

Grades 6, 7
and 8

AIRLINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

During the middle school years (Grades 6 to 8), we expand the students' general knowledge base and prepare them for the independence required in high school. While maintaining a protected environment, we expose our middle school students to the broader world through field trips, sporting events, technology, and other educational opportunities. Examples include visiting the Colby College Museum of Art, participating in spelling and geography bees, and hosting the Coastal and Small Schools Cross Country Championships.

Language Arts

Throughout Grades 6, 7, and 8, an emphasis is placed on reading, comprehending, and responding to non-fiction, informational text related to science and social studies.

Students independently read a variety of genres, including fiction, and report about their reading both orally and in writing, following specific criteria and guidelines.

Middle school students research, write, revise and edit informational texts. They examine topics and convey ideas and concepts through well-organized pieces.

Students demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, syntax, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing and speaking.

Students use "Worldy Wise" to expand their vocabulary through a variety of activities and readings.

Math

By the end of eighth grade, our students will...

- accurately add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals, fractions, and mixed numbers
- solve real-world multistep problems including those involving ratios and percents, positive and negative numbers, and units of measurement
- solve equations ($=$) and inequities ($<$, $>$) with variables
- use mathematical terms and formulas to describe the properties and relationships of lines, angles, polygons, and three-dimensional shapes
- collect, display, analyze, and predict data using tables and graphs
- use statistics and probability to make accurate models and predictions



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Science: Students study a variety of topics in physical, life, and earth sciences. There are opportunities to use technology and virtual labs to problem solve and apply analytical skills. Students utilize the scientific practices of planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, measuring, using mathematical computations, and constructing explanations. They communicate their understanding of science through a variety of methods (speaking, writing, technology, diagraming, etc.). Each trimester, students complete at least one major project which includes a presentation. This allows students to delve deeply into a particular topic relevant to a unit being studied. Students thoughtfully consider the implications of scientific discoveries and technology through analysis of both the historical impact of scientific advancements as well as possible implications of current and future scientific developments. Understanding that science is constantly evolving is emphasized through the use of hands-on activities, online virtual simulations, and video.

Social Studies: Students in Grades 6 through 8 learn more about our place in the world. Using a curriculum that cycles every 3-years, students learn history from the Pre-Columbian era through the present. They focus on Wabanaki and Maine history in the context of world events. The physical and geographical features and their impact on civilization, culture, politics, and government are explored. Through a variety of individualized projects, students research, write, and present their findings and ideas. Specific topic selection is often driven by the interest of the students and individualized to meet their needs. Students collaborate with each other and their teacher to gain a more comprehensive understanding of civics, geography and history by gathering and evaluating resources while communicating and critiquing conclusions.

Additional Opportunities

Art: Students participate in art lessons once a week: drawing, painting, and creating while using a variety of materials.

Dance: Over an eight week period a visiting dance instructor helps the students explore the dance concepts of space, time, tempo, energy, composition, and form.

Music: Students in Grades 6th through 8th have the opportunity to play a musical instrument. Lessons are provided once a week. Student also have a weekly class where they learn about various types of music

Physical Education: Time for outdoor recess is provided every day. Students also participate in structured games and activities focused on skills and sportsmanship.

Sports: Students in these grades can participate in all school sports: basketball, soccer, cross country, and track.

Chess: Chess is encouraged and played in the classroom. Any interested student can participate in after school Chess.

Parent and Community Involvement

The Airline Community School is a great place to go to school! We are a small PreKindergarten through Grade 8 school located off Route 9 in Aurora, Maine. Our size allows us to provide our students individual attention, while still offering many opportunities found at larger schools. Please consider joining our Parents, Teachers, and Friends (PTF) organization. This group helps raise funds to enhance learning opportunities. Money from concessions and other activities provide art & music supplies, field trips, and special guests.

Parental Support and Homework

Successful students work outside class time on specific academic skills that have been taught in the classroom. Attention to homework is necessary to practice these skills and prepare for high school. Parents can help students develop their organizational and time-management skills by providing a time and space for their child to attend to their work on weekday evenings.