

**CURRICULUM GUIDE  
2023-2024**

**AZALEA  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**HOME OF THE  
BLACK KNIGHTS**



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MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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**7855 22ND AVE. N.  
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[HTTPS://WWW.PCSB.ORG/AZALEA-MS](https://www.pcsb.org/azalea-ms)**

# Azalea Middle School

Susan Alvaro  
**Principal**

Alicia Murray  
Kevin Schottler  
Michele J. Diaz  
**Assistant Principals**

Dear Parents:

The selection of courses during your student’s educational experience at Azalea Middle School is extremely important. Azalea offers a variety of required and electives courses that will enhance your middle school experience.

This curriculum guide has been developed to assist you in making these choices. It contains listings of the required courses, as well as many electives. Utilize this guide as you complete your middle school academic planning. It is important, parents, that you involve your student in this very important process.

Plan and select wisely! We want you to be satisfied that you have made the best possible choices from among those offered through Azalea Middle School’s rich curriculum.

The faculty and staff of Azalea Middle School wish you and your student the very best!

And remember, AMS Guide to Thrive—Respect, Responsible, and Safe.

Susan Alvaro  
Principal

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# Welcome to Azalea Middle School

## Home of the Black Knights

Vision  
*100% Student Success*

Mission  
*Azalea Middle School creates a quality educational setting that prepares each learner for college, career, and life.*

### Administrative Team

**Principal:**

Susan Alvaro                      alvaros@pcsb.org

**Assistant Principals:**

Alicia Murray	murraya@pcsb.org	6th Grade
Kevin Schottler	schottlerk@pcsb.org	7th Grade
Michele J. Diaz	diazm@pcsb.org	Curriculum, 8th Grade

### School Counselors

6th Grade	Nyah Sandy	sandyn@pcsb.org
7th Grade	Stephan Jones	jonessteph@pcsb.org
8th Grade	Julie Mac Neal	macnealj@pcsb.org

### Support Staff

Principal’s Secretary	Marvetta Ford	fordmar@pcsb.org
Data Management Tech	Melanie Finkley	finkleym@pcsb.org
6th Grade Clerk	Harry Campbell	campbellh@pcsb.org
7th Grade Clerk	Jessica Scott	scottjess@pcsb.org
8th Grade Clerk	Yolanda Davis	davisy@pcsb.org

## Language Arts and Reading

### Intensive Reading

The purpose of this course is to provide instruction that enables students to accelerate the development of reading and writing skills and to strengthen those skills so they are able to successfully read and write middle grade level text independently. Instruction emphasizes reading comprehension, writing fluency, and vocabulary study through the use of a variety of literary and informational texts encompassing a broad range of text structures, genres, and levels of complexity. Students enrolled in the course will engage in interactive text-based discussion, question generation, and research opportunities. They will write in response to reading and cite evidence when answering text dependent questions orally and in writing. The course provides extensive opportunities for students to collaborate with their peers.

### Language Arts 1 (Advanced), 2 (Advanced), & 3 (Advanced)

All middle school language arts courses include the skills and content specified in the Florida State English Language Arts Standards, with an emphasis on the study of texts of appropriate complexity, integrated language arts study in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language for college and career preparation and readiness. The complexity of the course content increases each year.

### English Honors 1 - Prerequisite: Language Arts 2

*Grade Level: 8 Length: 1 Year High School Credit: 1*

This course focuses on the the skills and content specified in the Florida State English Language Arts Standards, with an emphasis on the study of texts of appropriate complexity, integrated language arts study in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language for college and career preparation and readiness. Through the application, analysis, evaluation, and creation of complex ideas that are often abstract and multi-faceted, students are challenged to think and collaborate critically on the content they are learning.



## Science

**Note:** Science accelerated courses will cover essentially the same topics as regular classes but at higher levels of complexity, greater depth, and faster pace. The reading level will be higher and more reading will be required. Students will be required to use a higher level of vocabulary, do more writing, do more homework, and meet the standards of more challenging texts.

### Science 1 (Advanced), 2 (Advanced), & 3 (Advanced)

All middle school science courses include laboratory investigations aligned to the NGSSS for each grade level. Also included are the use of scientific inquiry, research, measurement, problem solving, laboratory apparatus and technologies, experimental procedures, and safety procedures, an integral part of these courses.

### Science 1 (Accelerated Honors), 2 (Accelerated Honors)

All middle school science courses include laboratory investigations aligned to the NGSSS for each grade level. Also included are the use of scientific inquiry, research, measurement, problem solving, laboratory apparatus and technologies, experimental procedures, and safety procedures, an integral part of these courses. Advanced courses require a greater demand on students through increased academic rigor. Academic rigor is obtained through the application, analysis, evaluation, and creation of complex ideas that are often abstract and multi-faceted. Students are challenged to think and collaborate critically on the content they are learning. Honors level rigor will be achieved by increasing text complexity through text selection, focus on high-level qualitative measures, and complexity of task. Instruction will be structured to give students a deeper understanding of conceptual themes and organization within and across disciplines. Academic rigor is more than simply assigning to students a greater quantity of work.

### Physical Science—Honors

*Grade Level: 8 Length: 1 Year High School Credit: 1*

This is a high school course designed to provide students with a study of high school Life, Physical, and Earth Sciences. This course will focus on the identified course benchmarks from the 9–12 Bodies of Knowledge with high levels of complexity. The reading level will be much higher and more reading will be required. Students will be required to use a higher level of vocabulary, do more writing, do more homework, and meet the standards of more challenging tests. Students must know and use effective organizational skills and work habits.

## Mathematics

### Intensive Mathematics

The purpose of this course is to improve students' skills for the FSA-Math Assessment. 6th grade students scoring a Level 2 on this assessment will be enrolled in Intensive Math to strengthen their math skills and support their proficiency in math. This course is taken in addition to the regular math class.

### Math 1, 2 & Pre-Algebra

All middle school mathematics courses should include the skill/concepts listed in the Course Descriptions, Florida Standards, and the Essential Learning for Secondary Math. The content should include study in the areas of ratios & proportional relationships, number systems, expressions & equations, geometry, statistics & probability, and functions. Students are also responsible for learning and applying the standards for mathematical practice. Students will be challenged with higher levels of thinking & reasoning, displaying content knowledge through multiple representations in mathematics, and applying content knowledge to solve complex real-world math problems.

***Note:** The purpose of advanced math courses is to extend the curriculum through horizontal and vertical acceleration. These courses will cover essentially the same skills as regular classes but at higher levels of complexity, greater depth, and a faster pace. The math level will be higher and more reading will be required. Students will be required to use a higher level of vocabulary, do more writing, do more homework, and meet the standards of more challenging tests. Students who enter with insufficient subject area knowledge will be expected to do extra work to be successful.*

### Algebra 1 Honors

*Grade Level: 7 or 8 Length: 1 Year High School Credit: 1*

The purpose of this course is to provide a rigorous and in-depth study of algebra as a foundation for more advanced mathematics courses and to develop the skills needed to solve mathematical problems. Topics include operations and properties used within the real number system, algebraic and graphical solutions to first-degree equations and inequalities in one and two variables, relations and functions, direct and inverse variation, operations with polynomials, rational and irrational algebraic expressions, quadratic equations, quadratic inequalities, and quadratic functions. This course is the first in the sequence that culminates in A.P. Calculus in twelfth grade.

### Geometry Honors

*Grade Level: 8 Length: 1 Year High School Credit: 1*

The purpose of this course is to develop the geometric relationships and deductive strategies that can be used to solve a variety of real world and math problems. Topics include the structure of geometry, separation properties, proofs, triangles, quadrilaterals, angle concepts, perpendicularity and parallelism in a plane/space, similar polygons, circles and spheres,

## Physical Education & Health

### 6th Grade Fitness

During this semester course, students will develop the physical skills such as the agility and coordination necessary to be competent in many forms of movement, the knowledge of health and skill related fitness components such as body composition and muscular strength and endurance, and appropriate social behaviors within a physical activity setting.

### 7th Grade Team Sports

The purpose of this course is to develop the physical skills necessary to be competent in many forms of movement, knowledge of team sports concepts such as offensive and defensive strategies and tactics, and appropriate social behaviors within a team or group setting.

### Health 7th Grade

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to become health literate and practice responsible behaviors to promote healthy living. The content will include, but not be limited to, the following topics: mental and emotional health, prevention and control of disease, consumer health, family life, personal health, nutrition, Internet safety, injury prevention and safety, substance use and abuse, community health, environmental health, consumer health, and teen dating violence.

### 8th Grade Wellness

This semester-long Wellness Education course is designed for 8th grade students, the purpose of which is to further develop the knowledge, skills and values to enhance healthy behaviors that influence lifestyle choices and student health and fitness.

### 8th Grade Individual/Dual Sports

The purpose of this course is to develop the physical skills necessary to be competent in many forms of movement, knowledge of individual sports concepts such as offensive and defensive strategies and tactics, and appropriate social behaviors within a team or group setting.

## Social Studies

**Note:** Advanced courses will cover the same content area as regular classes, but a more complex set of skills will be required. Students will complete projects which may include research papers, oral history interviews, Living History demonstrations, and technology based projects. Students will have the opportunity to participate in the National History Day competition and will need to demonstrate proficiency in reading and writing analyses of primary source material.

### Civics and Career Planning

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for active participation in a democratic society. Students will become informed citizens in regard to their local, state, and federal government.

### U.S. History and Career Planning

The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand the history of the United States through 1876, including a Florida History perspective.

Students will examine connections to the past in order to prepare for the future as participating members of a democratic society. Students will use knowledge of history, geography, economics, political processes, religion, ethics, diverse cultures, and humanities to explore problems and solutions in academic and civic settings. Special emphasis will be placed on the formation and structure of the American system of government to meet the state mandate on civic education.

### World History and Career Planning

The primary content for this course pertains to the world's earliest civilizations to the ancient and classical civilizations of Africa, Asia, and Europe. Students will be exposed to the multiple dynamics of world history including economics, geography, politics, and religion/philosophy. Students will study methods of historical inquiry and primary and secondary historical documents.

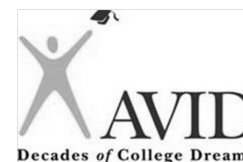
### Pre-AP World History and Geography

Grade Level: 8 Length: 1 Year High School Credit: 1

The primary content for this course pertains to the world's earliest civilizations to the ancient and classical civilizations of Africa, Asia, and Europe. Students will be exposed to the multiple dynamics of world history including economics, geography, politics, and religion/philosophy. Students will study methods of historical inquiry and primary and secondary historical documents. This allows students to take the course our state suggests as a core middle school social studies course at a level and with resources that best prepares them for the high school AP Human Geography course that enrolls most of our advanced learners.

## Advancement Via Individual Determination

*AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.*



### AVID 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an elective class that provides support for students in the AVID program through curricular and mentoring activities. This course is designed to enable students to develop fundamental skills aligned with current curriculum.

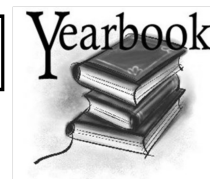


## World Languages

### Spanish 1 and Spanish 2 (Year-long courses)

The purpose of these courses is to enable students to acquire, reinforce and enhance proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. There is continued emphasis placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered, and real life applications of Essential Learnings are practiced and assessed throughout the course.

## Journalism



### M/J Journalism 1 (Yearbook) (year-long course)

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental skills in the production of journalism across print, multimedia, web, and broadcast/radio platforms and to become aware of journalism history, careers, ethics use, and management techniques related to the production of journalistic media. This class produces the Oak Grove Middle School yearbook. Some activities may be required outside of the school day.

## Music



### **Band 1, 2, & 3**

Includes a thorough introduction to music fundamentals and the development of performance skills on wind and percussion instruments. Experiences in performance of high quality music with continued development of playing skills, ear training, sight-reading, interpretation, musicianship, tone

### **Chorus 1, 2, & 3**

Introduces the student to beginning level melodic and rhythmic music reading. An emphasis will be placed on appropriate tone production through which the student will discover the range and capabilities of his/her individual voice. An emphasis will be placed on sight-reading, theory, tone production and responsibilities inherent in group activities.

### **Music Technology**

Students investigate the fundamental applications, tools, history, and aesthetics of music technology. Student musicians explore traditional, current, and emerging technologies, including personal devices; and use them to explore, capture, create, arrange, manipulate, reproduce, and distribute music. Public performances may serve as a resource for specific instructional goals. Students may be expected to attend one or more performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.

### **Understanding Music**

Students engage in an exploratory study of music through the examination of significant composers and their compositions across selected musical eras and or genres. Students will also learn about modern and historical instruments, and gain a rudimentary understanding of the elements of music. Students may be expected to attend one or more performances outside of the school day to support and extend learning in the classroom.

## Visual Arts

### **Visual Arts 1-2**

Students are introduced to the rigor and routine of the art production process including: planning, producing, and reflecting on art. With an emphasis on studio arts, students explore a wide range of 2D and 3D media, skills and techniques, as related to contemporary and historical art perspectives. Projects may include but not be limited to: drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, mixed media, pottery, and sculpture. Students develop technical skills, foster their expressive abilities and employ the use of the elements of art throughout the production process.



### **Visual Art 3 / 2D Studio Art 2**

Students manipulate 2D and 3D media, skills and techniques toward a desired project outcome within a studio art environment through the exploration of either contemporary or historical art viewpoints. Projects may include but not be limited to: drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, mixed media, pottery, and sculpture. Students explain the significance of their personal artwork, investigate multiple artistic project solutions, and create expressive and technically rigorous artwork requiring sequentially ordered procedures and specified media to achieve intended results. Students actively employ thoughtful use of the elements and principles of art throughout the art production process with the intention of creating unified pieces of artwork.

### **Pre-AP Visual Art (8th Grade ONLY)**

Students observe, investigate, and discuss a limited number of anchor works, which are works of art central to the themes and content of a particular module, and relate these examples to their own creative work. Students engage in structured conversations with peers to share ideas, respond to and offer advice on works in progress, critique final works, and discuss next steps. Students generate and consider a range of options for both the technical and expressive content of their work and make purposeful decisions about which options to incorporate in the work. Students communicate and clarify ideas in writing throughout the creative process: as a component of research and idea generation, in describing works in progress, and in reflecting on final works.

## Academy of Engineering

### Magic of Electrons / Science of Technology (6th grade)

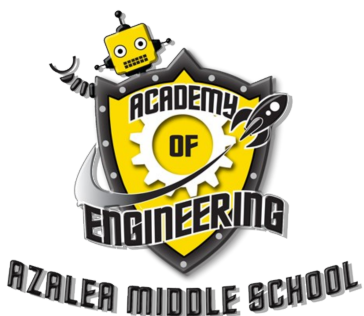
Students examine the behavior and parts of atoms as well as the impact of electricity on the world around them. They learn skills in basic circuitry design and use what they know to propose designs for such things as a burglar alarm for an art museum. Science impacts the technology of yesterday, today, and the future. In Science Tech, students apply the concepts of physics, chemistry, and nanotechnology to activities and projects, including making ice cream, cleaning up an oil spill, and discovering the properties of nanomaterials.

### Energy and the Environment / Flight and Space (7th grade)

Students are challenged to think big and toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They use what they've learned to design and model alternative energy sources, as well as evaluate options for reducing energy consumption. The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. Students begin by learning the history and diversity surrounding the major accomplishments in aerospace technology dating back to the time of Leonardo da Vinci. Students then explore science behind aeronautics and space flight. Along the way, students create and fly their own kites, hot air balloons, gliders, and rockets.

### Design and Modeling / Robotics (8th grade)

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy. Students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.



## Engineering Drone Electives

### Aerospace Tech -Piloted Aviation

*Grade Level: 7&8      Length: 1 Year      High School Credit: 1*

Teaches students the skills necessary to plan, and execute a cross country flight in a small single engine aircraft, to include pre-flight checks and weather, navigation, weight and balance, and Federal Regulations, while developing the motor skills required to fly the aircraft in simulation.

### Intro to Transport - Drone Aviation (8th grade)

Teaches students the skills necessary to plan and execute a commercial unmanned flight operation, to include pre-flight checks and weather, Federal Regulations, along with risk assessment and mitigation, while developing the motor skills required to fly a small unmanned aircraft system.



**Civil Air Patrol**  
U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

### Civil Air Patrol (6-8th grades)

Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadron is an JROTC type program that focuses on Aerospace and STEM education themes while developing a Cadet's character and leadership skills through service as a member of the United States Airforce Auxiliary. Cadets will be required to purchase and wear uniform and PT gear on specific days.

## Business and Information Technology

### **Computer Applications in Business 1 (6th Grade ONLY)**

The purpose of this course is to help students make informed decisions regarding their future academic and occupational goals and to provide information regarding careers in the Business Management and Administration career cluster. The content includes instruction in keyboarding, word processing, electronic presentation, computer hardware, Internet, introductory spreadsheet, and skills for business applications. Instruction and learning activities are provided in a laboratory setting using hands-on experiences with the equipment, materials and technology appropriate to the course content and

### **Intro to Marketing and Career Planning**

Intro to Marketing is a course designed to introduce students to basic Entrepreneurship & Small business characteristics. The course includes Marketing and Sales, Opportunity recognition, Business costs, Advertising, Financial management, and everything it takes to run a successful small

### **Digital Information Technology (DIT) (year-long course)**

*Grade Level: 8 Length: 1 Year High School Credit: 1*

This course provides an overview of current business and information systems and trends. Emphasis is placed on developing fundamental computer skills and includes the exploration and use of: databases, the Internet, spreadsheets, presentation applications, management of personal information and email,



## Typical 6th Grade Courses♦2023-2024 School Year

1. English Language Arts (Traditional or Advanced)
2. Science (Traditional, Advanced, or Accelerated)
3. Math (Regular or Advanced)
4. Elective (Intensive Math if Level 2 on FAST Math)
5. Reading (if Level 1 or 2 on FAST ELA-Reading) or Elective
6. World History (Traditional) or U.S. History Advanced
7. P.E.-Fitness (1 semester) / Comp. Appl. Business (1 semester)

## Typical 7th Grade Courses♦2023-2024 School Year

1. English Language Arts (Traditional or Advanced)
2. Science (Traditional, Advanced, or Accelerated)
3. 7th Grade Math (Traditional) or Algebra 1H (Accelerated)
4. U.S. History (Traditional) or Civics Advanced (Accelerated)
5. P.E.-Team Sports (1 semester) / Health (1 semester)
6. Elective (Intensive Reading if Level 1 or 2 on FAST ELA-Reading)
7. Elective

## Typical 8th Grade Courses♦2023-2024 School Year

1. English Language Arts (Advanced, or Accelerated: English Honors 1)
2. Science (Advanced) or Accelerated: Physical Science Honors)
3. Pre-Algebra (Traditional) or Accelerated Options: Algebra 1H, Geometry H
4. Civics (Traditional) or Pre-AP World History and Geography (Accelerated)
5. P.E.-Wellness (1 semester) / Extreme Sports (1 semester)
6. Elective (Intensive Reading if Level 1 or 2 on FAST ELA-Reading)
7. Elective



