



2020-21 Middle School Course Catalog

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IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

GENERAL

Main Office:	970.833.5190
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Address:	810 Automation Dr., Windsor, CO 80550
School Hours:	8:00 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.
Office Hours:	7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION

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COUNSELOR

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Windsor Charter Academy's vision is to ensure that our schools are a place "where students are educated, empowered, and equipped to reach their highest potential." This guide is designed to help you and your parents plan your coursework at Windsor Charter Academy Middle School. It is important to seek the help of parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators in planning an educational program to fit your needs. Each student should strive to get the best preparation out of his or her time in middle school in order to be successful in our Early College High School.

GRADING INFORMATION

WEIGHTED AND UNWEIGHTED GRADES

A cumulative GPA is calculated for all middle school level courses based on the number of credits received utilizing a 4.0 (unweighted) and 4.5 (weighted) scale.

- Middle school level courses are calculated on the 4.0 scale.
- Honors courses are calculated on a weighted 4.5 scale.

WCA MS & HS 4.0				
Score	Name	Minimum %	GPA Value	GPA Unweighted Value
A+	A+	96.5	4	4
A	A	92.5	4	4
A-	A-	89.5	4	4
B+	B+	86.5	3	3
B	B	82.5	3	3
B-	B-	79.5	3	3
C+	C+	76.5	2	2
C	C	72.5	2	2
C-	C-	69.5	2	2
D+	D+	66.5	1	1
D	D	62.5	1	1
D-	D-	59.5	1	1
F	F	0	0	0
PS	Pass	0	0	0
FL	Fail	0	0	0
I	Incomplete	0	0	0
NG	No Grade	0	0	0
WF	Withdrawal Fail	0	0	0

WCA MS & HS Honors 4.5				
Score	Name	Minimum %	GPA Value	GPA Unweighted Value
A+	A+	96.5	4.5	4
A	A	92.5	4.5	4
A-	A-	89.5	4.5	4
B+	B+	86.5	3.6	3
B	B	82.5	3.6	3
B-	B-	79.5	3.6	3
C+	C+	76.5	3.1	2
C	C	72.5	3.1	2
C-	C-	69.5	3.1	2
D+	D+	66.5	2.7	1
D	D	62.5	2.7	1
D-	D-	59.5	2.7	1
F	F	0	0	0
PS	Pass	0	0	0
FL	Fail	0	0	0
I	Incomplete	0	0	0
NG	No Grade	0	0	0
WF	Withdrawal Fail	0	0	0

*A student in a middle school course may receive pass/fail grading only as approved on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the student's counselor and school administration. A student must achieve at the equivalent of 59.5% grade work in order to pass a course that is graded pass/fail.

INCOMPLETE GRADE

A grade of I (Incomplete) is assigned when, due to extenuating circumstances, a student has not completed sufficient coursework for the teacher to assess student work and assign a grade reflective of the student's achievement (e.g. due to extended illness or recent enrollment in the class). It is not an alternative to a grade of F, which reflects failure to achieve.

Assignment of a grade of "I" requires approval of the student's counselor and academic administrator. The teacher is responsible for converting a grade of I to a regular letter grade no more than three weeks after the end of the grading period. Additional time requires administrator approval. If a student does not complete missing assignments by this deadline, each missing assignment receives a score of zero percent and the grade calculation for the applicable grading period will be made on this basis.

HONOR ROLL

Students at Windsor Charter Academy will receive academic recognition each quarter based on the following criteria:

Honor Roll	High Honor Roll	Dean's List
3.60 – 3.79	3.80 – 3.94	3.95 – 4.00+

CREDIT RECOVERY

Students that fail to meet the continuation requirements will be required to complete a correspondence course(s) that is approved by administration. The cost will be the responsibility of the family. A correspondence course average cost is \$150. Summer school options may be available at an additional cost.

ADD / DROP PROCEDURES

The master schedule is created from the course selections students make during registration in the spring. Staffing of these courses is then assigned accordingly. It is explained and impressed upon students that schedule changes are very difficult to make. Consideration of course selection is a very important and serious process. Students and parents are strongly encouraged to formulate class schedules together, as course changes and drops are restricted.

The last day to add or drop a class is before the completion of 15% of the course. Typically, this is about a week and a half for semester long courses.

Schedule changes are made for reasons of: class conflicts, failing a core class, school error, imbalance of class size, or incomplete schedules.

Students who drop a class after the add/drop deadline will be issued a grade of WF (withdraw fail), which will be recorded on the student’s transcript. This grade impacts the student’s cumulative grade point average (GPA) and the WF calculates the same as an F.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MULTI-YEAR PLAN

Grade	Language Arts	Mathematics			Social Studies	Science	PE/Spanish	Art/Music	Electives
6 th	ENG 6*	Pre-Algebra*		MAT 6*	HIS 6	SCI 6	PE 6	ART 6	See course descriptions for Elective options 1 and 2
							SPA 6	MUS 6	
7 th	ENG 7*	Mat 25*		Pre-Algebra*	HIS 7	SCI 7	PE 7	ART 7	
							SPA 7	MUS 7	
8 th	ENG 8*	Mat 50*	MAT 25*	MAT 08	HIS 8	SCI 8	PE 8	ART 8	
							SPA 8	MUS 8	

*Honors classes are offered in both English and math subjects.

FULL-TIME & PART-TIME COURSE REQUIREMENT

All full-time WCA students are required to have a minimum of six courses but most of our students are on campus for all eight periods. Students may be approved by administration to attend WCA part time. Part-time students may take two or three classes at WCA. Families will work with WCA administration and advising staff to determine if attending school part time is a reasonable fit for the student’s academic goals.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BLOCK SCHEDULE

6th Grade Block Schedule

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 to 9:30 a.m.	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1/2
9:34 to 11:04 a.m.	Period 3	Period 4	Period 3	Period 4	Period 3/4
11:08 to 12:08 p.m.	Period 5	Period 6	Period 5	Period 6	Period 5/6
12:08 to 12:38 p.m.	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:42 to 1:12 p.m.	Period 5	Period 6	Period 5	Period 6	Period 5/6
1:16 to 2:00 p.m.	Advisory/WIN	Advisory/WIN	Advisory/WIN	Advisory/WIN	Advisory/WIN
1:04 to 3:05 p.m.	Period 7	Period 8	Period 7	Period 8	Period 7/8

7th Grade Block Schedule

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 to 9:30 a.m.	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1/2
9:34 to 11:04 a.m.	Period 3	Period 4	Period 3	Period 4	Period 3/4
11:08 to 11:38 a.m.	Period 5	Period 6	Period 5	Period 6	Period 5/6
11:38 to 12:08 p.m.	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:12 to 1:12 p.m.	Period 5	Period 6	Period 5	Period 6	Period 5/6
1:16 to 2:00 p.m.	Advisory/WIN	Advisory/WIN	Advisory/WIN	Advisory/WIN	Advisory/WIN
2:04 to 3:05 p.m.	Period 7	Period 8	Period 7	Period 8	Period 7/8

8th Grade Block Schedule

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 to 9:30 a.m.	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1/2
9:34 to 11:04 a.m.	Period 3	Period 4	Period 3	Period 4	Period 3/4
11:08 to 11:38 a.m.	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
11:42 to 1:12 p.m.	Period 5	Period 6	Period 5	Period 6	Period 5/6
1:16 to 2:00 p.m.	Advisory/WIN	Advisory/WIN	Advisory/WIN	Advisory/WIN	Advisory/WIN
2:04 to 3:05 p.m.	Period 7	Period 8	Period 7	Period 8	Period 7/8

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE OPTIONS

Course Offerings that Fulfill Electives Requirements			
Course #	Course Name	Qtr/Semester/Year	Fee Per Semester
ELE 01	Creative Writing	Q	
ELE 03	Literacy Lab 6	Q	
ELE 04	Literacy Lab 7	Q	
ELE 05	Literacy Lab 8	Q	
ELE 08	Debate	Q	
ELE 09	Book Club	Q	
ELE 10	Math Lab 6	Q	
ELE 11	Math Lab 7	Q	
ELE 12	Math Lab 8	Q	
ELE 13	The Millionaire Next Door	Q	
ELE 15	Math Games	Q	
ELE 22	Digital Journalism	Q	
ELE 24 A	Computer Science Discoveries I	S	
ELE 24 B	Computer Science Discoveries II	S	
ELE 25	3D Printing	Q	\$15
ELE 29 A	Circuits I	Q	
ELE 31	Beginner Lego Robotics	S	
ELE 32	Minecraft	Q	\$5
ELE 35	Yearbook Staff	Q	
ELE 37	Kitchen Chemistry	Q	\$5
ELE 38	Household Engineering	Q	\$15
ELE 39	Advanced Lego Robotics	S	\$15
ELE 40	Concert Band	S	\$30
ELE 41	Choir	S	\$15
ELE 42	Theater	S	\$25
ELE 44	Symphonic Band	S	\$30
ELE 45	Jazz Combo	S	\$30
ELE 46	Orchestra	S	\$30
ELE 47	Musical Theater	S	\$25

Course Offerings that Fulfill Electives Requirements

Course #	Course Name	Qtr/Semester/Year	Fee Per Semester
ELE 48	Science of Sound & Instrument Making	Q	\$20
ELE 50	DIY Crafts	Q	\$20
ELE 52	Props & Scenery	S	\$20
ELE 53	3D Art	Q	\$20
ELE 54	Introduction to Painting	Q	\$20
ELE 55	Digital Photography	Q	
ELE 56	Film Studies	Q	
ELE 57	Introduction to Drawing	Q	\$20
ELE 58	Comics & Zines	Q	\$25
ELE 62	Yoga	Q	
ELE 64	Dance	Q	
ELE 68	The Game of Life	Q	
ELE 71	Problem Solving & Games	Q	
ELE 73	Study Skills	S	
ELE 74	Elementary Teacher's Aide	Q	
ELE 75	Project Heart	Q	
ELE 76	6 th AVID Leadership	Y	
ELE 79	7 th – 8 th AVID Leadership	Y	
ELE 90	History Day	Q1-3	

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

Creative Writing

Course #	ELE 01	This course is a one-quarter course for students that love to write. Through frequent writing exercises, students will develop such writing resources as voice, imagery, characterization, dialogue, and narration.
MS Credit	0.25	

Literacy Lab 6

Course #	ELE 03	This sixth grade course is a one-quarter course for students that need additional support in reading and writing. Students in this elective will have the opportunity to work with a language arts teacher, offering extra support in language arts. Students may also be placed in the class based on teacher recommendation.
MS Credit	0.25	

Literacy Lab 7

Course #	ELE 04	This seventh grade course is a one-quarter course for students that need additional support in reading and writing. Students in this elective will have the opportunity to work with a language arts teacher, offering extra support in language arts. Students may also be placed in the class based on teacher recommendation.
MS Credit	0.25	

Literacy Lab 8

Course #	ELE 05	This eighth grade course is a one-quarter course for students that need additional support in reading and writing. Students in this elective will have the opportunity to work with a language arts teacher, offering extra support in language arts. Students may also be placed in the class based on teacher recommendation.
MS Credit	0.25	

Debate

Course #	ELE 08	This is a one-quarter course to help students learn more about the types of speech and debate. Students will write their speeches and practice them in class to receive feedback in preparation for competitions.
MS Credit	0.25	

Book Club

Course #	ELE 09	Book Club is a quarter -long course designed for students who enjoy reading, discussing books, and exploring diverse titles and genres. All levels of readers are invited to join Book Club where the teacher facilitates small group discussions and supports students as they explore personal interests.
MS Credit	0.25	

Yearbook Staff

Course #	ELE 35	This course is a one-quarter course for students that want to be involved in helping to design and put together the middle school yearbook. Students get practical experience in advertising sales, layout design, writing, editing, desktop publishing, and basic photography as they help produce the yearbook. This course is offered Q1, Q2, and Q3.
MS Credit	0.25	

Film Studies

Course #	ELE 56	This is a quarter-long course designed for students who love film and wish to analyze it for its literary merit. Students will use high-level critical thinking skills as they view and analyze some of the most impactful films in history.
MS Credit	0.25	

MATH ELECTIVES

Math Lab 6

Course #	ELE 10	A math intervention course that remediates gaps in student math knowledge and skills and supports students in their current math class <i>Prerequisite: teacher recommendation</i>
MS Credit	0.25	

Math Lab 7

Course #	ELE 11	A math intervention course that remediates gaps in student math knowledge and skills and supports students in their current math class <i>Prerequisite: teacher recommendation</i>
MS Credit	0.25	

Math Lab 8

Course #	ELE 12	A math intervention course that remediates gaps in student math knowledge and skills and supports students in their current math class <i>Prerequisite: teacher recommendation</i>
MS Credit	0.25	

The Millionaire Next Door

Course #	ELE 13	This course is a one-quarter course for students that covers basic ideas about personal finance, investments, and life skills that promote financial security. <i>Prerequisite: teacher recommendation</i>
MS Credit	0.25	

Math Games

Course #	ELE 15	This is a one-quarter course. Students will have fun playing with math. Students will make geometric art, play math games like Sudoku and Set, tackle logic problems, and do other fun and unusual math activities. <i>Prerequisite: teacher recommendation</i>
MS Credit	0.25	

SCIENCE ELECTIVES

Kitchen Chemistry

Course #	ELE 37	This course is a one-quarter course for students who love science. Can you make a glow stick out of Mountain Dew, vinegar, and baking soda as claimed on the internet? How much gas is in a can of soda. Separating truth from fiction can be tough! In this elective, students will endeavor to find the truth as they investigate claims using research and the scientific method.
MS Credit	0.25	

Household Engineering

Course #	ELE 38	This course is a one-quarter course for students who love science. Can you make a paper bridge that can transport a golf ball? How about a medicine ball? How many textbooks can you support with 30 toothpicks? Separating truth from fiction can be tough! In this elective, students will endeavor to find the truth as they investigate claims using research and the scientific method.
MS Credit	0.25	

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS ELECTIVES

Concert Band

Course #	ELE 40	This course is a one-semester course for students that are interested or currently play an instrument. Students explore a variety of song styles. Students may be beginners or experienced players. There is an additional fee if students are renting a school instrument.
MS Credit	0.50	

Choir

Course #	ELE 41	This course is a one-semester course for students that are interested in music. Students will enjoy singing a variety of music from standards to show stopping numbers.
MS Credit	0.50	

Theater

Course #	ELE 42	This course is a one-semester course for students that are interested in performing arts. This class will discover foundational concepts of acting, stagecraft, technical theater, and production. Students will enjoy improvisation, character development, performance, and set building, along with stage production.
MS Credit	0.50	

Symphonic Band

Course #	ELE 44	This instrumental elective ensemble will be a select auditioned group to push our advancing instrumentalists into new styles. Students in 7th and 8th grades will be admitted by audition only, or instructor recommendation for this year-long course. There is an additional fee if students are renting a school instrument.
MS Credit	0.50	

Jazz Combo

Course #	ELE 45	This course is a one-semester elective course, extending learning of instrumental music. This elective instrumental ensemble will be a select auditioned group to engage our advancing instrumentalists as they learn new styles. Students in 7th and 8th grades will be admitted by audition only, or instructor recommendation. This course may be offered during zero hour and is a combination of middle school and high school students. There is an additional fee if students are renting a school instrument.
MS Credit	0.50	

Orchestra

Course #	ELE 46	This course is a one-semester elective course, extending learning of instrumental music. Students will concentrate on refining the performance skills that are inherent to that particular instrument. Students should have a minimum of one-year of playing experience.
MS Credit	0.50	

Musical Theater

Course #	ELE 47	This is a one-semester course, offered in the fall, for students that are interested in musical performing arts. This class will discover foundational concepts of acting, stagecraft, technical theater, and production. Students will enjoy improvisation, character development, performance, and set building, along with stage production. Students will produce a musical with performances in December.
MS Credit	0.50	

Science of Sound & Instrument Making

Course #	ELE 48	This is a one-quarter course where students will discover various ways to produce, create and manipulate sound as they create their own unique and one of a kind instruments, while learning its context in history. This is team taught between the music and art departments.
MS Credit	0.25	

ART ELECTIVES

DIY Crafts

Course #	ELE 50	This course is a one-quarter course for students that love to create. Students will use Pinterest boards to research, problem-solve and create trendy and fun crafts in this "Do it Yourself" elective. DIY artists will create using mixed media such as duct tape, collage, fibers, paint, Sharpies, magnets, mason jars and more.
MS Credit	0.25	

Props and Scenery

Course #	ELE 52	This course is a one-semester course for students that love the arts. In this elective students will use their drawing, painting, sculpting and creative skills to design and create the stage set and props for the musical.
MS Credit	0.50	

3D Art

Course #	ELE 53	This is a one-quarter elective course for students to explore art in its three-dimensional form. Students will explore a variety of mediums including textiles, ceramics, paper mache', sculpture and more.
MS Credit	0.25	

Introduction to Painting

Course #	ELE 54	This course is a one-quarter course for students that want to learn about painting. The course offers students a variety of experiences built on the elements and principles of art.
MS Credit	0.25	

Digital Photography

Course #	ELE 55	This is a one-quarter elective course for designed to be an introduction to the basic concepts of digital photography. It will be a quarter course that will cover: basic camera functions, composition, lighting, as well as various types of photography including: portraiture, still-life, night photography, landscape and fine art.
MS Credit	0.25	

Introduction to Drawing

Course #	ELE 57	This course is a one-quarter course for students that want to learn about drawing. The course offers students a variety of experiences built on the elements and principles of art.
MS Credit	0.25	

Comics & Zines

Course #	ELE 58	While understanding its place within world art history, in this one-quarter course students will ideate and create their own comics/zines and manga. By the end of the quarter, they will create a group published zine that will be released for free throughout the school.
MS Credit	0.25	

TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

Computer Science Discoveries I

Course #	ELE 24 A	Computer Science Discoveries I (CS Discoveries) is an introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun.
MS Credit	0.50	

Computer Science Discoveries II

Course #	ELE 24 B	Computer Science Discoveries II (CS Discoveries) empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun.
MS Credit	0.50	

3D Printing

Course #	ELE 25	Students will explore the engineering process to design and print 3D designs. Students will use the problem-based learning model and work in teams to solve challenges that incorporate 3D design solutions. Tinkercad and Sketchup software will be used to apply math and engineering skills to perfect the 3D printing process.
MS Credit	0.25	

Circuits I

Course #	ELE 29 A	How does electricity work? Is it magic? What is the difference between a motor and a generator? What is a resistor? Basic electricity and circuits. Students will explore current, voltage, resistance basics, parallel and Series circuits. Will require math skills. (We'll use calculators!) This class can lead into Circuits II.
MS Credit	0.25	

Beginning Lego Robotics

Course #	ELE 31	This is a one-semester course where students learn robotics concepts, building robots with the LEGO hardware and programming. Students will build and program robots that will need to accomplish specific tasks based on the LEGO Robotics competition theme. This course is offered 2 nd semester only.
MS Credit	0.50	

Minicraft

Course #	ELE 32	This course is a one-quarter course. Minicraft is a popular online simulation software program. This student-driven elective will teach students how to use and play Minicraft. Using this software tool, students will also explore concepts such as online collaboration, problem solving, programming, and web server setup and control.
MS Credit	0.25	

Advanced Lego Robotics

Course #	ELE 39	This course is a one-semester course where students apply robotics concepts, building robots with LEGO hardware and programming. Students will build and program robots that will need to accomplish specific tasks based on the LEGO Robotics competition theme. Students should have previous Lego Robotics experience prior to joining this class. 24 students max. This course is offered 1 st semester only.
MS Credit	0.50	

PE ELECTIVES

Yoga

Course #	ELE 62	This course is a one-quarter course for students that love learning something new. Students will learn basic yoga principles as well as gain strength, flexibility, and balance.
MS Credit	0.25	

Dance

Course #	ELE 64	This is a one-quarter elective course and gives students an awareness of the expressive capabilities of the physical body. Students experience these elements through a variety of genres and are introduced to elements of dance choreography and performance.
MS Credit	0.25	

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

Digital Journalism

Course #	ELE 22	This is a one-quarter course, students will learn basic video editing and production skills, learn how to do reference based research using digital resources, and produce weekly newscasts for the student body that demonstrate journalistic integrity.
MS Credit	0.25	

The Game of Life

Course #	ELE 68	This course is a one-quarter course in which students watch and discuss themes common to middle school students such as family and friend dynamics, peer pressure, drugs, school life, relationships, jobs, and ultimately growing up.
MS Credit	0.25	

Problem Solving and Games

Course #	ELE 71	This course is a one-quarter course designed to provide students an opportunity to play a variety of board (not computer) games that will be fun! It's also an opportunity to work with peers who they might otherwise not work with. <i>Stratego, Upwords, Mastermind, Settlers of Catan,</i> and <i>Pandemic</i> are just some of the games that will be available for this elective. We can also discuss and add some other games based on student interest. Let's have an old-fashioned, non-electronic blast playing some games!
MS Credit	0.25	

Study Skills

Course #	ELE 73	Study skills will take an in depth look at effective study skills and strategies. Specifically, students will work through setting goals, time management, organization, note taking, studying for assessments and much more.
MS Credit	0.50	

Elementary Teacher's Aide

Course #	ELE 74	This course is a one-quarter course, which offers students the opportunity to develop skills and behaviors essential for employment, with emphasis on careers in education. Teacher Aides will walk to the elementary school and work under the direction and supervision of the assigned classroom teacher. The course will be capped at 15 students.
MS Credit	0.25	

Project Heart		
Course #	ELE 75	Students will utilize the Ottercares Project Heart curriculum to identify a need in the WCA community and create an impact project to address this need.
MS Credit	0.25	

6th AVID Leadership		
Course #	ELE 76	In this year-long course, students receive the additional academic, social, and emotional support that will help them succeed in their school's most rigorous courses and in college. Areas of focus are writing, organization, collaboration, inquiry and reading skills. Students must complete the application and interview process to be enrolled in the elective. AVID Leadership will also build leadership skills and experiences. Students will be responsible for planning and participating in projects and activities. Students will be involved with school culture activities including preparation for spring and fall dances, school events, and other activities.
MS Credit	1.00	

7th AVID Leadership		
Course #	ELE 77	In this year-long course, students receive the additional academic, social, and emotional support that will help them succeed in their school's most rigorous courses and in college. Areas of focus are writing, organization, collaboration, inquiry and reading skills. Students must complete the application and interview process to be enrolled in the elective. AVID Leadership will also build leadership skills and experiences. Students will be responsible for planning and participating in projects and activities. Students will be involved with school culture activities including preparation for spring and fall dances, school events, and other activities.
MS Credit	1.00	

8th AVID Leadership		
Course #	ELE 78	In this year-long course, students receive the additional academic, social, and emotional support that will help them succeed in their school's most rigorous courses and in college. Areas of focus are writing, organization, collaboration, inquiry and reading skills. Students must complete the application and interview process to be enrolled in the elective. AVID Leadership will also build leadership skills and experiences. Students will be responsible for planning and participating in projects and activities. Students will be involved with school culture activities including preparation for spring and fall dances, school events, and other activities.
MS Credit	1.00	

History Day		
Course #	ELE 90	Students create a project based around an annual theme determined by the National History Day® office. From that, students choose a topic and conduct primary and secondary source research using libraries, archives, museums, online resources, personal interviews and more. After completing the research phase, students develop a thesis, analyze their sources, and present their argument creatively in one of five available formats. In the creation of their projects, students can be as creative as they wish as long as they adhere to the rules outlined in the NHD® Rule Book. History Day satisfies all Colorado academic standards for social studies and literacy and is a great goal on an ALP. This course is offered quarter 1-3, students must register for all 3 quarters.
MS Credit	0.75	