



## MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE LIST

# Science

### Earth Science

The Earth Science curriculum builds on the natural curiosity of students. By connecting them to the beauty of geological history, the diverse landforms around the globe, the nature of the sea and air, and the newest discoveries about our universe, the curriculum gives students an opportunity to relate to their everyday world. Students explore topics such as the fundamentals of geology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy; Earth's minerals and rocks; Earth's interior; plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, and the movements of continents; geology and the fossil record; the oceans and the atmosphere; and the solar system and the universe.

### Life Science

The Life Science curriculum invites students to investigate the world of living things—at levels both large and small—by reading, observing, and experimenting with aspects of life on Earth. Students explore our planet's numerous—and wondrous—organisms, the complex workings of the cell, the relationship between living things and their environments, and discoveries in the world of modern genetics. Practical lesson activities help students discover how scientists investigate the living world. Students perform laboratory activities and a full-unit investigation to learn about the application of scientific methods.

### Physical Science

The Physical Science curriculum introduces students to many aspects of the physical world, focusing first on chemistry and then on physics. The course provides an overview of the physical world and gives students tools and concepts to think clearly about atoms, molecules, chemical reactions, motion, electricity, light, and other aspects of chemistry and physics. Among other subjects, students study the structure of atoms; the elements and the periodic table; chemical reactions; forces, including gravitational, motion, acceleration, and mass; and energy, including light, thermal, electricity, and magnetism.