



Wediko School

Middle School Course Catalog 2016-2017

Foreward

We believe in using a strengths-based approach to help students achieve competence in social and academic skills. All students in our program participate in social-emotional competence and academic curriculums that teach them how to get along with others, fulfill their personal needs, succeed in school, and prepare for success in an increasingly complex and diverse society. Our work is successful when students become available for learning, developing the skills and competencies to become productive life-long learners.

Our curriculum:

- Represents a **balanced core** of learning objectives that challenges students with experiences relevant to their lives.
- Is **results oriented**, focusing on **competencies**, with multiple types of assessment that measure student success.
- Is **integrated**, making connections between various disciplines and real world applications for student understanding.
- Encourages **active learning** involving students in relevant and engaging tasks which lead to useful products.
- Recognizes and respects student **diversity**.
- Provides **education for all**, giving access to meaningful learning for each and every student.
- Is a **challenging curriculum**, promoting thinking skills such as researching, analyzing, creating, communicating and evaluating information.

This course catalog contains course descriptions as required by the State of New Hampshire. Wediko School has the capability to offer each of these courses. Course offerings change from semester to semester, based student needs, interest, and enrollment. Individual needs and requirements can be accommodated through online courses with accredited Distance Learning institutions such as the Virtual Learning Academy, Brigham Young University, and Penn Foster Virtual High School.

For more information regarding Wediko School courses, please refer to individual course syllabi.

General Information

Most middle school courses at Wediko are listed as Course I, II, and III, or 6, 7, 8. This is because courses rotate every three years, giving students access to all of the course content and competencies within three years of middle school study. If you have any questions, please contact Wediko School for more information.

Competencies

Students pass courses based on demonstration of competencies. Course competencies reflect New Hampshire College and Career Readiness Standards as well as national standards. Common Core CCSS and Next Generation Science are included.

Class Requirements

Study Requirements. Students will be required to do the following:

- Attend class
- Complete assessment tasks (Performance Assessments; Mid-Terms; Final Exam)
- Complete class assignments
- Complete assigned projects
- Participate in class discussions/activities

Participation Requirements. Students will make a positive contribution to the classroom environment:

- Demonstrate behavior that does not interfere with teacher instruction, or the learning of classmates.
- Conform to classroom routines and rules.
- Complete individual assignments and tasks independently.
- Refrain from unacceptable behavior when others are engaged in conflict.
- Maintain acceptable physical and verbal behavior in the class.
- Seek effective student habits and work skills.
- Respect the feelings and perspectives of classmates and teachers.

Attendance and Checklist Requirements:

- Students will complete an academic checklist at the end of each class. The checklist will reflect their academic and social performance during that class period.

Course Completion

In order for a student to complete courses, the student will demonstrate achievement and growth in meeting the Course Competencies. These will be evaluated by using competency rubrics, informed by evidence from any of the following performance tasks:

- Test Performance:
 - Unit/Chapter/Section tests.
 - The Mid-term and Final Exam.
- Performance Assessments:
 - Such as quizzes, brochures, models, PowerPoint presentations, essays, stories, etc.
- Completed Assignments:
 - Curriculum based and teacher created, vocabulary, class discussions, comprehension questions, workbook pages, etc.
- Participation and Attendance:
 - Active engagement in class proceedings. Evaluated through checklist rubrics.

Student IEP's are to be taken into consideration when evaluating competence.



COURSE CATALOG: WEDIKO SCHOOL

ARTS EDUCATION	
Course Name	Course Description
Middle School Drama	Drama is an introduction to the theatre, drama, the stage, acting techniques, and several different theatrical art forms. In this course students will study basic principles of acting and character analysis. They will explore the use of objectives, obstacles, and choices. In addition, students will learn about theatre etiquette, the audition process and basic stage and rehearsal terms. Performance in class activities and plays is required
Middle School Art	Middle School Art provides students with an opportunity to explore a variety of mediums, from drawing and painting, to sculpture and repurposed materials. This class is designed to help middle school students develop confidence in their exploration of the visuals arts while learning the vocabulary and reflection skills necessary to articulate their experiences effectively.
Middle School Music	This music class is designed to help all students develop basic techniques, confidence and ability in music performance. In addition students will develop skills to evaluate the effect of music on emotion and discuss the historical aspects of music. Students are taught notation and the language of music as well as creative improvisation.
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE	
Course Name	Course Description
Middle School Family and Consumer Science I, II, III	The Family and Consumer Science courses are designed to give students opportunities to learn about themselves, their friends, families, communities, environment, and career options. Students are challenged to develop essential life skills, apply basic learning, employability, and thinking skills, and care about their communities and the environment. The overall goal is to enable teens to become caring, responsible, informed, and engaged students and citizens.
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES	
Course Name	Course Description
Middle School Computer Applications	This course is designed to meet the State of New Hampshire's middle school requirements for information and communication technologies. Students will examine computer safety and ethics, as well as how to use word processors, spreadsheets, data bases and PowerPoint. This course emphasizes strengthening typing skills as well as creating digital portfolios.
HEALTH EDUCATION	
Course Name	Course Description
Middle School Health and Wellness 6-8	This course supports the Health Education Standards and Benchmarks through acceptance of personal responsibility for lifelong health, respect for and promotion of the health of others, an understanding of the process of growth and development, and informed use of health-related information, products, and services. We will provide students with information they need to understand the different aspects of health and

	wellness, and we will provide instruction and strategies to help students evaluate their own health status.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	
Course Name	Course Description
Middle School Outdoor Exploration	The students enrolled in the Outdoor Exploration will progress through an experientially-based program that emphasizes interpersonal relationships and individual growth. This course encourages students to develop greater self-confidence and, at the same time, acquire a sense of trust and commitment in their classmates. Outdoor Exploration is designed to expose students to a variety of physical activities while enjoying the beautiful outdoors. Outdoor pursuit activities may include: hiking, fishing, orienteering, snow shoeing, cross-country skiing, canoeing, and kayaking, etc.
Middle School Physical Education	Physical Education is an essential component of the total education process. The physical education course seeks to establish a proper relationship between a healthy mind and body through physical education. The primary goal of the physical education program is to promote responsibility toward self-motivation for personal lifelong fitness. The overall emphasis is to help students develop a positive self-concept through physical activities. The concepts of cooperation, communication, skill development, sportsmanship, responsibility, safety awareness, and personal care are not only integral parts of the physical education curriculum but are important life skills as well.
TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION	
Course Name	Course Description
Middle School Technology	<p><i>The following course description is taken from the NH Department of Education Curriculum Guide. It was chosen as the course description because it is what our course is all about. "Extracurricular Activities" look a little different at Wediko and are offered in a very individualized way. While our technology focus is woodworking and carpentry, students have opportunities to create mini solar panels, work on our raised garden beds, volunteer at the food pantry gardens, as well as build things needed on campus. It is extremely important to note the sense of competence and achievement this program brings to our students. It should also be noted that Middle School Mathematics takes place in the woodworking classroom, closely integrating mathematics and technology/engineering.</i></p> <p>Students in the Middle Level (grades 6-8) display a wide variety in development of interpersonal skills due to the rapid changes of adolescence. Students at this stage are intensely involved in grasping their own identities and their place in the community and society. Technology/Engineering Education at this level should respond to the distinct developmental needs of these students as it helps them explore and expand their understanding of technology.</p> <p>Technology/Engineering Education should take advantage of adolescent perspective and provide opportunities for them to develop their ability to design, develop, use, and create technological products, processes, and systems with connections to community and culture. Activities should be designed to help students recognize the relationship between theory and application. Students will continue to investigate personal skills and interests within the technological context; at the same time they will learn basic principles of engineering, architecture, industrial design, and computer science. They should be challenged to apply and integrate knowledge and skills learned in other classes, both in the technology lab as well as in extracurricular activities. Real and simulated activities should be used that require students to learn and apply problem-</p>

	<p>solving skills, creative techniques, and teamwork. Students will develop their ability to access, manipulate, use, and communicate technical information. Students should become more aware of the developmental nature of technology and its effects on individuals, society and the natural world.</p>
ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS	
Course Name	Course Description
Middle School English 6-8	<p>This course offers students instruction in word recognition, comprehension strategies and vocabulary to ensure that Middle School students have an opportunity to read with competence, confidence, and understanding. Students learn specific strategies in both literary and content area reading. Students engage in systematic study and learn how to formulate and support responses to various types of printed materials. Students also work to gain skills in basic composition, including parts of speech, organization, grammar and punctuation. The course includes test taking and study strategies in content area subjects. This course strengthens Middle School skills for College and Career Readiness described in the Common Core Standards.</p>
<p>The Reading and Writing Labs are assigned to students based on individual student academic and social/emotional needs. These decisions are made by the Wediko School team.</p>	
Reading Lab	<p>The Reading Lab is a tutorial and/or small group instructional space where students can access goal-specific reading and writing instruction and remediation with a lead teacher.</p>
Writing Lab	<p>The Writing Lab is a tutorial instructional space, based out of the computer lab, where students can access goal-specific writing instruction, skill building and remediation with a lead teacher. Students may also work on building technology based writing skills, such as touch-typing, and building familiarity with supportive educational technologies such as Dragon Naturally Speaking.</p>
MATHEMATICS	
Course Name	Course Description
Middle School Math I, II, III	<p>This course offers students instruction in computation/fluency and increasingly complex math skills and math vocabulary to ensure that Middle School students have an opportunity to solve real world math problems with competence, confidence, and understanding. Students will learn specific strategies in problem solving and critical thinking. Students will engage in systematic study and learn how to communicate competencies verbally and through written expression. This course strengthens Middle School skills for College and Career Readiness described in the Common Core Standards.</p>
SCIENCE	
Course Name	Course Description
Middle School Science I, II, III	<p>In middle school science students will work on competencies from the NH state standards for middle school science, the Common Core and the Next Generation standards. The content will shift throughout the school year between life science, physical science and earth/space science. Hands on activities and experiments will be prevalent. Students will also work with the scientific process and learn problem solving strategies. Next Generation standards and teaching methods are included.</p>
Middle School Project Based Learning: Watershed	<p>This course is an exploration of the interconnections of nature, focusing specifically on the watershed area on our campus. Students will use technology to collect information to determine water quality. They will observe macro-biotic invertebrates and learn how to classify animals. The role of humans as destroyers and conservationists in nature will be studied. Natural- and human-caused hazards and prevention will be investigated as well. Finally, students will create a mini ecosystem in a large fish tank in our school.</p>

SOCIAL STUDIES	
Course Name	Course Description
Middle School Social Studies I, II, III	<p>In Course I, students in Middle School Social Studies investigate elements of geography and world history in greater detail, furthering the knowledge established in elementary school. Through a variety of activities involving map making and reading, initiating political action and exploring aspects of various cultures, students build their understanding as to why people are different, how societies change and develop and how diverse cultures interact with each other.</p> <p>In Course II students will study the development of our government and various aspects of our history. They will explore the organization, limits and responsibilities that the local, state and federal governments have towards their citizens, as well as the role of economics and war on society's development. They will develop action plans, engage in discussions with guest speakers, and create relevant art to reflect their understandings.</p> <p>In Course III Social Studies, students will explore the various aspects of the US economic structure; including trade practices, entrepreneurship, and personal finances. They will explore how the physical aspects of a country can affect its economy. Students will study effective leadership, as well as the causes of genocide, responses to natural disasters and the various roles of art, music, literature and architecture. They will learn about these aspects of society by creating a personal finances plan, creating responsive artwork, and engaging in simulations and discussions.</p>
ALTERNATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES	
Course Name	Course Description
Independent Study, Extended Learning Opportunities, Distance Learning	<p>Independent Study is an opportunity for students to take courses that are not being offered by Wediko that semester. Courses are taken online or set up as Extended Learning Opportunities. Online courses are provided through accredited institutions such as the Virtual Learning Academy, Brigham Young University, Penn Foster, EdMentum, etc. Preference for these courses is given to seniors and to fulfill graduation requirements.</p> <p>Extended Learning Opportunities are carefully planned out by a team of staff and the student. Independent Study requires students to be motivated independent learners.</p>
ACADEMIC SUPPORT	
Course Name	Course Description
Study Hall/Academic Support	This is not a course. This period provides opportunities for students to work on independent study courses, virtual learning opportunities, completing classwork, or to receive 1:1 or small group tutoring in content areas. Courses take place in the Computer Lab or the Study Hall.
SUMMER	
Course Name	Course Description
In the areas of English, math, science, and social studies.	<p>Summer courses in the core subjects focus on broad themes within the core areas. These courses continue to strengthen skills and competencies achieved throughout the school year.</p> <p>While course content continues to stress state and national standards, more hands-on activities and high valence activities are planned in order to engage students in their academics during the summer.</p>