

Hualalai Academy

Middle School Course Offerings, 7th & 8th Grade

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 Seventh and Eighth 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 afternoon **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 Quarter.** Each will meet two times/week. Electives are taken pass/fail and are not graded. The exceptions to this are Foreign Language, Science Fair, 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

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

Marc Saks
Dean of Instruction K-8
Hualalai Academy

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 some 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; they will be working on these during their science classes regardless of class or project type.

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.

Adventure Friday

The Adventure Friday 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 core class periods, electives, and an Adventure Friday. Students are required to take Math, English, Social Studies, and Science each Semester. Students will sign up for both semesters (S1 & S2) of Core classes with the attached form. Electives and Adventure Friday options change quarterly 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!

Middle School Courses Semester One

S1, Core 1 – Mathematics Year-Long

All Middle School students will take a year-long mathematics course during the CORE 1 period. Math courses are **assigned** based on past performance, completion of prerequisites and teacher recommendation. Placement will be reviewed during the first week of school to be sure that each student is placed in the proper class. There is no sign-up option for these classes but are listed here for your reference. Please contact Mr. Saks with questions regarding math placement after you receive the class schedule on August 6th.

MATH102 – 6th & 7th Grade

Title: Middle School Math Foundations

Prerequisite: 5th or 6th Grade Math.

This course is a foundation for all other Middle School Math classes. Although Pre-Algebra concepts will be introduced, the focus is on solidifying math computation and problem solving skills for future success in higher level mathematics. Students who successfully complete this course will move to Pre-Algebra in the following year.

MATH201 – 6th & 7th Grade

Title: MS Pre-Algebra

Prerequisite: 5th Grade Math and Teacher Recommendation OR MS Math Foundations.

This course builds on the foundations of computation and problem solving skills to begin using algebraic concepts including the use of variables and formulae to solve problems. Students who successfully complete this course would be ready to take Algebra I or Algebra IA in the following year.

MATH211 – 7th & 8th Grade

Title: MS Algebra 1A

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra or Teacher Recommendation.

This class covers the first half of Algebra in a pace that is focused but without the demanding schedule of Algebra 1 Honors. Students will learn the basics of Algebra. Students who successfully complete this course will be ready to take Algebra I Honors in the following year.

MATH203 – 8th Grade & High School

Title: HS Pre-Algebra

This course builds on the foundations of computation and problem solving skills to begin using algebraic concepts including the use of variables and formulae to solve problems. Students who successfully complete this course would be ready to take Algebra 1.

MAT501 – 8th Grade & High School

Title: Algebra 1 Honors

This honors level algebra class covers Algebra 1 in its entirety within the course of the academic year. It is a tightly paced with a rigorous approach to the material. When completed successfully, this class counts as high school math credit.

S1, Core 2

ENG301 – Coming Of Age Literature

Title: The Road to Discovery

Coming of Age novels are memorable and meaningful because the characters featured in the stories undergo life-changing growth as they move from innocence to maturity. Some characters come to terms with the cruelty of the world around them while others learn to cope with family, friend or even community issues. These novels are meaningful and unforgettable journeys of people just like us! Some of our featured titles will be, *I am the Cheese* by Robert Cormier and *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi.

SS225 – World History, Asian Studies

Title: The Many Faces of Asian People and Cultures

The course aims to develop understanding, awareness and appreciation to global diversity. We will learn about history, geography, social and cultural practices of various cultures according to major geographical regions. Among the cultural areas studied are Asia, Southeast Asia, and Eastern Europe.

SCI202 – Invertebrate Biology

Title: Life on the Edge: Tides, Tide Pools and the Creatures That Live There

This course will study tides and the forces that generate them. We will be studying tide pools in both the lab and in the field. Students will learn about and meet many strange organisms “up close and personal”. We will study many types of invertebrates such as sponges, corals, crabs, sea urchins and maybe some wild and crazy worms. Students will also collect and study planktonic invertebrate larva. The course will include several field trips, projects, dissections, class discussions, lab work and selected videos that illustrate marine ecosystems.

S1, Core 3

ENG302 – Science Fiction & Fantasy Literature

Title: Close Encounters of the Literary Kind

Do you enjoy escaping to the future? Have you ever imagined what life will be like in the years to come? Have you ever dreamed of a world that contradicts the known historical facts of our history? If you’ve answered yes to any of these questions, then you will enjoy floating into our story bound world of science-fiction/fantasy novels! Explore classic tales such as *Tuck Everlasting*, *Ender’s Game*, *The Hobbit* and more!

SS216 – American History, 1950 to 2050

Title: Modern America, the Information Age and Beyond

This course will study major events, people, and innovations that have shaped, and will shape, this country. We will focus on the science, technology, population growth, natural disasters, war, literature, government, and entertainment that influences our nation.

SCI201 – Cell Biology

Title: It’s a Cell’s Life

What constitutes life? Is a virus alive? How about a fungus? In this course, students will learn biological definition of life. Students will learn what a cell is and how it serves as the building block of life. We will also examine the mechanisms of osmosis, diffusion and some of the basic biochemistry that a cell uses to live, function and reproduce. The course will include lab experiments, microscopic examination of living cells, videos, class discussions and projects.

S1, Core 4

ENG303 – Mystery & Short Story Literature

Title: Where Truth Unfolds – Puzzles, Enigmas, Conundrums, & Secrets

Welcome to the wonderful world of mystery! The origin of Mysteries is uncertain but we do know that as long as people have been around, crime and mysteries have been around too! If you enjoy playing detective, solving the crime or just simply getting “spooked,” then this class is for you! We will enjoy two classic mystery novels and various short stories that capture the very heart of this riveting genre. Featured titles will include *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin, *And Then there Were None* by Agatha Christie and short stories by Edgar Allen Poe and other renowned authors.

SS211 - American History, Early America

Title: The Making of America: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of a Nation

This course will explore how a loose coalition of 13 very different colonies came together to defy a great imperial power, and then unite to create a nation unlike any before it. Blowing the dust off history, this course will breathe fresh air into the surprising birth, stumbling infancy, and energetic adolescence of the United States. The main topics presented will include Life in the Colonial Era, the Revolutionary War, and the Constitutional Era including the foundations of American Government. Students will use the history of Early America as a vehicle to apply and develop skills in reading, writing, critical thinking, research, organization, test preparation, oral presentation and creative expression.

SCI220 – Geology

Title: Rock On! The Study of Rocks, Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Plate Tectonics

In this course, we will examine the ways rocks and minerals form, where, and why. Students will learn to identify and classify various rocks. A portion of this course will focus on the geology of Hawaii, and include a field trip to examine what we learn in the classroom. We will continue with the composition and structure of the Earth, moving into the theories of plate tectonics and continental drift. We will use these theories to explain phenomena such as earthquakes, volcanoes, volcanic islands, and oceanic trenches. Students will take a closer look at a specific historical earthquake, tsunami, or volcanic eruption to present to their classmates. This class will include many lab activities, scientific writing and research, class discussions, videos, and field trips.

Middle School Courses

Semester Two

S2, Core 2

ENG304 – Action & Adventure Literature

Title: My Life Depended On It!

If you like jaw dropping, suspense filled novels that keep you on the edge of your seat, this class is for you! We will be reading Action/ Adventure books that are characterized by themes such as revenge, war, risk taking, espionage (spying) and maybe even a little romance. The main characters that we encounter will be ones with missions to accomplish and purposes to fulfill. Action/ Adventures are difficult to put down and exceedingly fun to read. Our top title will be *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas. Additional titles will be added.

SS226 – World History, Africa & The Middle East

Title: The Oldest Cultures in Today's World

This course is designed to offer students the opportunity to expand their understanding of geography, history and social and cultural practices of the people living in the Middle East and Africa. The emphasis is placed on the achievement of the people and spreading of ideas that transformed the world. Students will analyze the interactions between people and cultures.

SCI203 – Vertebrate Biology

Title: From Birds Beaks to Frogs Feet

Are birds really feathered dinosaurs? This course is a study of how scientists classify life followed by an examination of vertebrates such as fish, sharks, reptiles, amphibians and birds. We will also study mammals that live in the sea. Students will learn about the similarities and differences between fish, reptiles and amphibians, as well as birds and dinosaurs. The course will include class discussions of natural selection, videos, projects, animal dissections and possibly a field trip.

S2, Core 3

ENG305 – Multi-Cultural & Historical Fiction Literature

Title: You Are the Eyes of the World

Ever wondered what life was like long ago in far off places? Do you dream of experiencing life in foreign lands while living among people of different cultures? Come and share in the sometimes difficult yet completely unforgettable lives of characters that have lived through some of the most historically important areas the world has ever known. Get close to those who left the familiar to go to the foreign and see how they grow, change and learn to accept their new worlds! You won't be disappointed! Featured titles include *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank, *The Chosen* by Jeremy Kagan and *The Secret Life of Bees* by Gina Prince-Bythewood.

SS222 – World History, British Isles & Europe

Title: Let Go of My Euro!

This class will study the major events of the 20th and 21st century that shaped Britain and the nations of the European Union. We will study and discuss the technology, science, natural disasters, literature, governments and pop culture that shaped this part of the world.

(S2, Core 3 continued from previous page)

SCI223 – Astronomy & Applied Physics

Title: Blast Off!

Do you want to be part of a rocket design team? This course will introduce the students to the science of astronomy. We will cover the origin of the universe, galaxies and stars, the solar system and the relationship between the earth and its moon, and the characteristics of the moon. We will cover the science of rockets and the basic laws of physics that govern space travel. We will also explore the possibility of alien life and what form that life might take. Classes will include experimentation, lab demonstrations, projects, class discussions and occasional video clips. The class may include a field trip to observe the stars on Mauna Kea.

S2, Core 4

ENG306 – Utopian & Dystopian Literature

Title: The Perfect World Until ...

A society that is perfect, everyone is happy, no pain, no suffering, a perfect life. Sound too good to be true, then it probably is. Explore the literature that explores the question of what is the perfect society and the price paid in trying to attain it. Some of the books explored in this class are *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, and *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley.

SS216 – American History, 1850-1950

Title: A Nation Divided, A World at War

This course will begin with the Civil War Era and continue through the era of Westward Expansion, The Progressive Era and the World Wars of the 20th Century. Students will use the history of America as a vehicle to apply and develop skills in reading, writing, critical thinking, research, organization, test preparation, oral presentation and creative expression.

SCI222 – Weather & Climate

Title: Weather, Weather, Everywhere!

This course will cover the phenomena of weather on both a large and local scale. We will look at the composition and structure of the atmosphere, energy distribution and air circulation around the world. We will study clouds and precipitation, and examine air masses, fronts, and storms. Students will learn basic weather forecasting skills and how to read weather reports. The climate portion of the course will begin with an examination of Earth's energy budget and how the Earth is heated. We will discuss the greenhouse gases, and their role in making our planet habitable. This will be followed with a look at Earth's various climates- what they are and why they exist. A large portion of the course will be spent on the topic of global warming, its causes, effects, and evidence. We will also examine the climates of Hawaii and the various factors contributing to the climate of our island.

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, semester-long class held during Elective Block C for 8th Graders during the 1st semester only.

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)

Grade 7 and 8 Course Selection

Selecting Classes

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

Core classes for Semesters 1 & 2 are signed up for below; **you will sign-up for Core classes for the entire year.** Please include the **corresponding number** for each course choice. Semester 1 & 2 classes are **NOT** interchangeable.

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

Course Course # First Choice Course # Second Choice
 Example: Core 4 SCI222 Weather & Climate SS216 Am. Hist. 1850-1950

Course	Course #	First Choice	Course #	Second Choice
Semester 1, Core 2				
Semester 1, Core 3				
Semester 1, Core 4				
Quarter 1 Elective Block A				
Quarter 1 Elective Block B				
Quarter 1 Elective Block C				
Quarter 1 Adventure Friday				
Semester 2, Core 2				
Semester 2, Core 3				
Semester 2, Core 4				

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 _____