Introduction to the Middle School Program

We are glad to have you here!
RSA believes that middle school students learn best with:

- Interdisciplinary, thematic approach;
- Regularly offered Visual and Performing Arts and physical education;
- Exposure to Multicultural Curriculum and Mandarin;
- Network of Emotional and Social Support;

Preparing students for the challenges of high school and beyond.
Social and Emotional Growth

- Students are encouraged to play at recess to develop appropriate peer interactions.
- Students provide leadership and act as role models for younger students at RSA.
- Students are offered a school sponsored Social in the winter which offers games, food, music and conversation.
- Students have access to school counselor who can guide students through peer relations and interactions.
MIDDLE SCHOOL
FIELD TRIPS
Sixth Grade Field Trip

WES CAMP

UNITE CAMP
Seventh Grade Trip
Theater Experience-College Visit
Eighth Grade Trip

CIMI-Science Camp, USS Iowa, Ziplining Adventure
China Trip

Tour of China a visit with Sister School
Middle School Math

Sixth grade math: Heidi Schmall and Cathy Song
Seventh Grade Math: Cathy Song
Eighth Grade Math: Byron Wylie
Middle School Math: Dean Teig
Ninth Grade Math: Shasta High School and Online platform.
The Higher Math Advanced integrated course pathway

- This approach consists of a sequence of three grade level integrated pathway courses that also includes the CCSS plus (+) standards (PreCalculus Standards) appropriately aligned to each conceptual cluster and distributed evenly among the three courses.

Courses in higher level mathematics:
AP Calculus, Advanced Statistics, or other high math course.

- Grade 11: Advanced Mathematics III
- Grade 10: Advanced Mathematics II
- Grade 9: Advanced Mathematics I
- Grade 8: CCSS Math 8
- Grade 7: CCSS Math 7
- Grade 6: CCSS Math 6
CPM design

- Coherent math system, not the scatter approach
  - Facilitates deeper understanding
  - Connections emerge naturally between disciplines
- Will be challenging for all students
- Problem-centered active learning, not just algorithms
- Designed with teamwork in mind
  - Essential for high school, college and the workforce
- Curriculum is available on the internet
- Non-profit and designed by teachers
- CPM has been around for over 20 years
MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

AT RSA
Welcome to SCIENCE!

In Science this year we will be merging the existing California state standards with the Next Gen Science Standards (NGSS), creating a hands on, exploratory curriculum.

Students will use scientific and engineering practices to explore and investigate science concepts.
6th grade will be exploring Earth Science:
The Universe, Stars, Solar System, History of the Earth, and its Surface Processes

7th & 8th grades will be exploring Physical Science:

*Chemistry* - the atom, interactions between molecules, chemical reactions and the Periodic Table

*Physics* - motion, forces & their interactions; energy, conservation of energy & energy transfer; and waves & the electromagnetic spectrum

Or Life Science:
Plant & animal cells, structures and functions; growth & development of organisms; heredity; organisms & ecosystems; natural selection & adaptations
Science is taught through a variety of methods:

- Direct instruction & Various Note-taking techniques
- Exploration Activities
- Lab experiments
- Online research
- PHET simulations
- Using and designing models
- Projects
- Online textbooks for reinforcement of concepts
Students will read assigned novels both in and outside of class, and discuss them in student-led literature circles.

Students will respond to literature in a literature journal using a variety of formats to prepare them for high school English classes.

Students will learn about literature concepts such as characterization, plotline, and themes.

Non-fiction reading, primarily from Scholastic’s SCOPE magazine
WRITING

- Essay writing - One 5 paragraph essay per trimester practicing both expository and persuasive styles

- We will practice planning, writing and editing. We will write papers in MLA (Modern Language Association) format.

- Weekly journal entries, short in-class responses to prompts, etc.
VOCABULARY & GRAMMAR

- Academic Vocabulary - applied in-context and based on Bloom’s Anatomy to prepare the students for high school.
- Literature vocabulary - addressed in literature journals along with reading assignments.
- Grammar - Weekly lessons beginning with parts of speech and advancing into sentence structure and conventions.
WELCOME TO MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL SCIENCE!

Mr. Colwell
Three Year Theme Rotation:

Eastern Hemisphere: Asia, Africa & Renaissance

California/United State History

Ancient Civilizations
SO, HOW ARE THE STUDENTS IN YOUR SOCIAL STUDIES CLASS TAUGHT?

- Direct instruction, where listening and note taking are the focus
- Analysis of Primary Sources
- Group and individual projects
MIDDLE SCHOOL
MANDARIN PROGRAM
Mandarin Curriculum

**Mandarin Matrix**: Utah Mandarin Immersion program curriculum.
- 30 Mandarin readers for each level from foundation level to advanced level.
- Online library and self-pace study system.
Mandarin Companion Books

Breakthrough Level (150 unique characters)

- My Teacher is a Martian
- The Misadventures of Zhou Haisheng

Level 1 (300 unique characters)

- Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Curly Haired Company
- The Secret Garden
1. Students will be able to enjoy learning Mandarin and continue their Mandarin learning in high schools, starting from level 3.

2. Students may be able to pass one or more of the following tests:

   - HSK 3 (scholarship will be provided by the Chinese government to join a summer camp in China when pass the test.)

   - HSK 4 (scholarship will be provided by Chinese colleges to study Mandarin in China when pass the test.)
MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Mr. Sheridan
Sports Program

Cross Country
- K-8th
- August - October

Basketball
- Co-Ed League
- January-March
- Practice 2x’s a week
A Year at a Glance

- Attendance, behavior, and participation are the emphasis.
- State standards for the 6th-8th grade are covered.
- 6th and 7th grade students prepare for the 7th STAR testing (pushups, sit-ups, stretches, and the 20 meter pacer run).
- 8th grade students are introduced to the expectations of Freshman P.E.
What to expect

- Activities, games and expectations that are equitable to mixed combination classes of multiple grade levels.
- Utilization of the playground
- Creating new games.
- Intramural sports and camps
Ms. Brown’s Middle School Art Program
Art Curriculum

RSA’s Middle School Art Program aligns with a standards-based curriculum, assessment and instruction using the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Framework for California Public Schools.
Middle School art diversifies what students learned in grades K-5 using the elements and principles of art.
Students create artwork that shows what they have learned in social and cultural studies in RSA’s thematic program.
Students participate in local, state and national art competitions such as the Lion’s Club International Peace Poster Contest and the Federal Jr. Duck Stamp Program.
Lion’s Club International Peace Poster Contest

1st: Kaitlyn Otten, 6th grade
Federal Jr. Duck Stamp Contest
Students learn to describe, critique, revise and celebrate art.
Middle School Performing Arts
RSA ORCHESTRA
and Strings Program
Directed by Sheri Eby
Our RSA Strings Program

Students learn about counting rhythms, intonation, reading notation, theory, following instructions, music history, music interpretation, teamwork and self discipline. They develop lifelong skills, memories, and friendships while making beautiful music together.
The RSA Band
Skills covered in Band include: Reading notation, proper positioning, tone, counting, intonation, musicianship and the ability to communicate with each other and work in a positive manner toward a mutual goal, which will help them in any field they venture into the future.
The students help with decisions regarding choices of performance pieces.
Performances:

California State University, Chico and California State University, Sacramento RSA concerts and assemblies
Potential Field Trip to McCloud where we play a lot of music and enjoy each other in the serenity of Mt Shasta.
Annual Musical

Musical Themed Christmas Float
Growth Goals For General Music:

- Students are stretched in multiple ways,
- Take risks in the classroom, on stage, in song, dance, & improvisation,
- Develop overall musicianship and self-confidence, musical independence
- Challenged playing Polyrhythms on marimbas
Exposure to a variety of life-long instruments

Music notation, composition and music theory taught using Piano Lab and notation software

All students learn basic drum beats

Ukulele and guitar provide great opportunity for singing in small group and whole class songs
Students learn to
★ Read music
★ Sing 2 and 3 part harmony.
★ Practice general singing techniques.
Performances:
★ Monday Assemblies
★ CMEA Adjudication
★ School Performances
Middle school students have an opportunity to participate in advanced VAPA offerings such as:

- Spring Musical: which includes acting, dancing, singing, orchestra, and back stage and set design.
- Dance classes: traditional and contemporary
- Visual art: studio, ceramic and other 3D art
- Extension of the Orchestra and Band Programs.
- Others may include: nutrition and cooking, computers, robotics, and fitness.
Student Council - Leadership

Organizing school-wide events
Conducting two community outreach activities
Planning the Winter Social
Directing Spirit Days

Pennies for Pups
Middle School @ RSA
Questions?
谢谢

thank you