

# The Stanwich School



*curriculum guide*

**INTERMEDIATE HOUSE: GRADES 4–6**

# Intermediate House CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

## ACADEMICS

Students build a relationship with teachers throughout the day. Small group lessons allow teachers to clearly assess student's ability and observe their grasp of the material.

## STUDY HALL

Intermediate House students develop strong study skills and organization in daily last period study halls where teachers are on hand to give guidance, clarify assignments, and work one-on-one with students.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING/DRAMA

Poise and confidence are enhanced through frequent opportunities to perform in plays and musicals and speak in front of peers, faculty, and parents. Students in each Intermediate House grade work together to produce, direct and perform a dramatic program related to their history curriculum. Public speaking is also emphasized throughout each grade level in the classroom.

## ART HISTORY

"Learning to Look" is a monthly art appreciation course taught for students in grades 1–8 by trained parent volunteers. The program is designed to introduce students to art history and help them develop an appreciation for many different types of art. Each grade focuses on a different period and concentrates on the work of certain artists. Each class involves a slide show and a hands-on art project for students to enjoy.

## MUSIC ENRICHMENT

Students have the option to join Band or Strings. Small group classes and individual lessons are offered weekly during the school day, where students are grouped by instrument and receive instrument-specific instruction. They meet as a full ensemble once a week after-school. Voice and piano lessons are also available to students during the school day. Concerts and recitals are performed throughout the year for peers and parents.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Instilling a commitment to volunteerism among the students and parents is an integral part of the school's educational goals. On a monthly basis, students in the Intermediate House engage in a community service project. Projects are designed to encourage students to plan and carry out activities of their own design. These activities are intended to teach students that people must work together to make the world a better place.

## VALUES AND ETHICS

Building character, emphasizing community service, and developing a strong moral and ethical foundation are essential parts of the school's mission. Weekly classes emphasizing the Stanwich Seven—Commitment, Compassion, Wisdom, Courage, Honesty, Forgiveness, Joy—are taught by the Headmistress and the Head of House. The values discussed are reinforced during morning assemblies.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Intermediate House physical education program places the majority of its emphasis on team sports, life-long games, and general fitness for students in grades 4 to 6. Learning is achieved through a variety of methods including; whole group instruction, small group instruction (station work) and modified games.



# Intermediate House CURRICULUM

SUBJECT	GRADE 4	GRADE 5	GRADE 6
ENGLISH	<p><i>Literature:</i> The novels are a blend of genre study and historical fiction chosen to correspond with the American History curriculum. Discussions center on literal, interpretive, and evaluative questions. Comprehension skills focus on the main idea and plot sequence. Books include: <i>Hatchet, Shades of Gray, Letters from Rijka, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, Number the Stars, The Cay,</i> and <i>Lily's Crossing</i>. Book projects are created through independent reads of high interest books.</p> <p><i>Spelling/ Vocabulary:</i> Word lists—science and social studies terms—commonly misspelled words—Wordly Wise.</p> <p><i>Writing:</i> Grammar—poetry—revision and editing—five paragraph essay—research for Civil War Wax Museum and Immigration Simulation.</p>	<p><i>Literature:</i> Novels are curriculum related encompassing themes of personal strength and coming of age—discussion and comprehension exercises focus on using textual references. Books include: <i>Esperanza Rising, Chasing Vermeer, The Watsons Go to Birmingham, Pictures of Hollis Woods</i>. Book projects are created through independent reads of high interest books.</p> <p><i>Spelling/ Vocabulary:</i> Word lists—terms found in literature, science, history and math—commonly misspelled words—Wordly Wise.</p> <p><i>Writing:</i> Expository writing in all areas of the curriculum (short answers, five paragraph essays, and research)—grammar and writing mechanics included—poetry. Special Activity: Coffee House Poetry Reading.</p>	<p><i>Literature:</i> Novels are curriculum related and center on themes of community, family, and coming of age—discussions and comprehension exercises focus on using textual references—books include: <i>The Giver, Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry, Color of My Words, The Call of the Wild,</i> and <i>The Dark is Rising</i>. Book projects are developed through independent reading of selected genres.</p> <p><i>Spelling/ Vocabulary:</i> Word lists—terms found in literature, science, history and math—commonly misspelled words.</p> <p><i>Writing:</i> Emphasis continues on five paragraph essay—write and illustrate a children's book—biography of a senior citizen.</p>
MATH	<p>Lessons are taught in small groups where teachers can assess each child's strengths and observe their grasp of the fundamentals. Number properties—place value from thousandths to billions—adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals and whole numbers—areas and perimeters of regular and irregular shapes—graphing and fractions—geometry and problem solving.</p>	<p>Lessons are taught in small groups where teachers can assess each child's strengths and observe their grasp of the fundamentals. Reading and creating graphs—analyzing data—exploring algebra through number patterns and solving equations—comparing, ordering and estimating whole numbers, fractions and decimals—using all operations with whole numbers, fractions and decimals—exploring ratios, rates and proportions—connecting percents, fractions and decimals—exploring probability through mathematical events—working with perimeter and area of polygons—exploring Pi, circumference and the area of circles.</p>	<p>Lessons are taught in small groups where teachers can assess each child's strengths and observe their grasp of the fundamentals. Reading and creating bar and line graphs—simplifying expressions using order of operations—solving one and two-step equations—computing and converting fractions—decimals, and percents—exploring ratios, rates, and proportions—creating scale drawings—finding the probability of events—computing with negative and positive integers—investigating interior angles of polygons—finding the area of regular or irregular shapes—surface area—volume of prisms and cylinders.</p>
HISTORY	<p>American Revolution—Civil War—Asian and European Immigration—WWI and WWII</p> <p><i>Special Activities:</i> Philadelphia trip—Civil War Wax Museum—Ellis Island Reenactment—Intrepid Museum trip.</p>	<p>The Beginnings of Human Society—Fertile Crescent—Ancient Egypt—India—China—Greece—Rome.</p> <p>Related Readings: Pyramid, The Odyssey, Prince Siddhartha.</p> <p><i>Skills:</i> Mapping—geography—timeline—cause and effect—study and research.</p> <p><i>Special Activities:</i> Roman Day—Museum of Natural History—Brooklyn Museum—building models of shadufs—creating artifacts from the past—mosaics—architectural structures.</p>	<p>The Legacy of the Roman Empire—Development of Feudalism in Western Europe—Role of Church in Medieval Europe—Life in Medieval Towns—Decline of Feudalism—Byzantine Empire.</p> <p><i>Skills:</i> Mapping—geography—timeline—cause and effect—study— research.</p> <p><i>Special Activities:</i> Cloisters Trip; Medieval Fair, Metropolitan Museum of Art.</p>
SCIENCE	<p><i>Health:</i> Managing Stress—Weather—Light and Waves—Matter and Energy—Environment—Pond Life—using the Scientific Method. Students engage in hands-on investigative labs and experiments to enhance learning and strengthen scientific curiosity.</p> <p><i>Special Activity:</i> Connecticut Science Museum, Greenburg Nature Center.</p>	<p>Plate Tectonics—Earthquakes and Volcanoes—Motion, Forces and Energy—Human Body—Food &amp; Digestion—Using the Scientific Method. Students engage in hands-on investigative labs and experiments to enhance learning and strengthen scientific curiosity.</p> <p><i>Special Activity:</i> Lake Placid Trip.</p>	<p>Earth—Moon—Sun—Planets—Comets—Meteoroids—Asteroids—Stars—Galaxies—Universe—Healthy Body Systems—Bones, Muscles, and Skin—Circulation—Respiration—Excretion—Nervous System—Endocrine and Reproductive Systems—Health: Alcohol and other drugs. Using Scientific Method, students engage in hands-on investigative labs and experiments to enhance learning and strengthen scientific curiosity.</p> <p><i>Special Activity:</i> American Museum of Natural History, Hayden Planetarium, Rhode Island Trip.</p>
PERFORMING ARTS	<p><i>Drama:</i> Discussion and application of elements of theatre—preparation and performance of classical plays and musicals—full scale musical production linked to American History.</p> <p><i>Music:</i> Rudiments—notation—steps and intervals—harmony—melodic and rhythmic skills—Orf instruments—instruction on recorder and percussion emphasizing development of fundamentals and skills—Blues and Jazz Origins. Students may also take band or orchestra.</p> <p><i>Chorus:</i> Songs are rehearsed and performed in school assemblies and concerts. Emphasis on music sight reading—vocal production—performing skills—solo singing.</p>	<p><i>Drama:</i> Preparation and performance of classical plays and musicals—skills and application of public speaking—exploration and application of production elements of theatre resulting in a performance of student written plays relating to Greek mythology.</p> <p><i>Music:</i> Advance awareness of elements of rhythm and pitch—scales—musicianship—and performance skills with emphasis on keyboards—Orf instruments—training in choral/vocal technique—sight singing—ear training—foundations of Western music. Students may also take band or orchestra.</p> <p><i>Chorus:</i> Songs are rehearsed and performed in school assemblies and concerts. Emphasis on music sight reading—vocal production—performing skills—solo singing.</p>	<p><i>Drama:</i> Preparation and performance of all aspects of classical plays and musicals—exercises in presenting various speeches with emphasis on reading reports and poetry—preparation and performance if a Shakespearean tragedy as it related to the social studies and values curriculum.</p> <p><i>Music:</i> Formation of musical literacy—elements review—harmony—form—composition—fundamental musicianship. Performance skills further developed by ensemble and solo playing. Training continues in keyboard and other instruments. Advanced training in choral/vocal technique—sight singing—ear training—highlights of classical, romantic and late 20th century periods. Students may also take band or orchestra.</p> <p><i>Chorus:</i> Songs are rehearsed and performed in school assemblies and concerts. Emphasis on music sight reading—vocal production—performing skills—solo singing.</p>
FINE ARTS	<p>Elements of art and principles of design with an emphasis on painting and collage—study of Romare Bearden and Jacob Lawrence.</p>	<p>Elements of art and principles of design with an emphasis on drawing—mixed media sculptures—study of Chuck Close.</p>	<p>Elements of art and principles of design with an emphasis on three-dimensional art and drawing—mixed media-self-portrait sculptures—African masks—gargoyles—study of Wayne Thiebaud.</p>
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	<p><i>French:</i> Introduction to Conversational French—action verbs—count to 200—study of culture and history.</p>	<p><i>French:</i> Verbs: present tense and command forms—questions—pronouns—subject—contractions—common prepositions—short compositions—salutations—sports and leisure activities—poetry—food—travel—classes—music—school supplies—the classroom—school subjects—time—activities—describing people and things—dialogues and tapes.</p> <p><i>Spanish:</i> Verbs: conjugation in present tense. Grammar: subject pronouns—definite and indefinite articles—infinitives—adjective agreement. Vocabulary and Functions: colors—numbers—calendar—sports—classes—music—food—school supplies—the classroom—school subjects—time—activities—describing people and things.</p>	<p><i>French:</i> Past tense—infinitives—Adjectives: demonstrative, comparative, interrogative. Pronouns: direct and indirect object—Readings: short compositions—Vocabulary and Functions: school life—travel—food—places in town—things you like to do—weekend activities—frequency words—seasons—months—weather—family—pets—chores.</p> <p><i>Spanish:</i> Verbs: conjugation of present tense of regular “ar,” “er” and “ir” verbs.</p> <p><i>Grammar:</i> negation—possessive adjectives—prepositions—relative pronouns. Vocabulary and Functions: places in town—things you like to do—weekend activities—frequency words—seasons—months—weather—family—pets—chores.</p>
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	<p>Baseball—basic Gymnastics—Basketball—European Handball—Field Hockey—Flag Football—Lacrosse—Softball—Soccer—Swimming—Track and Field. Program emphasizes skill development and the building of strength, endurance and stamina—introduces students to intramural competition and stresses teamwork, communication and sportsmanship.</p>	<p>Baseball—basic Gymnastics—Basketball—European Handball—Field Hockey—Flag Football—Lacrosse—Softball—Soccer—Swimming—Track and Field. Program emphasizes skill development and the building of strength, endurance and stamina—introduces students to intramural competition and stresses teamwork, communication and sportsmanship.</p>	<p>Baseball—basic Gymnastics—Basketball—European Handball—Field Hockey—Flag Football—Lacrosse—Softball—Soccer—Squash—Track and Field. Program emphasizes skill development and the building of strength, endurance and stamina—introduces students to intramural competition and stresses teamwork, communication and sportsmanship.</p>
TECHNOLOGY	<p>Introduction to laptops and Microsoft Office: Word, Excel and PowerPoint—teacher directed research using internet and online encyclopedias—multimedia presentations—keyboarding and word processing using AlphaSmarts.</p>	<p>Advanced word processing—Excel spreadsheets and graphing—PowerPoint presentations—teacher directed research using internet and online encyclopedias—multimedia presentations —Kidspiration/Inspiration.</p>	<p>Advanced spreadsheets and presentations—advanced research skills using internet and online encyclopedia and resources—organizational skills using Inspiration—Smartboard use in classroom.</p>
LIBRARY	<p>Open circulation to promote recreational reading across genres and enrich curricular studies—use of print and non-print resources to support curricular studies and projects—instruction in research skills and use of reference materials—bibliographic citations—the Dewey Decimal System—literature appreciation—developing a love of books and reading.</p>	<p>Open circulation to promote recreational reading across genres and enrich curricular studies—use of print and non-print resources to support curricular studies and projects—instruction in research skills and use of reference materials—bibliographic citations—the Dewey Decimal System—literature appreciation—developing a love of books and reading.</p>	<p>Open circulation to promote recreational reading across genres and enrich curricular studies—use of print and non-print resources to support curricular studies and projects—instruction in research skills and use of reference materials—bibliographic citations—the Dewey Decimal System—literature appreciation—developing a love of books.</p>



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