

Hualalai Academy

Middle School Course Offerings, 6th Grade

Quarter One

2008 – 2009

“When thinking about schools for the 21st century, two fundamental characteristics come to mind: that learning is contextual; and that school is a process not a place.”

David Thornburg, The New Basics

Our Mission

Hualalai Academy is a K-12 college preparatory school that empowers students through an integrated curriculum and experiential learning to develop their academic, artistic, social, and physical skills. We provide a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment that encourages exploration, community involvement, and lifelong learning.

Greetings Sixth Grade Students, Parents, and Guardians of 08-09,

Every year we look at what we have learned as a school and implement changes to help make the educational experience at Hualalai Academy reflective of our mission and values in an effort to offer the most optimal learning environment our resources will allow.

Some of the changes from the 07-08 to 08-09 school year are as follows:

- Students will be able to make course selections during the summer.
- The Middle School has changed to a **Semester System** for all CORE Academic Classes. The First Semester ends at the Holiday Break in December, and the Second Semester begins when we return from Holiday Break in January.
- Students will also have a Wednesday **Arts and Sciences Project Period** where they will be expected to complete an individual or group project in one of the following areas: Performing Arts (drama), Sustainability and the Environment (gardening, trail clearing etc.), Technology, Visual Arts, or Robotics. This will be a Semester long graded class. The Arts and Sciences Project Period will be described in the beginning of the year. Students will make selections for this during the first week of school.
- Students will be able to choose three electives each quarter. **At least one of these MUST be a PE Class.** Each will meet two times/week. Electives are taken pass/fail and are not graded. The exceptions to this are Foreign Language and Health.
- **Foreign languages**, Spanish and Japanese, will meet two times/week but will be year-long classes that count toward high school requirements when two full years are completed successfully in Middle School. They can be taken at the beginning of any of the academic years as a Middle School student, but remain **optional** throughout their middle school career. A Foreign Language becomes required when entering High School and is available in the middle school for students interested in the language and/or wanting to get a head start on their High School foreign language requirements.
- Parents and students will still be able to check the current grades over the Internet, through secure and private means, by using our Power School website. Log-on information will be distributed at the beginning of the school year with the students' schedules and is individually password protected for your privacy. You can access the Power School server using a link from our website www.hualalai.org

As sixth graders, all core subjects (Math, English, Social Studies, and Science) are assigned. Choices can be made only for Electives, Project Electives, and Adventure Friday classes. The following are other areas for your consideration as middle school students and parents.

Early Adolescent Years

The early adolescent years can be difficult and tumultuous. Successful middle level teachers understand this and do not expect their students to adhere to an academic environment where they know students are not capable of achieving. To glean knowledge by sitting quietly and listening to an adult talk for long periods of time is physically impossible for early adolescents. At this age, students learn by doing. One of the greatest ways for a middle school student to build confidence is to succeed at something they believe to be difficult. There is no sense of achievement or accomplishment if a task is “easy”. What we teach provides students with challenges at which they can succeed and upon which they can build.

Advisor System

Each student at Hualalai Academy Middle School will be assigned an Advisor. The Advisor will be the primary point of contact between home and school. This means that each Middle School teacher will be assigned a small group of “advisees” to guide and mentor through his/her daily life at school. There will be designated “advisor/advisee” periods each week for the student and advisor to “check-in” with one another. The advisor will be the main point of contact and coordinator of communication between home and school for each member of his/her group, and will be an advocate for the student at school. At the beginning of the school year you will get more information about the Advisor Program. We are hoping that this change will give parents a central adult to go through to manage any academic or social issues that might come up at school.

Mandatory Classes and Activities

PE – Students must take one PE elective each quarter, which meets twice a week.

Health – Students in 6th and 8th grade are required to take Health.

Community Service – Each student is required to perform 12 hours of community service per semester for a total of 24 hours during the year.

Science Fair Preparation

All middle school students are required to do a science fair project during the first semester. All 6th grade students will be working on these during the science class.

Electives

Students need to start making choices for themselves at this age. The electives are an opportunity for students to study what they like and activities at which they show talent. The electives students choose today could be the first steps they take in a life long passion or even career.

Friday Adventure

The Friday Adventure class is an opportunity for the students to get out of the classroom and into the real world. Students are encouraged to participate in activities they enjoy and/or to try new things. The Adventure Friday class meets four times per quarter on alternating Fridays with some exceptions. Dates will be announced at the beginning of school.

Scheduling

Math classes will follow a regular daily schedule and all students will have a math class during the first period of each day. For the remaining CORE classes (Social Studies, Science and English), we have a rotating block schedule.

Rotation - This allows students to have each class once a week when they are most productive – be it morning or just before lunch.

Block – Students have two 85-minute periods and a 60-minute period of each subject per week and an additional 50 minutes every other Friday. This allows time for students to get truly involved in what they are learning.

Student Schedules

Student schedules will be available at the open house, on Wednesday, August 6th. Students must bring their schedules to school every day and be responsible for knowing what class they are in each day.

Transfers

If a student wishes to transfer from one class to another, they must have the approval of their advisor, Mr. Saks and **their parents' signature** to complete the transfer. Transfer slips will be available through their advisor on Thursday, August 7th.

Selecting Classes

Students are required to select their classes **with their parents' approval**. Each student must select a first and second choice for all electives and an Adventure Friday.

Students are required to take Math, English, Social Studies, and Science each Semester. Electives and Adventure Friday options change quarterly, with the exception of foreign languages, and additional sign-ups will occur prior to each quarter.

Hualalai Academy Passport

Your Hualalai Academy Passport is the way you and your parents will be tracking your progress through middle school. When your Passport is completely filled in, you will be ready to travel on to high school. Students will also have a copy of their passports at school. They will be kept by your advisor for easy reference. The Passport is for your reference to track your progress through the required classes. Advisors will hand out new passports and requirements at the beginning of school.

Middle School Community Service and Outreach Requirement

Each semester, the students are required to complete 12 hours of community service. Any work or help that a student does for a community group or private individual, for which they are not compensated, will count as community service. If questions or concerns come up, please do not hesitate to talk to your advisor.

Here is a snapshot of some of the activities the students are already pursuing:

- Volunteering at aid stations at the Ironman Triathlon
- Volunteering to mentor at our neighboring Hawaii Montessori School
- Volunteering to assist the lower school students during After school
- Volunteering at Hualalai Academy with landscaping
- Volunteering at community presentations by the American Cancer Society

We are proud of our Middle School students and their contributions to the school and local community!

Enjoy the rest of your summer; we look forward to seeing you next school year,

Marc Saks
Dean of Instruction K-8
Hualalai Academy

Adventure Friday Quarter 1

ADF101 - One Fish, Two Fish, Parrot Fish, Mu Fish

Did you know some fish start life as females and turn into males when they are older? Students will learn about this and much more when we study the coral reef and its many inhabitants. We will concentrate on fish, but students will also learn to identify invertebrates and algae. They will learn first hand about fish behavior and the interactions between the members of the coral reef. We will also study tide pools and their inhabitants. Classes will meet at the beach and spend several hours literally and figuratively immersed in the reef.

Prerequisites: High level of comfort in the ocean/good swimmer, own snorkel gear, Parental permission

ADF201 - Just Horsing' Around

Learn to care for a horse - we will spend time developing horse skills like haltering, leading, tying, twitch, grooming, bathing, clipping and proper riding techniques! There is a \$30 per week fee totaling \$120.00 for the quarter. Beginners and novices welcome.

ADF105 – How To Make Banana PanSkates

Get ready to hit the ramps! Students in this adventure Friday will spend their time between the new Kona Skatepark at Old Airport and Waimea Skatepark practicing their skateboarding skills. Beginners are welcome and instruction will be provided to students who would like to learn. Students will get to meet and be coached by some of the best skateboarders on the island. Students in this Adventure Friday will also assist with the maintenance of the Kona Skatepark and help in the planning and development of the permanent park in Kona. Students must provide their own equipment. Helmets are required and pads are advised especially for beginners.

ADF501 - Playing Golf at Swing Zone

Interested in learning to play Golf? Already know how and are looking for some practice time? Then come out to Swing Zone with us for instruction, driving range practice and six holes of play. Cost is \$18.50 per meeting for a total of \$74.00 for the Quarter (4 scheduled meet times). Swing Zone is located in Kona near the old airport on Makala Blvd.

ADF202 - Soccer and Swimming

Students will enhance their soccer and swimming skills. The morning will start with soccer at the Old Airport soccer fields. We will practice fundamentals and work on some advanced game strategies. After soccer, we will go to the public swimming pool and cool off while working on swimming skills.

Electives Options – Quarter 1

Foreign languages, Spanish and Japanese, will meet two times/week but will be year-long classes that count toward high school requirements when two full years are completed successfully in Middle School. They can be taken at the beginning of any of the academic years as a middle school student, but remain **optional** throughout their middle school career. A Foreign Language becomes required when entering high school and is available in the middle school for students interested in the language and/or wanting to get a head start on their high school foreign language requirements.

There are two sections of Spanish, they are identical classes that meet at different times.

Health is a mandatory, graded, quarter-long class held during Elective Block C in the Second Semester by gender as follows: Q3 – 6th Grade Girls, Q4 – 6th Grade Boys. Students will be assigned during the Q3 & Q4 electives sign-ups.

The following electives options and sign-ups, with the exception of foreign languages, are for **Quarter 1 only** with additional sign-ups prior to each successive quarter.

Elective Block A

(Foreign Languages are optional, graded, yearlong classes)

FLS104 – Spanish MS (Block A)

FLJ101 – Japanese MS

TEC100 – Technology for Students

LIT100 – Fiction Frenzy – Novel Reading

PES101 – PE Sports

PEY111 – PE Yoga

Elective Block B

(Foreign Languages are optional, graded, yearlong classes)

FLS105 – Spanish MS (Block B)

PED121 – PE Dance

PEF101 – PE Fitness

STY121 – Study Hall (Block B)

PES112 – Jiu Jitsu (Block B)

Elective Block C

(All 8th Graders DO NOT have an Elective Block C option for S1 only)

FAV311 – Visual Arts, Mixed Media

FAV502 – Chess

HLTH100 – 8th Grade Health, Mandatory Class for all 8th Graders ONLY

PES111 – Jiu Jitsu (Block C)

PEK100 – Pilates & Kick Boxing (non-contact)

STY101 – Study Hall (Block C)

6th Grade Course Sign-up Sheet

Selecting Classes

Students are required to select their classes with their parents' approval and signature. Students must select a first and second choice for all electives and Adventure Fridays.

Electives and Adventure Fridays are chosen each quarter; there will be a new sign-up for these before each quarter.

Please include the corresponding course number for each course choice.

Example: Adv. Fri Course # First Choice Course # Second Choice
ADF201 Just Horsing... ADF101 One Fish...

Course	Course #	First Choice	Course #	Second Choice
Quarter 1 Elective Block A				
Quarter 1 Elective Block B				
Quarter 1 Elective Block C				
Quarter 1 Adventure Friday				

A parent signature is needed to complete the process. Please separate this page from the rest of the document and return it to Mr. Saks via the administration office. **Priority is given to requests by grade level and the date course requests are returned.**

If you have a question, please e-mail Mr. Saks at msaks@hualalai.org for the quickest response. You may also call the school office at 326-9866.

Please detach and return this sign-up sheet to the office ASAP and no later than July 31, 2008.

Student schedules will be handed out **Wednesday, August 6th, 2008**. **No changes to schedules may be made prior to the first full day of school.**

Student Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____