



**REDMOND PROFICIENCY ACADEMY**

**2018-2019**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG**



## ***Core Classes Instructional Model***

*Our mission at the RPA middle school is to increase student achievement through small group instruction in a personalized, proficiency-based setting.*

### **Blended Learning Model**

In our blended learning model, we combine the best of face-to-face instruction with customized and adaptive learning technologies for students. In short, students will spend part of their time in STEAM and humanities courses engaged in whole group or small group lessons with the teacher and the other time working on a personalized prescription on the computer. RPA currently uses i-Ready as its prescription-based technology that provides remediation, enrichment, and acceleration in math and reading.

### **Proficiency-Based Teaching and Learning**

Teaching and assessing by proficiency means that students progress through their respective courses ONLY by demonstrating competency on course standards. Students may use a variety of methods to demonstrate knowledge and skills, and teachers will work with them to correct, guide, provide feedback, and re-teach skills as often as necessary. While teachers play the role of instructor and coach in the proficiency-based system, students must also monitor their own areas of strength and weakness. We believe that while a child is learning in school, time (how long it takes to learn a skill) should be the variable, and learning (acquired skills and knowledge) should remain the constant. Thus, if a student gets something quickly, they are able to move ahead and not be held back. Likewise, if they need more time or instruction, they are not flunked and passed on.

### **Process**

At the beginning of the academic year, or upon enrollment at RPA, students will be assessed by the i-Ready diagnostic test in mathematics and reading to determine class placement. Students are then placed in instructional groups and courses based on their unique needs and levels. The RPA staff is committed to targeting students' needs regardless of time or course placement.

### **Courses**

The mathematics and humanities courses are aligned with Common Core State Standards. Science courses use Next Generation science standards. All teachers use a combination of projects, writing samples, tests/quizzes, and nationally-normed assessments to determine student progress.

## ***ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS***

*\*Elective courses are semester long classes meeting on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.*

*\*\*Choir, and Band are typically year-long courses.*

### **POSSIBLE ELECTIVE OFFERINGS (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)**

#### **Art - Middle School (Bury)**

The Art elective is designed to provide students of all skill levels with an introduction to a variety of artistic media, techniques, and styles. This course will provide students with the opportunity to improve basic skills, explore a variety of different materials, and learn the basics of drawing and composition. Emphasis will be placed upon development of foundation skills, exploration of 2-D and 3-D techniques, and applying elements and principles of art and art history.

#### **Beginning Band - (Barnett)**

Welcome to the RPA beginning band! Students will learn the basics of one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or percussion. This elective is offered for the entire school year. Students must supply their own instrument.

\*\*RPA has a limited number of instruments available for rental, free of charge, on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact Mr. Barnett for more details.

#### **Choir - (Barnett)**

In Choir we learn how to build our voices to increase range and improve vocal sound, how to sing in harmony, and the basics of reading music. We will sing both popular songs and choral songs, sing in rounds, and sing fun warm ups.

#### **Concert Band - Middle School (Barnett)**

This is the RPA Middle School's premier instrumental band. Students will be challenged throughout the semester with developing their own practice routine, allowing them to be in firm control of their musical future. In preparing for our concerts, we will explore music ranging from Pop and Rock to Classical and Baroque.

\*\*Requirement: students signing up for this group will have played their instrument for at least one year.

#### **Creative Writing (Scott)**

Students will be exposed to a variety of writing genres including poetry, short fiction, long fiction, journaling, and explanatory writing. By the end of the course, students will have a collected portfolio of work that demonstrates a diverse ability to write creatively.

#### **Ancient Civilizations: Mesoamerican Masters (Radomski)**

What was here before us? Let's take a journey through time to study and learn about the ancient cultures of the western hemisphere. This history course will include units about the Inca, Mayan, Aztec, and early Native American civilizations. We will explore each culture's rise and fall, day-to-day life, myths/legends, and social, governing, and economic structures.

#### **Guitar - Beginning (Barnett)**

Beginning guitar students will learn the basics of the guitar, including reading music, playing melodies, and strumming chords. No experience necessary and guitars are provided!

### **Here and Now (Walters)**

“Just breathe...” Sounds easy enough. Obviously, we all know how to breathe, but in this class we will be taking the essence of mindfulness and combining the research with proven methods to help you enjoy a more balanced life. Learn more about your brain, what makes you ‘tick’, and how you can control your mind through practice. Together we will explore the power of being present, aware of what actually is the *Here and Now*. As Jon Kabat-Zinn says, “You can’t stop the waves, but you can learn to surf.”

### **Choose Your Own Adventure (Pupo and Walters)**

Do you like sports, being outside, or doing anything active? Together we will learn more about maintaining a healthy lifestyle. From team games to individual training, we look forward to teaching and facilitating indoor and outdoor activities that promote being RAD in everything you do.

### **Indoor/Outdoor Recreation (Pupo)**

This course will give students the knowledge and experience in a number of indoor and outdoor recreation activities that they can perform throughout their lifetime in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle. This course will also expose students to games and activities that are usually found outside of a school setting. This course will offer activities that are currently popular all over the country, but will also offer physical education opportunities that are unique to the culture of the Redmond Proficiency Academy. This is a great class to take if you like being active and want to try a variety of games! Planned activities include: Capture the Flag, Sprout ball, Giant Jenga, Kickball, Sharks and Minos, various Dodgeball games (foam ball only), occasional outings to Fairhaven City Park, etc.

### **Musical Theatre (Wade)**

*"I am not giving away my shot!"* From Hamilton to Cats, Wicked and more. Students will explore the history of musical theatre and expand their musical theatre repertory. This course will strengthen vocal ability, music reading skills, dance techniques, and acting and will help develop techniques for auditioning & performing. Students will have the opportunity to perform in class in both solo and group performances. This course culminates with a student lead in-class performance.

### **MS Advanced Spanish (Prior Spanish 1 semester experience) (Walters)**

¡Hola! ¿Cómo estás? You’ve learned a little Spanish and want to know more. ¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español! At RPA, we believe it is important to provide students with the opportunity to develop real-world Spanish abilities. Thus, we have adopted a method of teaching called Organic World Language (OWL). The basic structure of class will be a Spanish learning circle and together, we will be learning Spanish by being in Spanish 100% of the time. Every class will be filled with activities, sharing, movement and practice, practice, practice. Don’t worry if you feel lost or frustrated some of the time; it’s all part of the language acquisition process and we make it really fun! This class is designed for students who have had recent Spanish experience, most of whom have been in Spanish MS Foundations.

### **MS Advanced High School Spanish II (Prior Spanish 1+ experience) (Walters)**

Muchas personas en nuestro mundo hablan español. ¡Vamos a aprender más juntos! ¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español! At RPA, we believe it is important to provide students with the opportunity to develop real-world Spanish abilities. Thus, we have adopted a method of teaching called Organic World Language (OWL). The basic structure of class will be a Spanish learning circle and together, we will be learning Spanish by being in Spanish 100% of the time. Every class will be filled with activities, sharing, movement and practice, practice, practice. Don’t worry if you feel lost or frustrated some of the time; it’s all part of the language acquisition process and we make it really fun! This class is designed for students who have had recent Spanish experience, most of whom have been in Spanish MS Advanced High School Spanish I.

### **MS Foundations Spanish (Little to no experience) (Walters)**

¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español! At RPA, we believe it is important to provide students with the opportunity to develop real-world Spanish abilities. Thus, we have adopted a method of teaching called Organic World Language (OWL). The basic structure of class will be a Spanish learning circle and together, we will be learning Spanish by being in Spanish 100% of the time. Every class will be filled with activities, sharing, movement and practice, practice, practice. Don't worry if you feel lost or frustrated some of the time; it's all part of the language acquisition process and we make it really fun! You will be amazed as you develop your vocabulary and begin to communicate with others in Spanish in no time! This class is designed for students who are looking to learn a new language but have little to no experience (at least not recently) with speaking Spanish.

### **MS One Act (Wade)**

Students cast in the RPA Middle School One Act (show title: TBA) will rehearse the production as an elective. The MS One Act will perform a school assembly, as well as an evening production at the McClay Theater. Students in the show will work on performance, design, and comedic timing. This course will be structured to mimic the high school rehearsal process and will allow students to stretch their onstage abilities. ***\*\*This course is by audition only.\*\****

### **Theatre Foundations (Wade)**

This class provides an introduction to theatre and storytelling arts. Using theatrical games and activities students will build confidence, exercise creativity, and enhance communication, improvisation, and collaborative skills. In addition, students will practice performance, text and character analysis, basic stage vocabulary, and theatre etiquette. This course culminates with a student-lead in-class performance. Theatre Foundations is structured for both first time middle school level theatre students and students with past theatre experience. This course may be repeated.

### **Ukulele (Barnett)**

Learn to play the Ukulele at RPA! In this class, students will learn a variety of chords and strumming techniques. We will explore songs from multiple eras and genres. Students will also be encouraged to compose their own original music, and collaborate with classmates.

### **A Hitchhiker's Guide to Sci-Fi (Reynolds)**

Want to start reading some science fiction, but aren't sure where to begin? Are you a long-time Sci-Fi fan and want to contribute your galaxies of knowledge to class conversations? This class will explore the major themes in the Sci-Fi genre, including both literature and film. You'll find a mix of old and new here, classics and present day representations Sci-Fi content from across the eras.

## ***ENRICHMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS***

*\*Enrichment courses are a semester long classes meeting only on Wednesdays.*

### **POSSIBLE WEDNESDAY ENRICHMENT OFFERINGS (Wednesdays only)**

#### **American Sign Language - ASL (Rozek)**

Students will be given the tools to learn how to communicate basic concepts in ASL. Topics include but are not limited to: Introductions, family, activities, feelings, food, animals, weather, transportation, school, work, and more! There will be handouts to use as guides, websites to explore, and an abundance of in class practice time. This class adds a new concept weekly, building on what was learned the week before. This class is a sample of what will be covered in beginning ASL at the High School.

#### **Chess Club (Garcia)**

You don't have to be Bobby Fischer in this class--come and join your peers in some friendly chess competition. If you like to learn or find time to play European and/or Chinese chess, this is the class for you. Learn basic strategy, help teach others, and have a lot of fun!



#### **Code RPA Club (Griffy)**

This is an online interactive class that offers online coding instruction in different programming languages like jQuery, JavaScript, and Ruby, as well as markup languages including HTML and CSS. Learn core programming concepts and syntax for the world's most popular languages.

#### **Fantastic Film Study (Reynolds)**

Explore the world of other cultures through movies, short films and documentaries. Explore the life of artists, past cultures, and unique lives. Expand your knowledge about the world and the unique cultures surrounding you.

#### **Fluency Support (Scott)**

In this course, students will use the Read Naturally online program to strengthen their reading fluency and comprehension. The Read Naturally program uses powerful, research-proven reading intervention strategies to create an effective tool that individualizes instruction and improves reading proficiency. Using audio support and tracking their progress, students will work with high-interest material at their skill level to improve fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

**\*\*Students may be assigned to this course based on their i-ready diagnostic data and needs.**

#### **Foundations of Freedom (Radomski)**

A long time ago, our founding fathers decided to try this crazy experiment we now call the United States of America. How did they come up with this idea? Is it working? This course is a combination of social studies, including economics, civics, and history. We will learn how this nation was born, and the systems the founders dreamed up. This class will span the entire school year, and be divided into two parts (1st semester & 2nd semester). First semester will cover early exploration and the 13 colonies through independence.

***\*\*This class is recommended for students who would like to participate in the Washington DC trip in May.***

### **Gastronomy (Swagerty)**

Do you like science? Do you like history? Do you like food? If so, Gastronomy may be for you! Learn the science behind turning heavy cream into whipped cream and butter. Taste test exotic fruits. Learn how different cheeses are made. Learn more than you ever wanted to know about microbes. Did you know that cereal was invented because the United States was suffering from a country-wide case of indigestion? What about the fact that there's a town in Mexico that celebrates a holiday called the Night of the Radishes in which locals carve elaborate scenes out of radishes? Learn about all these things, make kombucha, carve your own radish scene, and more in Gastronomy!

### **Global Myths and Legends (Reynolds)**

Do you enjoy learning about mighty heroes, angry gods and goddesses, and cunning animals? Mythology and folklore have been used since the first people gathered around the fire as a way to make sense of humankind and our world. This course focuses on the many myths and legends woven into cultures around the world.

### **Google me goofy and Keyboard me crazy (Garcia)**

Interested in putting your brain to work via games and apps? While this course is not simply an invite to “play games” throughout the enrichment period, we will explore the entire suite of Google apps to develop your computer skills, critical thinking, solve problems in a team-oriented environment, construct websites and use tech to play games. Students of all technology backgrounds--novice or experienced--are welcomed in this course.



### **Graphic Design (Bury)**

Learn how to create graphic designs using Canva online. Layer images and words to create unique, positive messages. Make postcards, posters, stickers and T-shirts using the designs you create.

### **High School Introduction to Literature and Composition Lab (Scott)**

This lab is required for all students enrolled in the high-school level Introduction to Literature and Composition course. This lab will provide students with additional time spent on developing foundational skills in critical reading and academic writing at the high school level through teacher-directed instruction, group work, and individualized content.

***\*\*instructor approval needed for this class***

### **High School Biology Lab (Harris)**

This Lab is required for students enrolled in high-school level Biology. If you are interested in taking Biology, you must select this class on your Forecasting Form. This class is required for Biology students in order to provide additional time and assistance in completing assignments and extra lab/exploration time.

***\*\*instructor approval needed for this class***

### **Improv for Life (Temple)**

Each class will teach the secret “making it up” techniques that heighten both Stage and Life skills. Benefits: Thinking quickly on your feet; Enhanced decision-making; Problem-solving; Greater self-confidence; Comfort taking risks; Ensemble/Team-building; Trusting your instincts; Exceptional communication and listening skills -- and much more; for stage, for life, for college and beyond. Create scenes out of thin air; invent characters without memorizing lines; increase public speaking skills – all in a fun package of powerful, interactive games and exercises. At semester’s end, you have the option of a performance. Whether wanting a life of performing or wanting a life performed at its very best, this course will pave the way.

**Introduction to Criminology (Newell)**

Have you ever considered a career in the FBI, CIA, or local law enforcement? Is one of your favorite shows CSI or Criminal Minds? If your answer is yes, this is the enrichment course for you! Come find out what defines deviant behavior, the difference between a psychopath and a sociopath, and if every serial killer is made the same...

### **iLead (Bury)**

This course is designed for students to develop and apply leadership skills through class bonding activities, lessons focused on creating better leaders, as well as taking part in community service and promoting the core principles and values of Redmond Proficiency Academy.

### **Jiu-Jitsu (JT Taylor)**

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu will help your child develop self confidence, discipline, respect, and coordination while training in a fun and exciting atmosphere. They will learn the fundamental movements of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu while interacting with other children their age.

### **Adv. Jiu-Jitsu (JT Taylor)**

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu will help your child develop self confidence, discipline, respect, and coordination while training in a fun and exciting atmosphere. They will learn **more advanced** movements of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu while interacting with other children their age.

**\*\*instructor approval needed for this class**

### **Knitting & Crocheting (McPherson)**

Take a seat, enjoy some music and let your fingers do the work! Would you like to learn the basics of knitting? How about crocheting? Do you already have a few skills and want to learn more? Students of all skill levels are welcome and encouraged to try out these creative methods of art.

### **Math Support (Adams)**

In this class, students will use the ST Math online visual math program to build a deep conceptual understanding of math through rigorous learning, spatial game playing, and creative problem solving.

**\*\*Students may be assigned to this course based on their i-ready diagnostic data and needs.**

### **Music in Film (Barnett)**

What makes some music “scary” and other music “happy”? How do composers use the musical elements to support the story as it unfolds on the big screen? These are a few of the questions we will tackle in *Music in Film*. In this class, we will explore the role of music in visual media, including movies, shows, video games, and commercials.

### **Music Technology (Barnett)**

Love music? Love technology? In this class, we combine the two! Students will work with a variety of programs to create original music. Collaboration and teamwork are important elements of this class, as students will put their heads (and ears!) together to create unique and original sounds.

### **OBOB / Book Club (Radomski)**

Oregon Battle of the Books! This course is for book lovers. This course will support OBOB team members by allowing teams to meet once a week, practice battles, discuss books, and spend time reading. Students that are participating in OBOB through RPA this year are encouraged to sign up for this class to spend time working, planning and reading with team members. All teams will support one another through healthy competition and a positive learning environment.

### **Painting with Acrylics (Newell)**

No artistic ability needed! Just bring your creative self and prepare to paint. I will help you choose a subject that you will have fun with. And, I will make sure that you leave with a strong understanding of the color wheel, shades, values, and more. Most instruction will take place individually, AS YOU PAINT! So, start thinking about what you want to bring to life on your canvas.

**Robotics Club (Griffy)**

Construct and program a Lego Mindstorms robot to navigate obstacle courses and complete challenges. This is a hands-on class that focuses on problem solving where students work in teams to complete daily design challenges. Learn to use a graphical based drag-and-drop programming language to control the robots you build. This class is for beginners. No prior experience with robotics or programming is necessary.

**Rock Climbing (Harris & Walters)**

Put to test all you've learned from climbing. Whether this is your first time or you are a seasoned pro, this class will focus on developing all skill levels as well as integrate specific climbing terminology. We will explore the YDS grading scale (as in gradient/slope) as we create new routes/boulders on our RPA wall. Get ready for fun games and competitions designed to enhance your rock climbing experience.

**School of Rock (Walters)**

An academic class that truly rocks! The influence Rock and Roll music has had on the world gives RPA a unique ability to teach the fundamentals and history of music through the eyes of Rock and Rollers. Inspired by the movie and musical taste of many generations, School of Rock is a class that focuses on how music affects all aspects of humanity.

**Student Learning Lab (Strong)**

This course is designed to provide time for students to complete many of their assignments and projects. RPA staff will provide support by having students set goals, plan for organization, and communicate with teachers. Students will also have an opportunity to complete assignments and receive tutoring in their digital learning prescriptions (e.g. math and English Language Arts).

**Stunt and Tumble Club (Griffy)**

The RPA Stunt and Tumble class will teach skills for future city or a high school cheerleading teams. RPA Stunt and Tumble is a great way for young people to improve fitness and coordination. It is also a great environment for developing confidence and self esteem as well as developing positive life skills, personal values, sportsmanship and teamwork. RPA Stunt and Tumble class is an athletic activity that combines elements of gymnastic tumbling, and traditional cheerleading skills such as jumps and stunting. The RPA Stunt and Tumble team and class is purely "competitive fun" and do not perform any traditional team support or crowd leading duties for sports teams or schools. RPA Stunt and Tumble class and team is a co-ed activity and is great for boys as well as girls.

**Wandering Redmond (McPherson)**

Students in this class will put on their walking shoes and take off to explore various areas in Redmond! Students will take to paths, roads, trails, and fields and learn about Redmond history along the way. Sometimes students will walk near school and other days students will take Redmond field trips to other paths to keep their Redmond explorations interesting!

### **Yearbook and Storytelling (Strong)**

The yearbook tells the story of our school. Being a part of the yearbook staff is a large responsibility, but by the end of the year students will have produced a book of wonderful memories telling the story of the school year. This course works towards the production and completion of a yearbook which records school memories and special events. We will also look at the elements of storytelling as we strive to tell our story. Students will gain skills in: page design, copy writing, editing, photography, time management, teamwork and leadership skills in the telling of our story. Students will be challenged with real world projects and assignments. In class students compose, construct and edit all elements of the yearbook using computerized yearbook design software. Students will often work in teams, but will also be expected to complete individual assignments. Some out of class time may be required to ensure coverage of all school activities and events.

***\*\*Most students will continue into Semester 2 to help complete the yearbook.***

### **Foundations of Yoga (Adams)**

Yoga is a healthy practice that helps us build inner & outer strength, flexibility, and overall concentration. Yoga also helps us develop self-awareness and control as we step into our daily lives! We'll not only practice yoga together, but we'll breakdown each pose, study the basics of anatomy, learn a variety of breathing techniques, and build connections with each other.

Prepare to learn, play games, get to know new people, relax, and have fun!

***\*\*This class has a maximum of 15 students.***

