



REDMOND PROFICIENCY ACADEMY

2018-2019

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

Semester 2

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.*

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

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

Ancient Civilizations: Eastern Empires (Radomski)

What was here before us? Let's take a journey through time to study and learn about the ancient cultures of the eastern hemisphere. This history course will include units about the Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Israeli, Indian, Chinese, Greek, and Roman civilizations. We will explore each culture's rise and fall, day-to-day life, myths/legends, and social, governing, and economic structures.

General Art (Bury)

Intro to Art 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.

Advanced Art (Bury)

The Art elective is designed to provide students of advancing art skill levels with an introduction to a variety of artistic media, techniques, and styles. This course will provide students with the opportunity to improve advanced skills, explore a variety of different materials, and learn advanced skills 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.

****Students must have taken Mrs. Bury's Art class before to enroll or get instructor approval.**

Beginning Band (Barnett)

Welcome to the RPA beginning band! Students will have the opportunity to 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 - Middle School (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.

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.

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.

Beginning Guitar/ Guitar II (Barnett)

In this class, we will split into two groups: those who have already taken beginning guitar, and those who are just starting. Beginning students will learn the basics of the guitar, including reading music, playing melodies, and strumming chords. Guitar II students will build on skills learned in Semester 1, continuing to develop their musicianship and facility on the guitar.

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."

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.

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.

Marine Biology (Adams)

The ocean covers 70% of our planet, yet scientists estimate that we have only explored 20% of it's waters! Despite how little we know about the deep blue sea, there is a lot to learn about the life that calls it home. In Marine Biology, we use scientific labs & research to dive into topics such as marine animals, ecosystems, climate & weather, oceanography, fieldwork techniques, human impacts on the ocean, and much more. If you enjoy getting scientific and have a passion for the ocean, you may be a Marine Biologist!

Piano Skills (Barnett)

This class is open to all students who are interested in learning how to play the keyboard, regardless of prior experience. In this class, we will learn the basics of reading music and keyboard 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.

That's Entertainment? (Scott)

This class will explore different means of entertainment spanning the 19th-20th centuries. Examples include games, television, movies, recreation, and theatre. Units will explore the form of entertainment and its history with students engaging in the activity. The course will end with students researching and presenting a type of entertainment not yet covered to the class.

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, and collaborative skills. This class will include musical theatre, stand up comedy & improv. Theatre Foundations is structured for both first time middle school level theatre students and students with past theatre experience. This course may be repeated.

Theatre: 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: Scenes, Skits & Monologues (Wade)

This class will build on skills learned in Theatre Foundations and allow students to practice performance skills through a series of monologues, duo scenes & skits. Student will practice performance, text and character analysis, basic stage vocabulary, and theatre etiquette. Previous theatre experience is recommended but not required, this course may be repeated.

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.

College of Rock (Walters)

You've been to the School of Rock and/or have an interest in popular music. Whether it's the history of production or the future of sound, the **College of Rock** is the next stepping stone in understanding the state of popular music and why we like the music we listen to.

****prerequisite of School of Rock recommended but not necessary**

Disney: What They Got Wrong (Scott)

This course will explore different Disney films that interpret either an historical event or a piece of fiction of literary significance. Class time will be devoted to both watching the films and researching historical and literary inaccuracies to get a better idea of the "real story." Students will present their understanding of what Disney presented incorrectly with individual and small group projects. Films watched will not exceed a PG rating.

Fantastic Films Study (Reynolds)

Explore the world of other cultures and history 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.

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. Second semester will cover the American Revolution through the Civil War.

****This class is recommended for students who are participating 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!

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 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***

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***

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.

Introduction to Criminology (Newell)

Have you ever considered a career in the FBI, CIA, or local law enforcement? Is one of your favorite shows Criminal Minds? If your answer to any of these questions 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...

i-ready Math Support Lab (Strong)

In this course, students will have extra time to complete their weekly math i-ready lessons and raise their pass rates. One on one support will be offered, as well as, small group support to ensure that all students achieve i-ready success!

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

i-Ready Reading Support Lab (Reynolds)

In this course, students will have extra time to complete their weekly reading i-ready lessons and raise their pass rates. One on one support will be offered, as well as, small group support to ensure that all students achieve i-ready success!

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

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 and Games (Garcia)

Work with fractions, decimals and percentages; allowing you to travel higher and further in the world of math than you ever have. Be open to exploring your inner math nerd through challenging math scenarios and maybe even a find time for game or two.

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

Music in Film (Barnett)

What makes some music “scary” and other music “happy”? How do composers use the elements of music 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.

Muggles & Magic (Wade)

Welcome to Hogwarts! We'll sort into houses, craft our own wands, and explore the wizarding world of Harry Potter. Potions, spells, magic & more! We will explore the major themes of Harry Potter, using both books & films and learn how to apply the magic of Harry Potter to everyday life. "Working hard is important. But there's something that matters even more. Believing in yourself." ~ Harry Potter

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. We will learn about the color wheel, shades, values, and more. Our first project will be instructor guided. Then you will be set free to paint what you like. Most instruction will take place, 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.

Songwriting 101: The Art of Composition (Barnett)

In this class, students will compose and perform their own original music. A variety of instruments will be available for use, including guitar, ukulele, keyboard, as well as music composition software. Students will explore the art of music composition, as well as writing original lyrics.

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.

Unicorns, Rainbows & Reset (Wade)

Do you ever wish you had more time in your day to relax and just be? We'll learn the basics of restorative yoga & iRest meditation to help hit the reset button in the middle of the week. We'll also learn the importance of connecting with nature and the basics of journal writing.

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, copywriting, 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.