

# American International Academy Course Catalog 2022-2023

The logo for American International Academy is a green shield with the letters 'AIA' in white. Inside the shield, there are several hands of different colors (purple, orange, pink, blue) reaching upwards. The words 'AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY' are written around the shield in a circular pattern.

American International Academy

28955 Rosewood  
Inkster, Michigan 49141616.493.8650

*Love, Laugh, Learn*

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**Dear Middle School Families:**

We believe that middle school is an important time of transition for students. We recognize the unique physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs of students in this age group. In order to support student growth, a middle school curriculum must be authentic, engaging, rigorous, and developmentally responsive to their needs. The school culture must provide a supportive environment where students are empowered to gain the knowledge, skills, and competencies foundational for success in life. Our caring and responsive staffs are committed to encouraging students' growing independence.

American International Academy middle school students will benefit from a rigorous core curriculum aligned with the Michigan Academic Standards and benchmarks in language arts, math, science, and social studies combined with an interesting variety of exploratory opportunities. Guidance and support services are a part of our comprehensive whole child approach to education.

Results of the Michigan State Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) and PSAT have shown that American International Academy Public Schools consistently rank among the highest-scoring districts in the state of Michigan. When measuring our success, however, we do not simply look at one data set. We value the quality of relationships and interactions we have every day with our students, their families, and staff. We model respect and understanding for each other. We invite the active involvement and participation of our students' families as learning partners in the middle school educational experience.

This guide serves as a planning tool as you and your student consider middle school learning opportunities. An important aspect of planning for their secondary education, each student will develop an Educational Development Plan (EDP) related to their future career and education goals after high school. In order to help you better understand the Michigan Merit Curriculum and related requirements, we have provided an additional section in our course description guide starting on page 4.

If you are new to American International Academy, our counseling staff is available to support students in selecting and scheduling the appropriate courses for middle school.

We look forward to working with you and your child as we plan together for a successful school year ahead.

## **Educational Development Plans (EDP)**

The Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) legislation states, “each pupil in grade 7 is provided with the opportunity to develop an educational development plan, and that each pupil has developed an educational development plan before he or she begins high school. An educational development plan shall be developed by the pupil under the supervision of the pupil's school counselor, or another designee qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233 or 1233a selected by the high school principal and shall be based on a career pathways program or similar career exploration program.” (MCL 380.1278a)

The EDP is a secondary/post-secondary planning tool that directs the educational plan and career planning activities schedule. In their EDP, students identify a career pathway and write employment, education, and training goals. They also identify a course of study (the credits that will be taken) intended to provide the skills and competencies needed to be successful in the next steps after high school. EDP's are “living” documents that are updated as students' age and their interests and abilities become more obvious and focused. It is recommended that the EDP be updated at least annually in conjunction with other planning activities designed to support student achievement. (MDE MMC Guidelines v.12.07)

American International Academy students begin planning for their EDP in seventh grade during classroom guidance. Students are introduced to a web-based career and post-secondary exploration program called Naviance. Students are issued an individual login so they may access the program from home as well as at school. Students complete state requirements for the EDP during eighth grade, including development of a four-year plan for courses they intend to take during high school.

Counselors work with students each year to update the EDP to ensure course selections align with their educational pathway, employment, education, and training goals. During high school, students and parents will also utilize Naviance, a web-based program that helps track EDP information, high school grades, test scores, extra-curricular activities, applications to college, and other post-secondary training programs.

## **Course Selection Information**

Students are required to take a full year of math, science, language arts, and social studies (these classes will be automatically scheduled)

All traditional/seated courses listed in this course catalog are allowed to be adapted for delivery in a virtual or blended format by American International Academy Schools

## Virtual Course Option

Virtual courses may be offered during the 2022-2024 school year. Course are provided based on the courses offered at the current grade level. Courses identified as Asynchronous will not contain daily live Zoom instruction, but will have daily assignments and pacing. All other Virtual courses will have daily live Zoom instruction.

Any student selecting virtual coursework (either for their full day or part day) are required to complete a AIA Middle School Virtual Coursework Application and Parental Consent form for students to participate which can be found in at each school building main office. Students are able to take partial virtual courses and participate in elective in school course, however those taking a partial virtual schedule are **required to provide their own transportation** if needed mid-day but may participate in transportation home if needed and approved by school building administrator.

# Language Arts

## **English Language Arts 7**

In the seventh grade, students are exposed to a variety of selections in literature (e.g., mystery, poetry, drama, mythology, legends, etc.), as well as outside readings. Students develop reading and writing strategies, academic vocabulary, spelling skills, and speaking and listening skills. Understanding thematic units and thesis support writings are a focus at this grade level. English Language Arts 7 involves an in-depth, Project Based Learning environment that creates opportunities for all students to go deep into the MICHIGAN Literacy Framework while connecting to the real world.

## **English Language Arts 8**

In the eighth grade, a continued development of composition skills occurs with an emphasis on writing from selected topics. Speaking, listening, grammar, writing, and reading comprehension are strongly emphasized. Extended learning in poetry, short stories, and dramatic techniques through selected topics in literature are three major units of study.

English Language Arts 8 involves an in-depth, Project Based Learning environment that creates opportunities for all students to go deep into the MICHIGAN Literacy Framework while connecting to the real world.

## **Reading Lab/ MTSS – One Semester**

This course is taken in addition to your language arts course. Students will learn and continue to develop reading strategies to support their individual growth. This course is designed as an intervention to help students become proficient readers. *\*Enrollment is based on teacher or counselor recommendation, and/or parent request.*

# Mathematics

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

develops mathematical concepts and skills in four important mathematical strands: Number and Operations, Geometry and Measurement, Data Analysis and Probability, and Algebra and Functions. Students will engage in a research-based, problem-centered learning environment to develop proficiency in both mathematical reasoning and communication.

## Math 7/8

*Math 7/8 is an accelerated course that combines the standards from Math 7 and Math 8 and prepares students for Algebra 1 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This class is geared for students who are willing to engage and exhibit high levels of commitment, achievement, and a passion for math.*

*Students who qualify for Math 7/8 should have excellent study skills and the time to devote to a significantly higher workload in math outside of school. **A minimum of a “B” letter grade must be maintained to remain in the Math 7/8 class.***

This is the first year of a two-year course that covers three years of math curriculum, including Math 7, Math 8, and High School Algebra I academic standards. Math 7/8 encompasses the essential standards from both Math 7 and Math 8. After successful completion of this two-year program, students are prepared for Geometry in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. **A minimum of a “B” letter grade must be maintained to remain in Math 7/8 class.**

## Math 8

Math 8 develops mathematical concepts and skills in major areas of study that include: the Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Student will engage in a research-based, problem-centered learning environment to develop proficiency in both mathematical reasoning and communication.

## Science

### Science 7

The Science 7 course is based on student-driven questions and discoveries based on the Next Generation Science Standards. Students are involved in numerous hands-on labs and group discussions. Main units include chemistry: identifying substances based on properties, physics: manipulating transfer of forces, body systems: distinguishing cells and systems and weather: measuring and predicting patterns. Science 7 involves an in-depth, Project Based Learning environment that creates opportunities for all students to go deep into science while connecting to the real world.

### Science 8

The Science 8 course includes units in physics, chemistry, life science, and Earth science. The units of study are the science and engineering practices, how the Earth is changing, why organisms look the way they do, how things move, and how food provides our bodies with energy. Students will experience phenomena, investigate questions and participate in collaborative investigations to solve relevant problems. Science 8 involves an in-depth, Project Based Learning environment that creates opportunities for all students to go deep into science while connecting to the real world.

## Social Studies

### Social Studies 7

Social Studies 7 encompasses World History from the beginnings of human society through 300 C.E. Students will learn geographic, environmental, biological, and cultural processes that influenced the rise of the earliest human communities, the migration and spread of people throughout the world, and the causes and consequences of the growth of agriculture. Students will discover the innovations and social, political, and economic changes which occurred through the emergence of classical civilizations in Africa and Eurasia, and their impact on our world yet today. Social Studies 7 involves an in-depth, Project Based Learning environment that creates opportunities for all students to go deep into the MC3 Framework while connecting to the real world.

### US History 8

US History 8 encompasses major themes of the 18th and 19th centuries in American History. Students will learn about the fight for independence from Britain and the forging of a new nation. Moving into the 19th century, students will investigate the underlying causes and results of westward expansion, and its consequences for American Indians and enslaved African Americans. Students will also study reform movements such as abolition and women's suffrage, sectional tensions that contributed to the Civil War, and the successes and failures of Reconstruction. Students will examine a variety of primary and secondary documents and engage in historical research and writing. Social Studies 8 involves an in-depth, Project Based Learning environment that creates opportunities for all students to go deep into the C3 Framework while connecting to the real world.



## Performing Arts

### **Band 7**

A variety of band literature is studied and performed. Practice at home and attendance at all performances are expected. The bands perform several concerts throughout the year and may attend music festivals. Additional opportunities exist through solo and ensemble festivals.

*Students are scheduled into this course for the entire year.*

### **Band 8**

This course is for students who have completed two previous years of band. Students new to American International Academy should contact the school office to determine appropriate placement. A variety of band literature is studied and performed. Practice at home and attendance at all performances is expected. The Band performs several concerts throughout the year and may attend music festivals. Additional opportunities exist for participation in solo and ensemble festivals.

*Students are scheduled into this course for the entire year.*

### **Jazz 7**

A variety of orchestra literature is studied and performed. Practice at home and attendance at all performances are expected. The orchestras perform several concerts throughout the year and may attend music festivals. Emphasis is placed on gaining technical skill through performance of different types of literature, and on music theory as it relates to string playing. *Students are scheduled into this course for the entire year.*

music skills to a higher degree of proficiency. A variety of orchestral literature is studied and performed. *Students are scheduled into this course for the entire year.*

### **Choir 7**

Choir students will build upon previous experience in music (vocal or instrumental) and learn to use their vocal instrument to create a correct and pleasing sound. In addition to learning proper vocal production and technique, students will also learn music reading skills, sight- singing and aural skills, music history, and performance skills. Practice at home and attendance at all performances are expected. Choir takes part in the annual district Middle School Choral Gala along with several concerts throughout the year. Performance demeanor, responsibility to the group, and teamwork are stressed. *Students are expected to remain in the class for the entire year.*

### **Choir 8**

Choir students will build upon previous experience in music (vocal or instrumental) and learn to use their vocal instrument to create a correct and pleasing sound. In addition to learning proper vocal production and technique, students will also learn music reading skills, sight- singing and aural skills, music history, and performance skills. Practice at home and attendance at all performances are expected. Choir takes part in the annual district Middle School Choral Gala, district music theater experience, and will perform several concerts throughout the year. Performance demeanor, responsibility to the group, and teamwork are stressed. *Students are expected to remain in the class for the entire year.*

## **Visual Arts**

### **Draw, Paint, Print – One Semester**

Whether you are just starting out or already a young Picasso, this class will help you improve your skills! You will experiment with a variety of drawing, painting, and printmaking techniques and media, including pen and ink, watercolor, pastel, linoleum block, mixed media, acrylic, pastel, and charcoal. Work in the class will stress skill development, creative problem-solving, and visual literacy. Cross-curricular connections are made throughout the course.

### **Photo, Yearbook, and Creative Imaging – Full Year Course**

The primary focus of this course is production of the Northern Hills Middle Yearbook. Students will begin with learning basics of digital photography, then use those skills as they take the photos that will be in the AIA Yearbook. Along with photography, students will study page design, layout, theme development, and other production considerations. Some time commitment outside of the scheduled school class period (before or after school) is expected

for Yearbook work. The course will finish with an exploration of a variety of media in the creative image making process.

### **Art Explorations – One Semester**

This class provides the opportunity for students to dive into a variety of creative experiences in both two- and three- dimensional design. Drawing, painting, sculpture, crafts, computers, and cartooning are just a few of the means students may explore for creative expression. Students will increase their skill levels and visual literacy as they study and use the elements and principles of design. Cross curricular expressions are made throughout the course.

### **Digital Imaging – One Semester**

A fantastic blend of technology, creativity, and you!! In this class, you will learn the basics of digital photography, including composition, lighting, camera types, and camera settings. You will learn to use Adobe Photoshop Elements, a layered photo-editing program, as you manipulate and modify your photographs. Having explored both the camera and editing program, you then will be equipped to choose how you will do your creative work in response to several challenges given. This course may involve some drawing and/or painting according to student interest.

# Technology

## Engineering/Robotics 1– One Semester

This is a beginning course in robotics. Students will be utilizing VEX IQ kits, VEXcode software and various Robotics materials. The objective of this course is to introduce students to basic programming as well as problem-solving strategies. This course will involve students in the development, building and programming of a VEX IQ robot. Students will work in teams to design, build, program and document their progress. Topics may include motor control, gear ratios, torque, friction, sensors, timing, program loops, logic gates, decision-making, timing sequences, propulsion systems and binary number systems.

## **Engineering/Robotics 2– One Semester**

Prerequisite: Demonstrated proficiency in Engineering/Robotics 1.

This course will continue the experience from Engineering 1 by diving deeper into related math, engineering, robotics, and programming concepts. Students will focus on three different programming languages: JavaScript, C/C++, and Python. Students will further develop understanding of important programming skills using robotic elements, Arduino boards, Raspberry Pi, and drones. The capstone project is designing, constructing, and programming a personal food computer.

## **Coding 1 – One Semester**

Coding 1 is well-suited for students in 7th or 8th grades. No prior programming experience is required.. This requires interesting problems to solve, as computational problem-solving is the core of computer science.

The course is entirely browser-based, including an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) that students use to create and run their programs. Using the IDE, students can write their code and watch their drawings appear on screen.

Units include Creating Drawings, Functions, Mouse Events, Properties, Mouse Motion Events, Conditionals, and Helper Functions.

## **Coding 2 – One Semester**

Prerequisite: Demonstrated proficiency in Coding 1.

This course builds on the Coding 1 foundations, covering some additional programming and computer science topics, and then applying and extending computational problem-solving skills in a variety of application areas. Units will apply computation to such areas as art, science, music, math, simulations, and game design. Units include: More Conditionals, Key Events, Methods, Groups, Step Events and Motion.

## **Physical Education – One Semester**

The physical education curriculum focuses on recreational/life-long activities, individual, and team sports. The program's activities encourage physical fitness, student responsibility, self-discipline, respect for self and others, and cooperation. Students will participate in drills and activities that will develop or enhance fundamental offensive and defensive skills as well as

offensive and defensive strategies. In addition, students will acquire an appreciation for the benefits of daily activity by participating in various fitness activities.

### **Strength and Conditioning – One Semester**

This course focuses primarily on an introduction to structured routines of weight training, stretching, plyometrics, and conditioning. The main focus is on teaching students the proper form, discipline, and intensity of workouts necessary to improve their level of physical fitness. Individual programs will be offered to accommodate students of various abilities and interest levels within the same class.

## **Academic Support**

### **MTSS Academic Strategies (7th/8th grades)**

*Placement is based on students' Individualized Education Program (IEP) requirements.*

This course is designed to assist students in increasing the development of academic skills and meeting IEP goals and objectives. Focus areas include instructional support, time management, organization, and self-advocacy skills; and accommodations per students' IEPs. Students will be graded CR or NC for this course.

### **MTSS Academic Support**

This course is available for all students and is designed for students who need additional support in areas such as study skills, time management, and organization. Students will use this course to support their success in other classes and develop skills that will help in future courses. Students will have the opportunity to work on and get support on work from other assigned courses. *\*Enrollment is based on teacher or counselor recommendation, and/ or parent request.*

## **Online Labs/ Intervention/ Blended Learning**

**Math Lab** -Students get access to intervention supplemental platforms to aid students in learning basic concepts and additional time to complete work.

**Reading Lab**- Students get to engage in reading online programs and received small group support with instructor and additional time to complete work

## **NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

It is the policy of the American International Academy School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, religion, age, color, national origin, sex, or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of the district, including employment.

Any questions, concerning title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, including athletic issues, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, or inquires related to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap, should be directed to:

Ms. LaToya Williams  
Chief Academic Officer  
American International Academy Schools  
300 South Henry  
Westland, Michigan 48186  
(734)713-5525

