



Montgomery Bell Academy Junior School Curriculum Overview

A Foundation for Gentleman, Scholar, and Athlete

At the heart of the Junior School experience is a well-rounded academic program that challenges students to think critically, communicate effectively, and grow in character. Our seventh and eighth grade curriculum is designed to build foundational knowledge, foster curiosity, and prepare boys for the next stage of their academic journey.

English

English 7: Grammar and Vocabulary

This course provides students with a strong foundation in grammar and punctuation, while promoting language as a powerful tool for clear communication. Emphasis is placed on study skills, vocabulary expansion, and critical thinking. Students strengthen their ability to express ideas effectively through the written word.

English 7: Literature and Composition

In Literature, students deepen their appreciation for reading by exploring short stories, poetry, and novels, while learning key literary terms. In Composition, students develop a unique writing voice and style through both analytical and creative writing. Grammar, spelling, and revision techniques are reinforced to promote clarity and fluid expression.

English 8

Eighth grade English builds on the grammar foundation established in seventh grade, with special attention to verbals and clauses. Vocabulary development remains integral, supported by literary texts and Vocabulary Workshop. Students explore short novels, short stories, poetry, and drama—including *Julius Caesar* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Writing assignments include analytical essays, an original short story, and a poem.

History

7th Grade: Roots of Modern America

A study of United States history from the pre-Columbian era through the early 20th century, with emphasis on key events, individuals, and ideas that helped shape modern America.

8th Grade: Cultural Geography

This course provides a global overview of major geographical regions and the dynamic relationship between people and their environments. Students explore the interconnectedness of geography, climate, culture, and current events—developing a deeper understanding of world issues and regional characteristics.

Mathematics

Honors and advanced courses are available for qualified students based on placement testing.

7th Grade: Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra focuses on strengthening arithmetic skills, organizational strategies, and enthusiasm for mathematics. The course prepares students for Algebra I through conceptual understanding and practical application.

8th Grade: Algebra I

Algebra I introduces students to algebraic language and core concepts including signed numbers, inequalities, exponents, radicals, polynomials, factoring, functions, graphing, and quadratic equations. Offered in regular and honors sections.

Science

Honors sections are available for students who qualify.

7th Grade: Introduction to Physical Science

Students explore basic principles of physical science and develop a working understanding of the scientific method. Hands-on experiments and inquiry-based learning encourage curiosity and analytical thinking.

8th Grade: Earth Science

This course examines the Earth and its systems through topics such as astronomy, geology, weather, oceanography, and ecology. Emphasis is placed on the interconnectedness of Earth processes and the changes shaping our planet over time.

Elective Courses

Students select from a variety of creative and performing arts electives that encourage exploration and expression.

- **7th Grade:** Art, Cardinal Band, Prelude Orchestra, Singers, Theater
 - **8th Grade:** Art, Silver Band, Prelude Orchestra, Singers, Theater
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Enrichment Courses

Designed to support personal development, communication, and character education, enrichment courses reinforce key life skills.

- **7th Grade:** Computer, Gentleman-Scholar-Athlete, Speech
- **8th Grade:** Research and Communication