

7/3/2008



ORION
ONLINE
LEARNING
COMPANY

ORION ONLINE MIDDLE SCHOOL

4500 West Illinois Suite 203 – Midland, Texas 79703 |

Orion Online Middle School

Our Beliefs:

- Orion believes that all learners, regardless of their past history with education, deserve a high quality, flexible way to learn content in a rich, supportive, online environment.
- Orion believes that learning is active and not passive. That online content can be rigorous and challenging, but can help learners exceed their own expectations for learning.
- Orion believes that content is not departmental - content must be integrated to be meaningful - to provide meaningful learning for learners.
- Orion believes that improvement is continuous and that Orion's existence is critical for learners who need to be challenged and need to be provided with the support necessary to be part of a high performing world outside of Orion.

Accreditation

Orion Online Learning is a candidate for accreditation with the Commission of International and Trans-regional Accreditation (CITA). Accreditation assures our customers of the quality of our program.

Admission

Apply for admission at www.orionms.org and click on the Admissions tab.

Admission to each of the grade levels is dependent on the following:

- Successful completion of the admissions application and demonstration course
- Parent's completion of the online meeting with the mentor (and signing of the Orion Parent Involvement Agreement)
- 6th graders should be at least 11 years old*
- 7th graders should be at least 12 years old*
- 8th graders should be at least 13 years old*

*exceptions may be made if a learner has completed a previous grade level at another private, public, or home school. *Copies of report cards are required.*

Cohorts:

Orion's Middle School consists of cohorts of learners. Cohorts of learners are made up of three distinct grade level groups (6th, 7th, 8th). An example is shown below:

Mentor	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Mentor Jones teaches Language Arts and Social Studies for the first three months	1-15 6 th Graders	1-15 7 th Graders	1-15 8 th Graders
Mentor Smith teaches Science and Mathematics for the second three months	The same group (from above) switches over to Mentor Smith for the second three months	The same group (from above) switches over to Mentor Smith for the second three months	The same group (from above) switches over to Mentor Smith for the second three months

Tuition:

- \$750 per grade level
 - Payments options:
 - 1 time payment of \$750.00
 - 2 payments of \$400.00 (must be completed by the beginning of the 5th month of enrollment)
 - Monthly tuition payments of \$150.00 (must be completed by the beginning of the 6th month)
- **Refund schedule**
 - 100% will be refunded if withdrawn within the first thirty days
 - 50% will be refunded if withdrawn between 31 and 60 days
 - No refunds after 60 days

Terms:

Each cohort will be in session for six months. Example:

Cohort	September, October, November	January, February, March
Cohort 1	Language Arts, Social Studies	Mathematics, Science
Cohort 2	Mathematics, Science	Language Arts, Social Studies

Calendar:

September 2 – March 2

March 3-April 1 – OFF

April 2 – October 2 (begin and end the next grade level)*

October 3 – November 2 – OFF

November 3 – May 2 (begin and end the next grade level)*

*If learners begin as 8th graders, then they are eligible to enter Orion High School as of April 1. (Refer to Orion High School Course Catalogue).

Content Areas:

6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
Earth Science	Life Science	Life Science
Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts
U. S. Geography	Your State's History	American History

Content Development:

Content development includes a focus on **integration** of art, music, technology, real-world application, leadership/citizenship, community awareness, and awareness of world culture.

Relationship Building:

Orion's philosophy of mentor/learner relationship requires mentors to actively create ongoing dialogue about conceptual development. Regular communication with learners includes e-mail, live collaboration, discussion forum feedback /dialogue, and regular phone conversation with learner(s).

Learning Standards:

Language Arts – In sixth, seventh, and eighth grade language arts, learners will:

- read and view print and nonprint texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves, and of the cultures of the United States, the world, and human experience in general;
- draw on their prior experiences in order to improve reading fluency for comprehension of print and nonprint texts;
- adjust their use of spoken, written, and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes;
- apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g., spelling and punctuation), media techniques, figurative language, and genre to create, critique, and discuss print and nonprint texts;
- conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions, and by posing problems (and their solutions). They gather, evaluate, and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and nonprint texts, artifacts, people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience;
- use Orion's online environment to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge (discussion forum, e-mail, podcasts, etc.);
- develop an understanding of and respect for diversity in language uses and social roles regardless of ethnic group or geographic location;
- engage in Orion live collaboration in order to participate as knowledgeable, reflective, creative, and critical members of the online learning community;

- use spoken, written, and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion, and the exchange of information).

In addition to the standards above, Social Studies in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade will ask learners to:

- understand the historical development of structures of power, authority, and governance and their evolving functions in contemporary U.S. society (learner's home state in 7th grade), as well as in other parts of the world;
- study how people organize for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. They explore economic decisions as they compare their own economic experiences with those of others and consider the wider consequences of those decisions on groups, communities (learner's home state in 7th grade), the nation, and beyond;
- explore the complex relationships among technology, human values, and behavior (including the impact of online learning on the greater society).

Mathematics – In sixth, seventh, and eighth grade mathematics, learners will:

- work flexibly with fractions, decimals, and percents to solve problems;
- compare and order fractions, decimals, and percents efficiently and find their approximate locations on a number line;
- develop meaning for percents greater than 100 and less than 1;
- understand and use ratios and proportions to represent quantitative relationships;
- develop an understanding of large numbers and recognize and appropriately use exponential, scientific, and calculator notation;
- use factors, multiples, prime factorization, and relatively prime numbers to solve problems;
- develop meaning for integers and represent and compare quantities with them.

Science – in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade science, learners will:

- develop the ability to refine and refocus broad and ill-defined questions for scientific inquiry;
- develop general abilities, such as systematic observation, making accurate measurements, and identifying and controlling variables;
- access, gather, store, retrieve, and organize data, using hardware and software designed for these purposes;
- review data from a simple experiment, summarize the data, and form a logical argument about the cause-and-effect relationships in the experiment;
- develop the ability to listen to and respect the explanations proposed by other students;
- become competent at communicating experimental methods, following instructions, describing observations, summarizing the results of other groups, and telling other learners about investigations and explanations.



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The focus in science at sixth grade will be earth science; space science in seventh grade; and life science in eighth grade.

Grading Scale

A – 90-100

B- 80-89

C-70-79

D-60-69

F-59 and Below

Parent Involvement Agreement

As a parent of an Orion Online Middle School learner, I pledge the following:

_____ I will be involved with my child as he or she accesses the Orion website, in order to help my child maneuver through content.

_____ I will maintain consistent contact with my child's mentor in order to keep updated with my child's progress.

_____ I will attend the required parent training session, which will be held online at a time to be announced by the mentor.

_____ I will periodically attend the live session with my child and my child's mentor(s).

_____ I will involve my child in social activities in my community in order to help my child grow socially.

_____ I will log in periodically to check on my child's progress