

# MERRITT ACADEMY

## COURSE OFFERINGS/ DESCRIPTIONS 2025-2026

Revised 12/19/2025

## HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

-CP (College Prep) Courses: CP Courses cover the same material as regular courses but at an accelerated pace and with a more extensive examination of the curriculum. Also have weighted GPA and based on a 4.5 grade scale.

### Core Classes:

Class Title	Description	Duration
Biology/ CP Biology	A lab-oriented science course that investigates the diversity of life-forms in depth while revealing their relationships and fundamental unity in function. This course will provide students, through a variety of learning experiences, with an overview of biological processes, theories and concepts. Biology is the study of living things, including animal, plant, microorganisms and fungi, and their interactions with the environment. Emphasis is placed on the development of critical thinking through the use of the scientific method and laboratory activities. In addition, this course will provide students with the skills and information necessary to form opinions and make decisions involving scientific issues. As an integral part of this course, students will learn about their responsibility towards the environment.	Year Long
Physics/ CP Physics	Physics is a course designed to allow students to explore the basic concepts of physics. In physics we study motion, forces, matter, and energy. Students will be encouraged to explore the relationship between science and everyday life.	Year Long
Chemistry/ CP Chemistry	Chemistry class covers the Michigan core curriculum. The class begins with matter, states of matter, chemical and physical properties. Through the class the students understand the elements, periodic table and elemental trends based on periodic law. The class culminates in balancing chemical equations, stoichiometry, the mole, and acid/base reactions	Year Long
Applied Science	Applied Science and Research is a course in which students will view themselves as scientists in the process of learning. Students will plan and carry out investigations in the fields of life, earth and physical science. They will then communicate their findings using a variety of methods. Students will raise questions, propose explanations, make observations, analyze data and develop solutions. Students will then critique their science practices and limitations.	Year Long
Science RR	Throughout the school year, we will be looking at many different scientific concepts and discussing them. Much of the class work in group work, which is used to help students improve upon their communication and teamwork skills. They have projects and	Year Long

	presentations that go along with the concepts as well, and this helps them work on their public speaking and eye contact.	
Algebra 1/ CP Algebra 1	Main concepts: Writing and solving linear equations and inequalities. Properties of simplifying expressions with exponents and radicals. Basic Statistics and data interpreting. Introduction and application to factoring and quadratic functions, as well as polynomials. Applying problem solving skills.	Year Long
Algebra 2/ CP Algebra 2	Quadratic functions and their application to the real world, including complex numbers. Solving equations of all types; linear, quadratic, exponential, radical, rational, higher degree polynomials. Simplifying of rational functions and identifying restricted values. Simplifying trigonometric equations and applying them in geometric settings. Basic probability and counting principals	Year Long
Geometry/ CP Geometry	Main Concepts that are covered are: experimenting with transformations in the coordinate plane; understanding congruence (rigid motion) and similarity with a high enough degree to prove geometric theorems (postulates, corollaries); solving ratios using properties of triangles; using coordinate geometry by relating graphs and equations; extending geometry ideas to three dimensions; solving algebraic equations using geometry concepts; and understanding properties of all 2D shapes.	Year Long
Personal Finance	Personal Finance is a math course designed to help students understand the impact of individual choices on occupational goals and future earnings potential. Topics covered will include income, money management, spending and credit, as well as saving and investing. Students will design personal and household budgets, simulate use of checking and savings accounts, demonstrate knowledge of finance, debt, and credit management, and evaluate and understand insurance and taxes. This course will provide a foundational understanding for making informed personal financial decisions.	Year Long
Calculus	This course covers topics of differential and integral calculus including limits and continuity, higher-order derivatives, curve sketching, differentials, definite and indefinite integrals (areas and volumes), and applications of derivatives and integrals.	Year Long
Applied Math	This is a math class that will cover basic skills review, measurement and unit conversations, surface area and volume, trigonometry, probability/odds, statistics and measures of central tendency, graphs. There will be applied projects for each unit.	Year Long
Math RR	Over the course of the school year, we focus on geometry, algebra, real and complex numbers, as well as real life math skills. We also work on individual IEP goals and progress monitoring, while helping students build on skills they will need to be successful in everyday life.	Year Long

English 9	Students will enhance their knowledge of literary terms and texts. In the ninth-grade segment of English, students will read several short stories, as well as "Night," by Elie Wiesel, "To Kill a Mockingbird," by Harper Lee, and the Shakespearean classic, "Romeo and Juliet." Students learn about authors and literary periods, while evaluating the text. In this class, students will also work on grammar, vocabulary, and writing skills. Students will also write a compare and contrast paper to conclude the class.	Year Long
English 10	Tenth grade English will address taking a stance and thinking critically through reading and interpreting classic and contemporary American Literature. Students are expected to read and respond to a variety of literature, independently, in group discussion and in writing. All facets of language arts - listening, speaking, reading, writing will be covered. The study of language in use – grammar, mechanics, sentence structure, and usage will be incorporated in this course as well. SAT preparation will also be included to aid in long-term retention of the skills assessed on the test	Year Long
English 11/11CP English	Students will apply knowledge of literary terms and concepts to evaluate both fiction and non-fiction texts. SAT preparation will be addressed throughout the class by reviewing grammar, academic vocabulary, writing practices, and text analysis. Texts to be studied include: "Beowulf," "Canterbury Tales," "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight," "Hamlet," "1984," and "Frankenstein." Students will also conclude the class with writing a research paper.	Year Long
English 12	Twelfth grade English will address taking a stance and thinking critically through reading and interpreting classic and contemporary World Literature and African American Literature. Students are expected to read and respond to a variety of literature, independently, in group discussion and in writing. All facets of language arts - listening, speaking, reading, writing will be covered. The study of language in use – grammar, mechanics, sentence structure, and usage will be incorporated in this course as well. Coursework will aim to prepare students for the expectations of a post-secondary education program.	Year Long
ELA RR	Students will be working on improving their writing skills by working on a different paragraph with focus on different areas each week. We will also be reading and listening to a novel and answering comprehension questions that go along with it. The students will also be participating in group work and projects along with the novel.	Year Long
U.S. History	US history is a course that is designed to help students take a conceptual look at the changes that occurred in America's culture, politics, environment and economy from the Reconstruction period to the present. In this course, students will	Year Long

	study and discuss the major events of US history within their geographic contexts. The course's intent is to help students better understand the themes of US history which have shaped and continue to shape our lives here in America. The concepts explored in this course will continue to prepare and empower students to make choices as responsible participants in American society.	
Government	American Government offers students the opportunity to learn about the three branches of government as well as their role and responsibility as citizens. The goals of this class are that students recognize the strengths and weaknesses of democratic form of government and develop a realization of the necessity of individual participation to ensure a successfully functioning government.	Year Long
Economics	The purpose of Economics is to aid students in understanding the basic principles of our economic system and that of other countries. Further aim is to enable students to gain knowledge of economic principles for use in everyday lives. Specific units are production, supply and demand, stock market money, credit, banking, personal income, the government and its economy, and major economic problems in the United States. This class is college preparatory, required by the State of Michigan for graduation. The fast pace can be a challenge for some students, so seeking help when needed is essential.	Semester
World History	World history is a course that is designed to help students understand themselves as global inhabitants. Students will study and discuss the major events of world history within their geographic context. This course takes a global and comparative approach to studying the world and its past to develop greater understanding of the development of worldwide events, processes, and interactions among the world's people, cultures, societies, and environment.	Year Long
Global Studies	Global Studies is a study of world regions, cultures and global issues that will help students develop research, writing and analytical skills. The purpose of Global Studies is to give students an understanding and appreciation of major geographic and cultural areas of the world and the issues and challenges that unite and divide them. The essential social studies concepts and skills in this course provide a foundation for continuing study in social studies. The areas of study will include North America, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. In each area, an emphasis will be placed upon regional characteristics, challenges and cultural heritage. Students will be expected to understand global interdependence as it relates to culture, resource management, conflict and human rights. Moreover, students will explore the relationship between diverse cultures and the world in	Semester

	which they live. Students will read, write, discuss, analyze and take positions on multiple topics in order to frame and defend arguments. Students will use a variety of print and non-print sources to analyze and suggest solutions to real-world problems and to analyze environmental and societal issues. Students will develop critical thinking skills and perspectives to better understand the world around them.	
Social Studies RR	Students will be working on many important social studies skills during the school year. We talk about being a good citizen, and what all that entails. They also are introduced to economic, civics, and history topics. We work in groups and on individual projects to help students feel comfortable in any of those scenarios.	Year Long

Electives:

Class Title	Description	Duration
Rock History	The purpose of this course is to examine the development of specific popular music genres and the artists that made them popular. Students will explore the different eras, styles, and artists... along with the political and social issues associated with this music. The class will include audio and video components. recordings to illustrate the stylistic differences and development of each era.	Semester
Creative Writing	Creative Writing will be dedicated to the exploration of creativity in thought as well as in writing. This course is designed to aid students in their creative expression, as well as the delivery of their writing. Many different types of writing will be explored and may include writing such as: poetry, memoirs, graphic novels, scripting, children's literature, and journaling. Students will practice different writing techniques to enhance both the process of writing, as well as the process of creative thinking.	Semester
Writing Workshop	This elective course is designed to strengthen students' writing skills through focused practice and personalized feedback. Students will review key writing concepts such as grammar, sentence structure, organization, and word choice, while also developing techniques to improve clarity and style. Emphasis will be placed on crafting well-organized essays, with specific preparation for the SAT and other standardized writing tasks.	Semester
Drama	This course is designed to introduce students to the various elements of theatre and performing arts. Students will study various plays as well as the jobs of theatre such as: acting,	Semester

	directing, set design, sound, lights and make-up. Students will learn to become more comfortable in front of groups while performing scenes, reading and monologues.	
Publications	Students in Publications will practice all aspects of the writing and publishing process. Students will research, write, edit, design and publish written work via a school newspaper, yearbook, etc. They will also be exposed to all roles and assignments within our publications team.	Year Long
Forensic Science	Forensics is the application of science to criminal activity for the purpose of discovery. This course is about how, why, and where to examine evidence in order to get the most pertinent information from a crime scene. The main part of the course details many of the more popular topics in forensic chemistry: soil, fingerprints, hair, fiber, blood and DNA typing, handwriting and eyewitness testimony. Students will learn and practice how each type of evidence is discovered and processed.	Year Long
Weight training	Weight Training is designed to further enhance the fitness skills learned in regular Physical Education and promote the development of a fit, healthy lifestyle. The focus of the class will address the five components of fitness: resting measurements, cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance and flexibility. Students will also go in depth, learning about the muscular system, thus being able to identify correct lifting techniques to strengthen each group. Students will be encouraged to personalize and maintain a fitness plan that helps them to achieve their own personal fitness goals. With this course as a guide, students will be empowered to create positive health behaviors within their own fitness and wellness throughout their lifetimes.	Semester
Health	Health class covers social issues, general health concepts associated with today's youth. It focuses on the most important current information concerning modern problems such as nutrition, emotional and mental health, family life, substance abuse, smoking, and public health.	Semester
Physical Education	Physical Education is designed to promote fitness and life-long leisure activities by exposing students to a variety of team and individual sports such as: Pickleball, Volleyball, Basketball, and other unique fitness games. There is an emphasis on skill development, social teamwork and fitness evaluations that will empower students the knowledge and understanding for various life-long activities. Students will demonstrate the ability to perform basic and advanced skills and tactics to participate in various sporting activities.	Semester
Mock Trial	Mock Trial focuses on developing the knowledge and skills necessary to live in our law-saturated society. Our co-curricular forensics program provides a wide variety of	Semester

	<p>opportunities for students to improve their skills in public speaking, disciplines of rhetoric, logic, and argumentation. Additionally, the students will have a practical understanding of law, the legal system, and how it affects us. In addition, the student will develop an awareness of current issues, a great sense of justice, tolerance and fairness.</p>	
Debate	<p>This class will address debating in a format that involves interpreting resolutions, developing affirmative and negative case constructions, cross-examinations, and evaluating arguments.</p>	Semester
Marketing	<p>Introduction to Marketing is a course designed to provide students with a foundational understanding of the principles and practices of marketing in today's business world. This course introduces students to key concepts, terminology, and strategies essential for success in marketing-related careers or further studies in business.</p> <p>Throughout the course, students will explore the fundamental principles of marketing, including market research, consumer behavior, product development, pricing strategies, promotion, and distribution channels. They will learn how marketing plays a crucial role in identifying and satisfying customer needs and wants, as well as creating value for both businesses and consumers.</p>	Semester
Current Events	<p>The study of the world around us in the 21st Century. Topics will range from political parties and presidential elections, the war on terror, immigration, crime in America, etc. We will utilize different media outlets including the internet, television news, and of course, the newspaper. Students will be expected to participate in daily classroom discussions, debates and projects as we analyze major topics.</p>	Semester
Michigan History	<p>Michigan History is a semester-long course in which students will learn all things Michigan. Topics will include history, food, landmarks, and research into various cities of our great state! Students will learn through hands-on projects, lectures, videos, and much more. Get ready to explore our Great Lakes State!</p>	Semester
Sociology	<p>Sociology is centered on the behavior of people in groups and society. Topics included are perspectives in sociology, culture, socialization, social institutions, social interaction, groups, deviance, social change, collective behavior, and competition in society. Activities include sociological research, group activities and simulations, individual assignments, group and individual projects, as well as standard testing.</p>	Semester
Art	<p>Art is a project based introductory high school art class for the beginning art student. Concepts taught will include the basic</p>	Semester

	elements and principles of design as well as an assortment of artistic styles and techniques which will be explored and applied to primarily two-dimensional projects using various types of media.	
Art in Media	Students will explore graphic design possibilities through the use of current technologies in this intermediate level class. Emphasis on multimedia tool functions, composition, and experimental techniques will be explored throughout the course.	Semester
Film Studies	Film Studies is a course designed to familiarize students with the evolution of film history as well as learn how to appreciate, analyze and interpret theme, character, story structure, and narrative technique through the medium as they study movies, read and write scripts, and learn about the business of cinema. A majority of this class will be based off of self-reflection and class discussion.	Semester
Art History	This high school art history course offers an exploration of visual culture, combining traditional classroom study with hands-on studio projects. Students will journey through the history of art, beginning with prehistoric cave paintings and progressing through to contemporary movements. Through classroom readings, discussions, and creative assignments, students will explore key periods, artists, and artistic techniques from ancient civilizations to modern-day innovations. The course emphasizes critical analysis, historical context, and personal expression, allowing students to both appreciate the evolution of art and develop their own artistic skills as they create projects inspired by the different eras studied.	Semester
Life Skills	The Life Skills class offers students an opportunity to explore things in life that they will experience after they graduate from high school. Some of the topics include basic automotive and home maintenance, maintaining a checking account, nutritious eating, and setting and keeping a budget. Other topics may be discussed that are of interest to the class.	Semester
Computer Skills	The Computer Skills course is designed to develop students' computer literacy, keyboarding skills and to meet the needs of students entering both the work force and post-secondary education. The student will learn from hands-on experiences, basic skills in file management utilities, word processing,	Semester

	spreadsheets, and graphical presentations in the Google Suite environment.	
Algebra 1 Math Lab	Algebra 1 Math Lab class. This class is the period directly following the Algebra 1 class. The intent of the Math Lab is to provide additional time with me where we will work on homework, reinforce previous math skills, and maintain additional time needed for the Algebra 1 content. The Math Lab class will not require additional homework. However, participation will be graded during the additional class period as well as work completed during the class.	Year Long
Math Lab	Math lab is an elective class where students receive support with homework or struggles in their current math class. In addition, skills that are an overall struggle will be targeted and worked on.	Semester
SAT Prep	This comprehensive SAT Preparation Course is designed to equip students with the skills, strategies, and confidence needed to excel on the SAT. Over the duration of the program, students will engage in targeted lessons covering Evidence-Based Reading, Writing and Language, and Mathematics— with optional support for the Essay section. Upon completion of the SAT test, students will participate in career exploration and research.	Semester
High School Band/ Wind Ensemble	The Merritt Academy High School Wind Ensemble is comprised of students ranging from two years instrumental music experience to those who have had up to seven years instrumental music experience on a concert band instrument. The instruments used in this class fall into the following categories: woodwinds, brass, and percussion. In addition to daily rehearsals each student is expected to practice at home on his or her own time. In the Merritt Academy High School Wind Ensemble, students will be taught fundamental techniques applicable to their instruments and will be expected to demonstrate these techniques during rehearsals and performances. In addition to those techniques, students will be introduced to basic music theory.	Year Long
Academic Studies- Resource Room	Students with learning differences work individually or in small groups with staff that provides these students assistance in developing strategies to help each be more successful with targeted areas of study. Students will understand more about their learning differences and their learning style in order to more confidently approach their education and advocate for themselves.	Semester

RR Life Skills	In life skills, we work on many different skills to help students be successful in their lives. We go on field trips where students can practice using money, ordering something on their own, shopping in a grocery store, and interacting with other people. We also work on cooking and measurement skills, health, and budgeting.	Year Long
Transition-Resource Room	Students will review and practice skills related to transition domains in order to prepare for and assist with their transition to life after high school. Such domains include Self-Determination (decision making and goal setting), Social Skills (appropriate expression of feelings and asking for help), Employment Preparation (job exploration, job applications, and interview skills), Independent Living (budgeting, community access, and health), and Post-Secondary Education (exploration of post-secondary options and study skills).	Semester
Spanish 1	Spanish 1 introduces the students to the Spanish language and culture. The course focuses on reading and comprehending short dialogues in Spanish. Students will develop basic vocabulary and grammatical skills to be used in conversational exercises.	Year Long
World Cultures	World culture class is an elective class in which students will study different groups of people throughout the world. Students will look at common cultural backgrounds that connect groups of people together. Some factors include historical events, geographical location, language, and belief systems. Some other areas that will be explored are family, food, daily life, clothing, celebrations, music, dance and art.	Year Long

## MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSES

Class Title	Description	Duration
Math 6	Students build upon their elementary math foundations by mastering concepts involving the real number system and geometry. Students also learn introductory concepts about ratios and proportions, algebra basics, and statistical data displays. Students use mathematical practices to solve problems involving these concepts.	Year Long
Math 7	Students build upon their 6th grade foundations by mastering concepts involving ratios and proportions, geometry, and statistical data displays. Students apply algebra skills at a higher-level involving expressions and equations to prepare them for the next level math. Students use mathematical practices to solve problems involving these concepts.	Year Long
Math 8	Students build upon their 7th grade foundations by mastering expressions and equations to apply them to pre-algebra concepts.	Year Long

	Students also learn skills to solve problems involving irrational numbers, slope, functions, transformations, and bivariate data displays. Students use mathematical practices to solve problems involving these concepts.	
Algebra 1	Main concepts: Writing and solving linear equations and inequalities. Properties of simplifying expressions with exponents and radicals. Basic Statistics and data interpreting. Introduction and application to factoring and quadratic functions, as well as polynomials. Applying problem solving skills.	Year Long
Algebra 1 Math Lab	Algebra 1 Math Lab class. This class is the period directly following the Algebra 1 class. The intent of the Math Lab is to provide additional time with me where we will work on homework, reinforce previous math skills, and maintain additional time needed for the Algebra 1 content. The Math Lab class will not require additional homework. However, participation will be graded during the additional class period as well as work completed during the class.	Year Long
Math RR	Over the course of the school year, students will learn foundational skills to help them in the real world. We focus on IEP goals, along with real life math skills. Some of these skills include telling time, counting money and making change, and multi-step problems	Year Long
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies- World Geography	Using the Five Themes of Geography (Location, Place, Movement, Region, and Human-Environment Interaction) as a basis for learning, students will study various aspects of life across the continents. Concepts include population, culture, government, economics, and global issues. Students will analyze the relationships between people, their cultures, and their environments, in their communities and within the larger world context.	Year Long
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies- World History	The 7th grade World History course covers content from early humans through the development of major empires. Students will study the geographic, environmental, 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 describe and compare defining characteristics of early civilizations and pastoral societies, where they emerged, and how they spread. Finally, students will analyze classical civilizations and empires, the emergence of major world religions, and how these impact our world today.	Year Long
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies- U.S. History	The 8th grade US History course covers content from the development of the Constitution through the Civil War and Reconstruction. By studying the major events in US history, students will gain an understanding of how the United States began to develop over time and the challenges that the new government faced. Geographic, civics/government, and economics content is integrated within the historical context. Upon completion of this course, students should understand the relevancy and connections of this history to their lives.	Year Long
Social Studies RR	Students will be working on many important social studies skills during the school year. We talk about being a good citizen, and what all that entails. They also are introduced to economic, civics, and history topics. We work in groups and on individual	Year Long

	projects to help students feel comfortable in any of those scenarios.	
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science	In sixth grade science, students learn about the engineering design process with a focus on the scientific method. Students focus on earth science for the remainder of the year. They learn about space, earth's history, earth's geologic processes, weather, and climate.	Year Long
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science	In seventh grade science, students continue to learn about the engineering design process with a focus on identifying and solving a problem. Throughout the year students learn about life science. They learn about cells, body systems, genetics, heredity, evolution, natural selection, and animal adaptations.	Year Long
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science	In eighth grade science, students build and design a device using the engineering design process. Physical, life, and earth science are all taught in eighth grade. Students learn about physics, earth's history, the fossil record, evolution, and natural selection.	Year Long
RR Science	Throughout the school year, we will be looking at many different scientific concepts and discussing them. Much of the class work in group work, which is used to help students improve upon their communication and teamwork skills. They have projects and presentations that go along with the concepts as well, and this helps them work on their public speaking and eye contact.	Year Long
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade ELA	In the 6th-grade ELA class, students will focus on honing their comprehension skills and critical thinking by analyzing informational and literary texts. They will also acquire research abilities and become proficient in four distinct writing styles: narrative, informative, argumentative, and literary analysis. Students will master the correct usage of pronouns, punctuation, frequently misspelled words, and various sentence structures, and they will develop speaking and listening capabilities, fostering effective communication within group settings.	Year Long
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade ELA	In the 7th-grade ELA class, students will enhance their comprehension skills and critical thinking through the analysis of informational and literary texts. They will develop research abilities and develop four unique writing styles: narrative, informative, argumentative, and literary analysis. Throughout the course, students will become experts in correctly using phrases and clauses, different sentence structures, punctuation, and frequently misspelled words. Additionally, they will work on refining their speaking and listening capabilities, ensuring effective communication in group settings.	Year Long
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade ELA	In the 8th-grade ELA class, students will strengthen their comprehension skills and critical thinking by analyzing informational and literary texts. They'll also nurture their research abilities and become adept in four distinct writing styles: narrative, informative, argumentative, and literary analysis. Throughout the course, students will gain mastery in using verbals, verb moods, and verb voices while correcting inappropriate shifts in sentences. They will also focus on improving their speaking and listening skills, empowering them to communicate effectively within group settings.	Year Long

RR ELA	Students will be working on improving their writing skills by working on a different paragraph with focus on different areas each week. We will also be reading and listening to a novel and answering comprehension questions that go along with it. The students will also be participating in group work and projects along with the novel.	Year Long
Academic Studies 6	Academic studies is a class to work on student specific skills.	Year Long
Academic Studies 7	Academic studies is a class to work on student specific skills.	Year Long
Academic Studies 8	Academic studies is a class to work on student specific skills.	Year Long
Middle School Band	Our objective is to explore seven key elements of music (melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre, texture, dynamics, and form) through the building of technique, tone, music literacy, and through performance on specific concert band instruments. (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion)	Year Long
Middle School Technology	Technology class allows students to use creativity, problem-solving, critical and flexible thinking, and collaboration with others. Computer science also provides a critical understanding of citizenship. This includes project-based learning using programming code to design apps, web and games.	Quarter
Middle School Art	Building off of the concepts learned in elementary classes middle school art will continue to explore the elements and principles of art as students work more independently to fully express their personal and creative visions. Elements of 3-d art and art history will also be woven into the curriculum to further tie in the arts to other academic subject matters.	Quarter
Middle School Gym	Our middle school physical education program helps students practice and develop skills in various activities that will improve their overall physical fitness levels. Students will be exposed to a variety of sport, strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and plyometric drills and activities throughout the duration of the class.	Quarter
Middle School Spanish	This elective course broadly covers aspects of Spanish language and grammar. Students will learn about historical events, celebrations and cultural differences. This course will be taught with various textbooks, worksheets, on-line resources, videos and games.	Quarter
Middle School Life Skills	This elective course will cover a variety of topics including different study skills and techniques, goal setting, and character education.	Quarter
RR Life skills	In life skills, we work on many different skills to help students be successful in their lives. We go on field trips where students can practice using money, ordering something on their own, shopping in a grocery store, and interacting with other people. We also work on cooking and measurement skills, health, and budgeting.	Year Long

## ELEMENTARY CLASSES

Class Title	Description	Duration
Elementary Music	Our objective is to explore seven key elements of music (melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre, texture, dynamics, and form) through text, song, movement, improvisation, and classroom instruments.	Year Long
Elementary Art	Students in elementary art will be introduced to the visual arts through various projects and media that will help to teach skills such as problem solving and critical thinking. Working primarily in 2-D format students will learn about the elements and principles of art and use those as a foundation for their own personal expressions.	Year Long
Elementary Gym	Our physical education program focuses on development of locomotor patterns and cooperative games to improve collaboration and communication skills. In addition, students will also be exposed to a variety of calisthenics and exercise challenges to improve their overall physical fitness levels.	Year Long
Elementary Spanish	An elective class that helps the student become familiar with Spanish in spoken and written form. They will be building a foundation of vocabulary words through songs, writing, videos and games. Some other units may involve celebrations, geography and cultural differences of the countries where Spanish is spoken.	Year Long
Elementary Technology	Technology class begins with the computer basics of proper posture and keyboard skills at the early elementary level then working towards operational skills such as saving, opening, attaching files, emailing, word, spreadsheet, word processing, code basics. Foundational computer skills are introduced and practiced with cross-curricular connections made. Proper netiquette and being safe online are on-going themes at each level.	Year Long
Kindergarten Math	Merritt Academy follows the common core standards in kindergarten mathematics. Merritt Academy focuses on conceptual understanding of numbers, building fluency in addition and subtraction, and using problem solving skills to foster a complex understanding of whole numbers and key concepts. All students will utilize problem solving skills and encounter early concepts in place value, shapes, numbers, concept of time, length, weight, and capacity. Students will learn how to gather and analyze data. In addition, students will identify, sort, study patterns, and relate mathematical figures to objects within the real world and/or our environment.	Year Long
Kindergarten ELA	Merritt Academy follows the common core standards in kindergarten English. Merritt Academy focuses on structured lessons that guide readiness skills with a strong emphasis on phonics, speaking and listening skills, handwriting, and literature to ensure that we are building comprehension skills, a strong vocabulary, and to promote a love for lifelong learning in both reading and writing. Students will	Year Long

	receive structured lessons on readiness skills through a strong emphasis on phonics, speaking and listening skills, handwriting, and literature to help develop comprehension, build vocabulary, and promote interest in both reading and writing.	
Kindergarten Spelling	Students will be introduced to the basic concepts of spelling and simple word and letter patterns. Usually start taking spelling assessments second semester.	Year Long
Kindergarten Science	Merritt Academy follows the Next Generation Science Standards in kindergarten science. Merritt Academy focuses on developing observation skills and complex thinking as students learn and explore the world around them. Students will observe, gather data, analyze, and interpret information through hands-on experiments while applying the basic skills of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). Furthermore, students will be able to use models, tools, sketches, make observations, and develop solutions while exploring physical, life, and earth science.	Year Long
Kindergarten Social Studies	Merritt Academy follows the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations for kindergarten in social studies. Merritt Academy's main focus is content that is based and designed for five- and six-year-olds and what is developmentally appropriate at their age level. Kindergarten students will learn about the social studies disciplines, history, geography, civics and government, as well as economics. Students will engage in planned activities to learn about the past, about how the environment provides for people's needs and wants, how people get along with each other and coexist, and how people meet their economic wants.	Year Long
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Math	The first-grade math curriculum focuses on understanding addition and subtraction, understanding how to solve word problems, and helping students become fluent in adding and subtracting numbers within 20. Students will learn different strategies to add and subtract numbers. The first-grade math curriculum also focuses on interpreting data, understanding place value of two digit and three digit numbers, and adding two 2 digit numbers within a hundred. Towards the end of the year students will focus on understanding and identifying 2 dimensional shapes and three-dimensional shapes, partitioning circles and rectangles into two and four equal shares, understanding linear measurements and length units, and students will work on telling and writing time to the hour and half hour using digital and analog clocks.	Year Long
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade ELA	The first grade ELA curriculum focuses on continuing students' literacy journey with greater confidence by combining skills and strategies systematically. As a result, students' reading stamina increases and they develop a fluid reading pace. Students continue to read, write, and discuss fiction and nonfiction texts to learn how different sources help readers construct meaning about the world. Academic conversations help students apply foundational listening and speaking skills to learn how to understand, speak, and use words to communicate. Additionally, students' writing stamina grows and their voices emerge when writing about what they are learning and their personal experiences.	Year Long

1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Spelling	The first-grade spelling curriculum focuses on using spelling patterns and spelling rules in writing words. Students will practice spelling untaught words phonetically. Students will also practice conventionally spelling frequently occurring irregular words. (Ex: the, is)	Year Long
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Science	The first-grade science curriculum focuses on engaging in science learning experiences to connect their thinking, make observations, formulate new ideas, and make sense of the natural world and how it works. Students will explore the relationship between sound and vibrating materials as well as between the availability of light and the ability to see objects. Students will also observe, describe, and predict patterns of the movement of objects in the sky. They also will learn about the needs of plants/animals, basic life cycles, and that plants/animals share some but not all characteristics of their parents.	Year Long
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Social Studies	The first-grade social studies curriculum focuses on chronological thinking by distinguishing among past, present and future using family and school events. Students will learn about events and people celebrated during U.S. national holidays and why we celebrate them, and they will be able to identify the months of the year/ days of the week. They will also identify important U.S. symbols and learn what they represent. Students will focus on understanding how to read maps of schools, neighborhoods, states, etc. The curriculum also focuses on diversity in families, rules in schools/ communities, the difference between goods and services, and learning fair ways to make decisions and resolve conflicts in a school community. Towards the end of the year the curriculum focuses on rights and responsibilities of members of society in schools, at home, and in the community.	Year Long
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Math	In the first half of the year the HMH program focuses on geometry awareness, addition and subtraction fact fluency, interpreting graphs, a foundation in place value, counting values of money, and telling time to the nearest five minutes. The second half of the year students are taught how to add and subtract three-digit numbers with regrouping, strategies to use to attack word problems, measurement skills, and partitioning shapes into equal shares.	Year Long
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Social Studies	The 2nd grade curriculum is aligned to Michigan's Grade Level Content Expectations for Social Studies. Students learn about important concepts through the context of the local community. Students are introduced to a social environment larger than their immediate surroundings.	Year Long
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Science	The 2nd grade curriculum is aligned to Michigan's Grade Level Content Expectations for Science. In 2nd grade, students use Mystery Science, an innovative, standards-aligned, hands-on curriculum that teaches children how to think like scientists. The phenomena-driven instruction helps kids to better understand and communicate about the world around them through writing, discussion, and exploration. Units covered are animal biodiversity, plant adaptations, erosion and Earth's surface, and material properties.	Year Long
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Spelling	The 2nd grade curriculum is aligned to the common core standards for ELA. Over the course of the year students will examine long vowel spelling patterns involving two or three letter teams. In addition,	Year Long

	students will also work on inflected endings, irregular plural nouns, homophones, abbreviations, and proper nouns.	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade ELA	The 2nd grade curriculum is aligned to Michigan's Grade Level Content Expectations for ELA In 2nd grade, a student's use of the English language will be improved upon by having the student practice using collective nouns, irregular plural nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. Students will be asked to remember conventions dealing with capitalization, comma usage, apostrophe usage, and spelling patterns when writing. Materials included in our HMH program are the foundations for students to study topics and develop research habits, as well as practice different types of speaking and writing about different topics. Reading skills are developed and enhanced so that students are able to answer and ask questions such as who, what, where, why, and when about a story. Students will develop an understanding of how the rhythm, structure, and points of view add meaning to a story. Texts included in our HMH program are high quality and engaging, as well as appropriately rigorous and organized to support knowledge building. The materials also include questions, tasks, lessons, and practice that support students' development of reading, speaking and listening, and beginning to think critically.	Year Long
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade ELA	Third grade learns the main text structures, literary elements of fiction and nonfiction, fluency, and comprehension. They also review all grammar components, writes opinion pieces, persuasive and informational writing, and letter writing.	Year Long
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Spelling	Third grade reviews all basic vowel and consonant patterns, homophones, and EBLI skills.	Year Long
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Math	Third Grade is expected to master multiplication facts, solve multi step problems, solve area and perimeter, tell time and elapsed time word problems, geometry, and beginning division.	Year Long
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Social Studies	Third grade learns about Michigan history, Native American Michigan Tribes, Michigan economics, Michigan agriculture, manufacturing, historical figures, state and federal government, and Michigan Geography.	Year Long
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Science	Third grade learns about magnets, animal and plant selection/survival, fossils, Stem Lessons, and Engineering and design processes.	Year Long
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math	4 <sup>th</sup> grade math focuses to meet the Michigan mathematics standards, with a large focus on place value, multiplication, division, fractions, and measurement by solving a variety of problems to prepare students for application in the real world. The 4 <sup>th</sup> grade study of math builds understanding through ongoing support and tasks provided through the HMH curriculum.	Year Long
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade ELA	Students are given opportunities to interact with a wide variety of genres of texts that focus on an overarching "essential question" for the unit. Throughout each unit, students work to identify the main idea and supporting details, figurative language, author's purpose, and story elements. Vocabulary is targeted each week in three ways: vocabulary found in the text, generative vocabulary, and a strategy to use while reading unfamiliar words. Through mini lessons students develop grammar skills to practice and include in the writing process. Some	Year Long

	skills included during instruction include parts of speech, phrases and sentences, and punctuation. As these skills are focused on they are then used to develop a variety of student writing pieces of different topics and writing types.	
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Spelling	Each week students study a variety of words that relate to one another through spelling patterns such as: vowels, homophones, endings, final sounds, prefixes, and suffixes. Focusing on new patterns weekly, students learn how to use those patterns to help them correctly spell familiar and unfamiliar words	Year Long
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science	Students focus on the topics of how the body functions, Earth's features, sound waves, and energy as identified by the Michigan 4th grade science standards. These topics are investigated through research and hands-on exploration and tests to determine solutions to problems and questions being asked	Year Long
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies	Students learn about the United States government, economies, and different impacts of Michigan's history and the world as a whole. Additionally, students work to gain an understanding of geography by looking at a variety of maps focusing on the United States and the world as a whole, while answering relevant questions about each location.	Year Long
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math	Fifth grade math focuses on meeting the Michigan mathematics standards with a large focus on, place value, multi-digit multiplication, multi-digit division, numerical expressions, operations with fractions, volume, measurements and data, graphing and patterns, and classifying shapes. Students build on previous skills to apply mathematical skills to real life experiences. The study of math in fifth grade builds understanding through ongoing support and tasks provided through the HMH curriculum and instruction.	Year Long
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade ELA	Fifth grade English Language Arts focuses on meeting the Michigan reading and language arts standards with a large focus on a wide variety of high-quality texts, reading and writing comprehension, multiple writing pieces and topics, fluency, language and grammar use, and multiple reading and writing skills and strategies. Students build on previous skills and knowledge to apply English Language Arts skills to real life experiences. The study of English Language Arts in fifth grade builds understanding through ongoing support and tasks provided through the HMH curriculum and instruction.	Year Long
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Spelling	Fifth grade Spelling focuses on meeting the Michigan spelling standards with a large focus on a wide variety of words, blends, syllables, patterns, and homophones, and homographs. Students build on previous skills and knowledge to apply spelling skills to real life experiences. The study of spelling in fifth grade builds understanding through ongoing support and tasks provided through the HMH curriculum and instruction.	Year Long
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies	Fifth grade Social Studies focuses on meeting the Michigan Social Studies standards with a large focus on American Indian life, European exploration, colonization settlement, revolution and the new nation, and public discourse, decision making, and citizen involvement. Students build on previous skills to apply Social Studies skills and knowledge to real life experiences. The study of Social Studies in fifth	Year Long

	grade builds understanding through ongoing support and tasks provided through the HMH curriculum and instruction.	
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science	Fifth grade Science focuses on meeting the Michigan Science standards with a large focus on engineering and technology, matter, energy and matter in organisms and ecosystems, earth interactions and resources, and patterns in the sky. Students build on previous skills to apply science skills and knowledge to real life experiences. The study of science in fifth grade builds understanding through ongoing support and tasks provided through the Mystery Science and HMH curriculum and instruction.	Year Long