

ALCUIN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Middle School Curriculum

Year 1

Theme	<u>Unit A</u> Forces	<u>Unit B</u> Structures & Systems	<u>Unit C</u> Interdependence	<u>Unit D</u> Changes
Focus Question	What forces shape life?	How are things arranged?	How do things work together?	How are things transformed?
Science Guiding Questions	What are the laws that govern motion, gravitation, and electromagnetic forces?	What is the structure of the atom? How do the organization and properties of elements determine the structure of molecules?	How do machines change the way work is done? How is energy changed into useful electrical power?	How do different forms of matter interact to create new substances?
Science Examples of Study	Physics: laws of motion, gravity, electromagnetic forces	Chemistry: atoms, elements, molecules	Physics: work and machines	Chemistry: physical and chemical change/reactions
Social Studies Guiding Questions	What forces bring about revolution? How does revolution affect the lives of citizens?	How are societies organized? How is power distributed?	How do economics systems interact? How do they impact the lives of citizens?	How do inventions and developing technology affect life? Does progress/ advancement always equal improvement?
Social Studies Examples of Study	Maslow's hierarchy of needs, American Revolution	Government systems, U.S. Constitution	Transatlantic slave trade, Economic systems	Industrial, Agricultural, and Technological Revolutions
Reading Book Group Examples	<i>My Brother Sam is Dead</i> <i>Red Scarf Girl</i> <i>Animal Farm</i>	<i>Lord of the Flies</i> <i>Ishmael</i> <i>The Hunger Games</i>	<i>Copper Sun</i> <i>The Slave Dancer</i> <i>Chains</i>	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> <i>1984</i> <i>Flowers for Algernon</i>
Writing Workshop	Research-based writing (7th Grade) & Investigative Journalism (8th Grade) Vocabulary & word study Grammar & editing study	Realistic fiction Vocabulary & word study Grammar & editing study	Essays Vocabulary & word study Grammar & editing study	Open Writing Vocabulary & word study Grammar & editing study
Math*	Recognizing patterns in the environment which provide insight into potential relationships between elements	Problem solving to understand what has been done, why the process was appropriate, and how to support it with reasons and evidence	Understanding how proportional relationships express the ways in which quantities change in relationship to each other	Learning to use technology effectively in Mathematics and problem solving (i.e. graphing calculators, spreadsheets, and on-line programs)
Spanish Examples of Study	Spanish language origins Social organization Vocab and grammar study	Personal and social needs Migration and revolution Vocab and grammar study	Occupations Positions and conditions Vocab and grammar study	Social communication Interest project Vocab and grammar study

*Our math program utilizes interactive, individualized math instruction through Khan Academy as well as small- and whole-group activities that encourage mathematical thinking, process evaluation, and collaboration.

Alcuin's middle school program gives students opportunities to explore subjects beyond the core curriculum.

These include fine arts, performing arts, and physical education.

ALCUIN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Middle School Curriculum

Year 2

	<u>Unit A</u>	<u>Unit B</u>	<u>Unit C</u>	<u>Unit D</u>
Theme	Identity	Connections	Power	Balance
Focus Question	Who are we?	How are we connected?	How do we use power?	How do we maintain balance?
Science Guiding Questions	What is life? How do we know about our origins and how life changes?	Where are we in our human development? What is the circle of life? How does nature interact?	What are the energy concepts that influence life? In what forms does energy exist?	How do we use our energy? What is our impact on the Earth system?
Science Examples of Study	Life: Genetics/DNA, Phylogeny, Evolution	Life: Ecology/Ecosystems, Anatomy/Physiology/Health	Physics: Motion, Kinetic Energy, Waves, Sound, Light	Earth: Energy sources, climate science, natural resources
Social Studies Guiding Questions	How do we identify ourselves? How does the movement of people affect their identities?	How are we connected to our communities on various levels? How does our local history affect our identities as citizens?	How can power be a positive or a negative tool? How can individuals and communities combat negative uses of power?	How do different kinds of justice systems maintain balance? What happens when injustice persists?
Social Studies Examples of Study	Personal family history, U.S. immigration history and current events	Circles of connection, Chicago history	World War II, Holocaust	Justice systems, Social justice history and current events
Reading Book Group Examples	<i>Ask Me No Questions</i> <i>Crossing the Wire</i> <i>Before We Were Free</i>	<i>The House on Mango Street</i> <i>The Rock and the River</i> <i>Standing Against the Wind</i>	<i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> <i>Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i> <i>Farewell to Manzanar</i>	<i>Breadwinner</i> <i>Stella by Starlight</i> <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>
Writing Workshop	Personal narrative Vocabulary & word study Grammar & editing study	Research-based writing (7th Grade) & Investigative Journalism (8th Grade) Vocabulary & word study Grammar & editing study	Poetry Vocabulary & word study Grammar & editing study	Argument writing Vocabulary & word study Grammar & editing study
Math*	Recording and interpreting data that relates to our personal lives and our surrounding world	Analyzing data and applying math concepts to enrich school activities such as microeconomy work and the garden	Creating equations to model relationships found in the environment	Communicating mathematical thinking coherently and clearly to others while analyzing and evaluating the thinking and strategies of others
Spanish Examples of Study	Personal origins Folkloric stories Vocab and grammar study	Circle of life Earth connections Vocab and grammar study	Using language to empower ourselves and others Vocab and grammar study	Interpersonal relationships Interest project Vocab and grammar study

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