  <i>Physical and cultural diversity of our interconnected world; emphasis on geographic inquiry process and awareness of world cultures</i>	<b>-INTRO TO ALGEBRA I</b>  <b>-HONORS ALGEBRA I**</b>  <b>-ALGEBRA I**</b>  <b>-HONORS GEOMETRY**</b>	<b>ENVIRONME N-TAL/ PHYSICAL SCIENCE</b>  <i>Intro to chemistry and physics; current environmen tal issues</i>	<b>-CHINESE I** -FRENCH I** -LATIN I** -SPANISH I**</b>  <i>Continuation of introductory levels; vocabulary building, complex grammatical structures</i>	<b>-MS CHOIR</b>  <i>Elective open to all MS students; MS Choir performs at all major concerts</i>	<b>-COMPUTER SCIENCE 8</b>  <i>Minecraft, Python and music creation; 3D modeling and game creation</i>			

\*\*THESE COURSES QUALIFY FOR PORTER-GAUD UPPER SCHOOL COURSE CREDITS WHEN TAKEN IN 7<sup>TH</sup> OR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE, WILL APPEAR ON THE US TRANSCRIPT AND BE CALCULATED IN THE GPA.

# Course Descriptions

## **English**

Reading/Writing- Fifth grade reading is designed to give students the tools to choose, read, and comprehend literature independently. Our workshop model gives students the gift of choice, which helps motivate them intrinsically. Students are monitored and conversations arise out of authentic connections to the text that each child is reading or writing. The one-on-one time given during class allows the teacher to gently challenge and re-teach skills when necessary. This makes for an organic discussion of the skills taught during whole class mini-lessons. Students in fifth grade are exposed to a variety of genres and challenged to broaden their interests. Fifth grade writing follows the same structure as reading. Students are allowed the opportunity to write on a topic and genre of their choosing. Students are given the chance to explore writing in a new genre. Progress is monitored through one-on-one conferences in craft and conventions, along with more formal rubric-based composition assessments. Students are also given the opportunity to creatively share what they've read and written while practicing public speaking in a comfortable environment.

English 6 – Sixth grade English is a combination of formal reading and writing instruction. Students will read common class texts to build comprehension, text analysis, and close listening skills. Texts will include fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and short stories. Writing instruction will focus on the elements of short fiction including dialogue, conflict, characterization, and point of view. Each piece will be taken through the full writing process from drafting to publication and revision. Grammar and vocabulary skills will be woven into both literature and writing instruction.

English 7- Seventh grade English is a study of literature that seeks to understand and trace character development as well as to identify literary themes, ultimately making connections between different texts. Students write both personal narratives and descriptive compositions, using their exposure to literature to help them to understand the tenets of good writing. This course also emphasizes vocabulary acquisition as well as comprehension of grammatical concepts that will help students to write with more advanced and varied sentence structure.

English 8 - Students read novels, plays, poetry, and short stories to continue to develop skills in analyzing literature. Eighth grade students build on their working knowledge of literary elements from 6th and 7th grade to understand the characteristics of each genre. Students use class discussion, annotations, and active reading strategies to engage in the course readings. They develop individual writing styles through the expository format, writing comparison, definition, persuasive, and other forms of essays. The course includes vocabulary study through completing practice exercises in workbooks and understanding context in literature. While students do not use a grammar workbook, their writing and revision skills dictate which areas need review and formal instruction.

## **History**

Classical World History (grade 5)- Classical World History is a course designed to introduce classical world civilizations and their rich histories to students in order to broaden exposure to global diversity. The course is structured to help students analyze world history through interactive, “experience-based” lessons that enhance empathy and understanding of various cultural traditions and historical developments. Students will build early foundational skills in analytical writing, and reading historical texts, including primary and secondary sources.

American History I (grade 6) - American History I is the first part of a two-year survey of North American history from 10,000 BCE to the present. Students begin with an investigation of nascent Paleo-Indian cultures at the end of the Earth's last Ice Age and end with an examination of Reconstruction after the U.S. Civil War. The course is designed to draw students into an interactive narrative of the people and events traversing this period in history, while building foundational critical reading and writing skills.

American History II (grade 7) - American History II is part two of a survey of North American history, spanning from Reconstruction through the 1980s. Students begin with a unit on American government and civics, and finish out the year examining the turbulence of the Cold War Era. Through interactive simulations and debate, students in this course will assume an active role in assessing the events that shaped the history of the United States, while building critical thinking and writing skills.

World Regions and People (grade 8) - This course strives to develop an appreciation of the growing interconnectedness of the world and its diversity through a study of its historical, geographic and cultural foundations. World Regions and People takes a global approach to the study of world history by exploring the inter-regional links to the past and present, while broadening student empathy for differences. This course prepares students through the development of higher-level critical thinking and writing, reading comprehension and evaluation of evidence, analytical discussion and presentation skills, and research techniques. Through a study of continuities and changes over time, as well as similarities and differences between world regions and people, students will be able to perceive and analyze the historical themes that continue to shape the world today.

## **World Languages**

The World Language curriculum in the Middle School begins in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade with the choice of a year’s course in Chinese, French, Latin, or Spanish. In the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, students will learn foundational skills for language acquisition and study the culture and customs of the target areas. In the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, students select their language for the next three years’ more intensive study. It is highly recommended that students continue with the language begun in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Over the three years, students continue to learn about the practices and perspectives of different cultures, further develop their repertoire of vocabulary, learn new grammatical patterns, and in the modern languages, develop writing and speaking skills. These language studies will provide a solid foundation for Level II in grade 9. The Middle School program is equivalent to an Upper School Level 1 language course, and students will receive 1 high school credit at the completion of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade course.

World Language Grade 5 (Chinese, French, Latin, or Spanish) - The 5th grade language courses are a year-long study intended to introduce the students to the language and traditions of a particular region. The students will explore culture and customs, expand upon the oral approach to language from their

Lower School studies, and learn techniques to prepare for a written component of language acquisition. Intended to be exploratory in nature, these courses, regardless of the particular language, lay a foundation for skills students will hone throughout the study of language at Porter-Gaud.

Chinese Studies (Grade 6) - The Chinese studies course is a year-long course intended to introduce the students to the language and traditions of China. The students will explore Chinese culture and customs and make cultural comparisons with their own world. In addition, basic conversational phrases and essential grammar will be taught.

French Studies (Grade 6) - The French Studies course is a year-long course intended to introduce the students to the language and traditions of countries in the Francophone world. The students will explore the culture and customs of these areas and make cultural comparisons with their own world. In addition, basic conversational phrases and essential grammar will be taught.

Latin Studies (Grade 6) - The Latin Studies course is a year-long course intended to introduce the students to the language and traditions of ancient Rome. The students will explore its culture and customs and make cultural comparisons with their own world through reading an introductory text focusing on the Caecilii family of Pompeii.

Spanish Studies (Grade 6) - The Spanish Studies course is a year-long course intended to introduce the students to the language and traditions of countries in the Spanish-speaking world. The students will explore the culture and customs of these areas and make cultural comparisons with their own world. In addition, basic conversational phrases and essential grammar will be taught.

Chinese 1A (grade 7) - In Introduction to Chinese, students begin to build a basic vocabulary and to learn the grammatical structures needed to develop the major language skills of reading, writing, listening comprehension, and speaking on a variety of topics concerning daily activities. In addition, students are introduced to Chinese culture through appropriate authentic materials.

French 1A (grade 7) - In Introduction to French, students begin to build a basic vocabulary and to learn the grammatical structures needed to develop the major language skills of reading, writing, listening comprehension, and speaking on a variety of topics concerning daily activities. In addition, students are introduced to French cultures through readings, audio passages, videos, and other appropriate authentic materials.

Latin 1A (grade 7) - In Introduction to Latin, students continue to build vocabulary and grammatical skills through listening, translation, and reading comprehension activities. In addition, students cover a variety of cultural and historical topics from antiquity, including a project-based learning experience on the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Spanish 1A (grade 7) - In Introduction to Spanish, students begin to build a basic vocabulary and to learn the grammatical structures needed to develop the major language skills of reading, writing, listening comprehension, and speaking on a variety of topics concerning daily activities. In addition, students are introduced to Hispanic cultures through readings, audio passages, videos, and other appropriate authentic materials.

Chinese I (grade 8) - Chinese I is a continuation of introduction to Chinese. After an in-depth review of the material from the introductory course, students continue building their vocabulary on such topics as school life, shopping, travel and customs, and using more complex grammatical structures. Finally they further their knowledge of Chinese culture through projects and audiovisual media.

French I (grade 8) – French I is a continuation of Introduction to French. After an in-depth review of the material from the introductory course, students continue building their vocabulary on such topics related to their everyday lives, and using more complex grammatical structures. Finally, they further their knowledge of French culture through projects and audio-visual media.

Latin I (grade 8) – Latin I is a continuation of Introduction to Latin. After an in-depth review of the material learned in the introductory course, students continue to build their vocabulary and grammatical knowledge through listening, translating, and reading comprehension activities. Finally, they further their knowledge of Roman history and culture through projects and research.

Spanish I (grade 8) – Spanish I is a continuation of Introduction to Spanish. In this course, after an in-depth review of the material learned in the introductory course, students will continue building their vocabulary on such topics related to their everyday lives. They will also use more complex grammatical structures. Finally they will further their knowledge of Spanish culture through projects and audio-visual media.

## **Mathematics**

### **Math Department Honors Admissions Criteria**

It is the goal of the Porter-Gaud mathematics department to provide every Porter-Gaud student with an opportunity to be successful in his/her study of mathematics while simultaneously being challenged to reach the high level of expertise possible. A student's placement in the correct course is extremely important.

Honors mathematics students are self-motivated, critical thinkers who enjoy exploration, problem solving, and learning mathematics.

Recommendations for placement in Honors math course are made by the math department as a whole, and are based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

1. Overall grade in all prior math courses

Honors Pre-Algebra (grade 7) – 90 or better in Math 6

Honors Algebra I (grade 7 or 8)– 90 or better in Honors Pre-Algebra, 96 or better in Pre-Algebra

Honors Geometry (grade 8) – 90 or better in Honors Algebra I, 96 or better in Algebra I

2. Recommendations of current and previous math teachers

3. Midterm and Final exam grades in prior math courses

4. Strong work ethic

5. Standardized test scores (ERB and EOC scores)

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Some placements may require additional preparation/summer work by students to ensure that they are prepared to succeed in the course they seek to take.

Should a student's performance in his/her current math course change significantly in the second semester the math department reserves the right to amend their initial recommendation in order to best serve the students of Porter-Gaud.

Math 5 (grade 5) – Math 5 is structured as a review and expansion of all mathematical concepts taught in lower school. Topics of this course consist of the study of real numbers, operations and relations, rational numbers, prime numbers, least common multiples, greatest common factors, equations in problem solving, measurement, geometry, and graphical displays. This course aims to prepare students to enter Math 6 with confidence and strong arithmetic skills.

Math 6 (grade 6) - Math 6 is structured to help students deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts and to effectively communicate their mathematical reasoning. Topics in this course consist of number theory, data and statistics, basic algebra concepts, decimals, fractions, ratios, proportions, probability, measurement, geometry, and integers. The course will aim to ensure that all students have strong arithmetic and problem solving skills as they move into pre-algebra.

Honors Pre-Algebra (grade 6 and 7) – Honors Pre-Algebra is a course structured to develop the command of the language and operations of Algebra. The pace of the class and depth of study of some topics distinguish it from Pre-Algebra. Students will continue the study of topics necessary for successful completion of a foundational Algebra course. Topics covered include integers and expressions, variable equations, decimals, square roots, exponents, scientific notation, rational numbers and expressions, ratios, proportions, percent, graphing in the coordinate plane, geometry, and factoring.

Pre-Algebra (grade 7) - Pre-Algebra is a course structured to develop the command of the language and operations of Algebra. Students will continue the study of topics necessary for successful completion of a foundational Algebra course. Topics covered include integers and expressions, variable equations, decimals, square roots, exponents, scientific notation, rational numbers and expressions, ratios, proportions, percent, graphing in the coordinate plane, geometry, and factoring.

Intro to Algebra I (grade 8) - The purpose of this introductory course is to familiarize students with structures and methods of Algebra. The syllabus includes a review of real numbers, algebraic expressions, solving equations and inequalities, ratios, proportions, and percents. Students will spend the second semester studying functions, specifically linear functions. The purpose of this course is to give students a strong foundation in the concepts needed for success in Algebra I and beyond.

Algebra I (grade 8) - The purpose of this course in Algebra is to familiarize students with structures and methods of Algebra. The syllabus includes a study of the number line, equation-solving, operations on polynomials, factoring polynomials, algebraic fractions, linear equations and systems, linear and quadratic functions, inequalities, and irrational numbers. Problem-solving is emphasized throughout this course.

Honors Algebra I (grade 7 and 8) – The purpose of this course in Algebra is to familiarize students with structures and methods of Algebra. The pace of the class and depth of study of some topics distinguish it from Algebra I. The syllabus includes a study of the number line, equation-solving, operations on



polynomials, factoring polynomials, algebraic fractions, linear equations and systems, linear and quadratic functions, inequalities, irrational numbers, and graphing quadratic functions. Problem-solving is emphasized throughout this course.

Honors Geometry (grade 8) – This course in Euclidean Geometry focuses on reasoning and proof, parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, and solids. Students discover theorems dealing with congruence, similarity, right triangles, area, and volume for geometric figures. Coordinate geometry, algebra skills, and problem solving are reinforced throughout the year. Problems in Honors Geometry are abstract and challenging, and topics are covered at a faster pace than in Geometry.

## **Science**

Science 5 (grade 5) - 5th Grade science explores topics within the Life, Earth and Physical sciences. Investigations using the scientific method are woven into various units of study. Students also frequently practice creating models to represent key concepts and are presented with challenges that require them to utilize the engineering design process. Students will acquire study skills and scientific habits of mind that prepare them to be successful in science classes. Particular focus is placed on the wonder of science and enjoyment of the subject. Major topics of study include matter and mixtures, sound energy, changes to Earth's surface, oceans, relationships in ecosystems, force and motion, respiratory and cardiovascular body systems, and human-environment interactions.

Life Science (grade 6) – This course reinforces and expands upon Life Science concepts and skills learned in Grades 1-5, as well as introducing new ones. The primary focus in this course is on continuing to acquire scientific attitudes and habits of mind using the scientific method through investigative labs and a variety of technologies, which are enhanced by the use of an interactive text and rigorous classroom discussions and projects. Areas of study include an initial brief review of scientific inquiry, and the metric system, as well as in-depth studies of cells, the microscopic world, and structures, processes, and responses of all living things. The four primary units of study are; Cells and Heredity, Diversity of Life and Human Body Systems and Ecology and the Environment. Current events in science are an ongoing area of concentration.

Earth Systems Science (grade 7) – Earth System Science focuses on developing an understanding of how the Earth functions as a system, where the lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere interact, work together and affect each other. Students will investigate Earth's features, movement, environment, and history, while paying particular attention to the influence of the planet's oceans. Through multiple labs, current events and projects students will develop an understanding of the Scientific Method and gain experience in a broad range of topics integral to understanding this planet as a whole and the forces that influence it.

Environmental and Physical Science (grade 8) – Environmental and Physical Science is an introductory course that focuses on the use of chemistry and physics to gain a better understanding of their environment. This understanding will aid the students in making informed decisions about the issues facing communities today. This course is designed to enable students to learn to collect and analyze data, create models, ask questions, debate ideas, and make decisions based on evidence.

## **Computer Science**

Computer Science 5 -This course is an introduction to the world of computer science. Students will explore a variety of topics including block-based coding, physical computing, introductory game design and introductory robotics. We will begin to use longer and larger projects to help emphasize problem solving, creativity, and computational thinking.

Computer Science 6 - This course expands the skills introduced in 5th grade. Students will further explore a variety of topics including block and text coding, physical computing, and more advanced game design in Minecraft. Students will learn the basics of algorithmic thinking and apply that to a series of long-term projects.

Computer Science 7 - This course furthers the skills developed in 6th grade as students more deeply explore the world of problem solving and computer science. In this course, students learn to create digital design solutions using a variety of programming environments and languages. Students will 2D game creation, robotics, electronics, and physical computing. Logical and algorithmic thinking and problem solving will be used in what is primarily a project-based course.

Computer Science 8 –Students will further their exploration of computer science and begin to prepare them for what lies ahead in the Upper School . Students will expand their problem solving and their logical and analytical thinking. Students will choose from a selection of Minecraft programming, physical computing, and creative coding. They finish the quarter by choosing a passion project that combines an interest of theirs with computer science.

## **Fine Arts**

Art 5- In 5th grade art, students will review Elements and Principles of art. Students will develop further understanding of how to incorporate these elements and principles into a work of art to create better composition and design. Students will refine their motor skills while they experiment with various types of materials. Art history and art appreciation are integrated into the lessons.

Art 6 – In sixth grade art, students explore a variety of media as they continue to build their skills in drawing, painting, illustrating and sculpture. Theory is introduced to further elaborate upon ideas about color, perspective, and design. Teachers discuss artists, artwork, and provide technique demonstrations to develop the four strands of art education: art appreciation, art history, art production, and art criticism; as well as problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

Art 7 – In seventh grade art, students focus on further developing art skills, vocabulary, creativity, and concepts of design. Two-dimensional lessons may include painting, collage, drawing, sculpting on tile and printmaking. Art history, art appreciation, and art criticism are integrated into the lessons as a framework of the curriculum.

Art 8- In eighth grade art, students express themselves creatively through drawing, sculpting, painting, and collage to develop art skills and concepts. Composition, technique, the elements and principles of design, and attention-to-detail are explored. Art appreciation, problem solving, and critical thinking are integrated into lessons.

Music 5- Music 5 explores the Early and Renaissance Era's of music. Students also study beatboxing and contemporary music writing using the Incredibox app. Students will use Ipads and technology to write and present a Villains song with original lyrics in a cross curricular composition project. Students will also explore basic improvisational and compositional techniques. Basic principles of rhythm, music notation, and time signatures round out the music theory component of Music 5.

Music 6 – Music 6 gives an exploratory look into the Baroque Era of music. Students will study the beginning of Opera as an art form. Students will also work using Ipads and the Isle of Tune App to begin to explore technological ways of creating music. Students will complete a timeline project on a Baroque composer of their choice. Building on Music 5 principles of rhythm, music notation, and time signatures, students continue into more complex rhythms and time signatures.

Music 7 –In Music 7, Students will explore the Classical Era and Romantic Eras of Music with a study of the adapted play Amadeus. Students will study famous composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart through the eyes of Antonio Salieri. Students will continue their study of technology and music with the Isle of Tune App. Seventh Grade students also explore varying uses of music in other art forms such as theater, dance, and sports. Music Theory in Music 7 allows students to begin to look at key signatures and how to apply them to the basic piano notation using the app Dust Busters.

Music 8 – Students will explore Impressionist and Modern music, culminating with a study of Film Score and Movie Music. Students will learn basic Guitar principals by working on the song “Happy Birthday” while playing Guitar Tab. Students use the knowledge gained in grades 5-7 to read the guitar music and apply it to the instrument.

MS Choir - The Middle School Chorus is a year-long ensemble. The chorus performs at all major concerts given by the Performing Arts Department. The chorus is an elective open to any student who has a love of singing. Students learn the discipline and skill of vocal performance within a group. The chorus studies basic techniques of singing while preparing numerous concert selections of various musical styles and periods. Students are required to participate in all dress rehearsals and concerts. Uniform concert dress is required.

## **Physical Education**

PE 5, 6, 7, and 8 – Physical Education at the Middle School level is based on physical fitness with a basic introduction to leadership skills and teamwork. Students will learn through team placement the importance of working together for a common goal. The Physical Education Department strives to promote students' self-confidence by cultivating a positive environment through sports activities. Grades are determined by objective methods based on active participation, attitude, and overall improvement.

## **Religion**

Religion 5 : In continuation of many of the virtues studied in the Lower School, Religion 5 will use C.S. Lewis' Narnia novels as the basis to develop more deeply the virtues. These novels offer students of different backgrounds a common ethical framework, aligned with the mission of Porter-Gaud School. The curriculum engages students while they are in a crucial formative period; they learn to understand and acquire the virtues underpinning good character through their engagement with the *Narnian Virtues Character Education* curriculum.

Religion 6 - Old Testament: The Old Testament class is offered to sixth graders and focuses on teaching the story of God and His relationship with His chosen people. Beginning with Genesis, the historical time line is examined with emphasis on people, places, and events, and how they have impacted the development of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Issues such as creation, sin, atonement, and divine intervention are also discussed, and students learn how these topics are still relevant to their lives. They also look at poetry and wisdom literature, as well as how the Bible was developed and assembled into the book that we have today.