

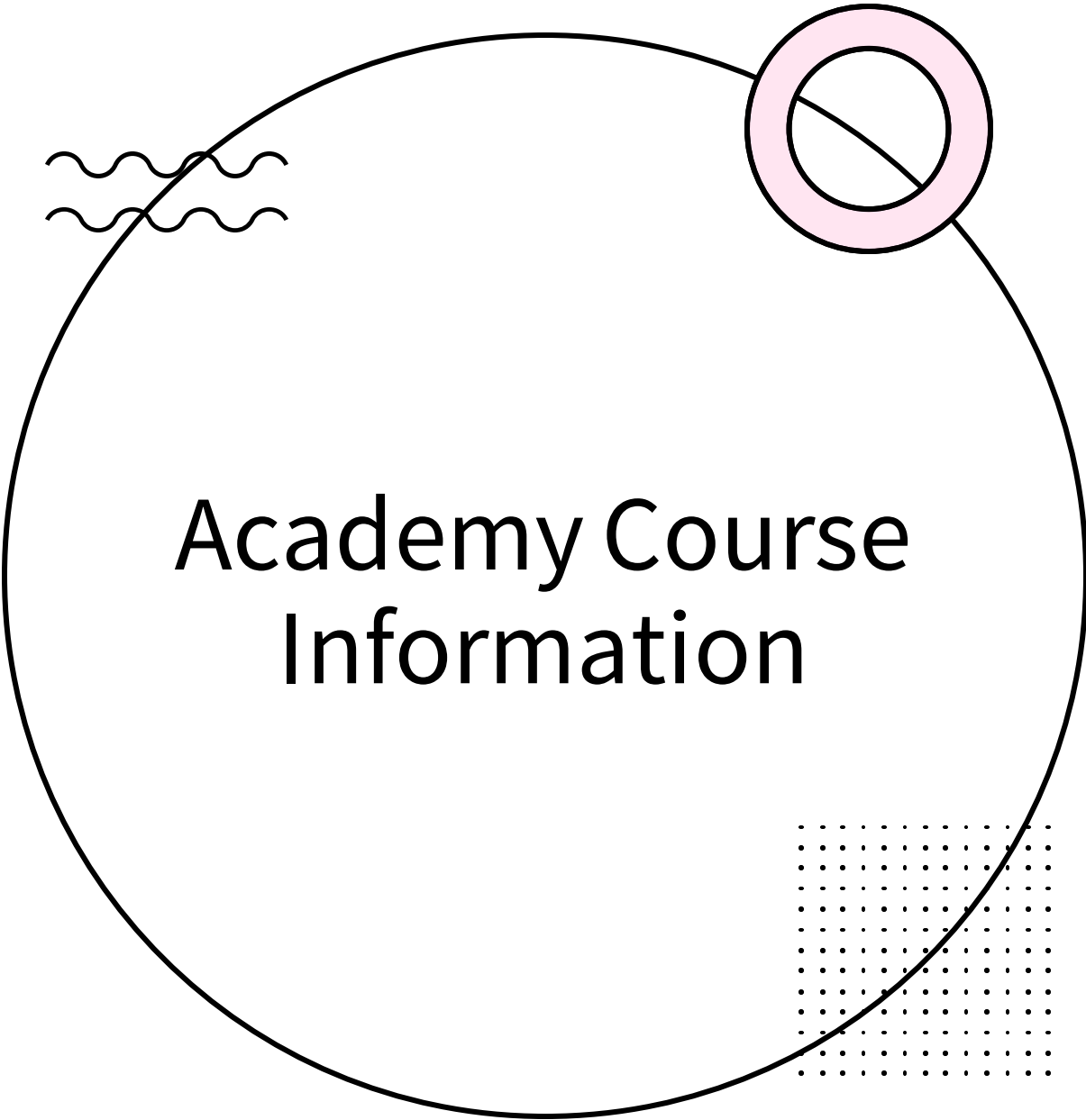


**A C A D E M Y
C O U R S E
C A T A L O G**



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS






Academy Course Information

- All Academy courses are open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.
- Quarter 1 has 13 Academy choices!
- Academy courses are a graded course, not a pass or fail (new for school year '23-'24)
- Each course will have a detailed overview with objective, grading, and class descriptions.
- Course registration will occur the week of July 24 through July 30th through an Academy Course Registration Form (sent by email prior to July 24th). Registration closes at 9:00PM on July 30th.
- Students are to choose their top 3 courses in hopes to be enrolled in their first choice.
- Due to the amount of time given to review course descriptions, there will be no change of student's Academy course. Please choose carefully!
- Note, some courses are offered for one quarter, two quarters or three quarters. This means, the course will be taught for that number of quarters.
- Class schedules will be available on Monday, August 7th! There will be no paper schedules. All schedules will only be accessible through either the parent or student portal. Families will need these schedules for Back-to-School Night.
- Academy courses will start on the first day of school, August 9, 2023.



Table of Contents

- *Quarter 1 Academy Course Descriptions*
 - *Quarters 1 and 2 Academy Course Descriptions*
 - *Quarters 1, 2, and 3 Academy Course Descriptions*
 - *Courses offered all quarters (each quarter with different student enrollment)*
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Quarter 1 Only Academy Courses

3D Clay Mediums

- Sculpture Exploration: primarily focused on different types of clay sculpture. Students will explore a variety of new materials with an emphasis on form (3D). Art projects will include materials such as: modeling clay and air-dry clay. Students will be encouraged to expand their creative ideas with a themed approach (such as environmental, cultural identity etc.).

Digital Photography

- In this Quarter 1 class, you will be focusing on beginner digital photography techniques that will allow you to capture photos of various types and situations while improving your compositions. This class will primarily focus on learning the parts of a digital camera and how to use a digital camera to capture photos using multiple composition techniques. Students will learn to manipulate angles, depth, perspective, and the rule of thirds. Finally, along with personal creative practice, students will take pictures to submit to the 23-24 Yearbook.
- *Photos submitted to the Yearbook are not guaranteed to be included in the actual yearbook but will provide the yearbook team with options.





Quarter 1 Only Academy Courses

Future Goals

- Hockey Scholar brings science concepts to life using the exciting, fast-paced game of hockey. Through immersive hockey simulations, each online module enables students to explore real-life applications of fundamental STEM concepts. Designed for middle school students, this course combines cutting-edge instructional design, game-based simulations, and hands-on labs to build students' confidence, mastery, and excitement around critical STEM topics.

Mind Boss

- In this class, you will be learning about the practice of mindfulness. Practicing mindfulness involves breathing methods, guided imagery, and other practices to relax the body and mind and help reduce stress.
- **5 Senses Activities:** Students will participate in a variety of activities to engage all senses and keep a recording of the data to collect. The activities include a walk to Lowry Sports Park, going to McMillan Park for a solo observation of the environment, two games that will require students to lose the use of one of the senses- blindfold to lose sight, only use sound so can't use language, and last a Rainbow walk- look for different colors while on our nature. 3 weeks of the quarter.
- **Breathing Exercises:** Students will learn about the body's response to stress and how breathing techniques can help reduce stress responses in our bodies. Students will practice a different breathing exercise every day for 3 weeks and after each exercise students will complete a reflection.
- **Calming Activities:** Students will participate in different calming activities that help with focusing, anxiety, reducing stress, and just being present. The activities include puzzles, mindful coloring, yoga, and meditation. This will take place the last 2 weeks of the quarter.





Quarter 1 Only Academy Courses

Intro to Guitar

- This class is for anyone and everyone who has either played or wanted to play guitar. Students will learn first how to play chords on the guitar as well as basic music theory and its applications in chord progressions. Students will learn how to play songs from a variety of genres and styles and will become familiar with available online resources.

Literature to Film

- Explore the world of literature and film. Students will read, discuss, and analyze a selected title, resulting in a final fan fiction adaptation. There will be a literary analysis, film analysis, and creative writing.



○ Quarter 1 and 2 Academy Courses

Forensics

- In this class, students will be studying science as it applies to criminal law. Topics will cover a general introduction to forensics, as well as crime scene and evidence basics, and psychology as they apply to both real and imagined criminal case studies.

Theatre

- In this course you will learn the basics of theater and stage movement, participate in pantomime, improvisation, script analysis, and playwriting. You will also learn about theater history and different styles of theater. This course will meet for the first **2 quarters**. Being in this class does not mean that you must be involved in the theater productions that happen here at Aurora Academy.



○ Quarter 1 and 2 Academy Courses

Stitching and Stirring

- In this class you will learn to use a sewing machine. You will begin by doing a basic sewing project and then move to a more advanced sewing project as your final assignment for the sewing portion of class. We will also be incorporating basic cooking skills into this course. There will be group cooking recipes done together to practice. Then for your final cooking assignment you will find a recipe and lead the class in a cooking demonstration.





Quarter 1,2, and 3 Only Academy Courses

Advanced Band

- Prerequisite: Completion of beginning band course
- This course is designed to provide students with an enriching and diverse instrumental music education by performing music of various genres and time periods. The class will perform three concerts during the year to demonstrate their learning of such music. The daily objective of the course is to foster and promote music growth through the playing of an instrument by the student, at an appropriate level of difficulty. As the band works as a team, group effort and cooperation are necessary for a successful program. Band is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout the course.



○ Courses offered all quarters (each quarter with different students' enrollment)

Financial Literacy and MS Bank

- *in middle school, when our students show positive behavior, receive favorable grades, and obtain perfect attendance they're awarded with SOAR dollars in their middle school bank accounts.*
Students in this course will be running the bank by checking bank account balances, giving students the items, they purchase with their SOAR dollars, keeping track of inventory, and becoming cashiers to input and deduct money from bank accounts - as necessary. Outside of running the bank, these students will participate in various financial literacy lessons where they will be learning about interest rates, loans, debit cards, credit cards, savings/checking accounts, and more.

Public Speaking and Video Editing

- In this class, you will be focusing on participating in a range of collaborative discussions on various topics and learning how to include multimedia and visual displays to present information. This class will primarily focus on creating the Announcements for all of Aurora Academy and teach you different video editing skills and practices.

