

# Summit Academy

2025-2026



## 6th, 7th, and 8th Grades

- Our two primary goals at Summit Academy are to provide a **rigorous** education in a wide variety of subjects and to develop our students' specific **talents** and **interests**.
- Our **flexible grouping** allows students to be grouped skill-by-skill.
- Every student receives **individualized support**. This may look like reteaching and practice or extension for students that have already mastered a concept.

This **fluid movement** allows for the student to grow at an **individualized pace**, creating an environment tailored to the student's specific needs.

### *Legend*

R6= 6th grade Required Class

R7= 7th grade Required Class

R8= 8th grade Required Class

\*\* Full Year

\* Optional Full Year

FA= Fine Art

Only 6th grade students

Only 7th grade students

Only 8th grade students

Only 6th & 7th grade students

Only 7th & 8th grade students

All Students

By teacher placement only

\*\* All classes are tentative based on class size, student interest, teacher availability, and/or unforeseen circumstances.

## REQUIRED Full Year

**\*\*English Language Arts 6:** Ensure that students gain adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor is also infused through the requirement that students read increasingly complex texts and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades. Traditional and Honors offered.

**\*\*Social Studies:** Humans originated in Africa and migrated across the Earth, creating ancient civilizations in nearly every region that could support life. Modern civilizations can trace their foundations to these ancient civilizations. Their cultures and histories can teach us much about ourselves and the modern world in which we live.

**\*\*Mathematics 6:** Focus on proportional relationships, operations with rational numbers, expressions, linear equations, and geometric constructions. Traditional and Honors Offered.

**\*\*Science 6:** The cycling of matter and the flow of energy through the study of observable phenomena on Earth. Students will explore the role of energy and gravity in the solar system as they compare the scale and properties of objects in the solar system and model the Sun-Earth-Moon system.

**\*\*English Language Arts 7: (R7)** Includes work in comprehension strategies, composition, listening, and speaking and viewing. Traditional and Honors offered.

**\*\*Mathematics 7: (R7)** Focus on proportional relationships, operations with rational numbers, expressions, linear equations, and geometric constructions. Traditional and Honors offered

**\*\*Grade 7 Science: (R7)** 7th-grade focuses on understanding cause and effect relationships in nature, allowing students to predict outcomes. Students will learn about the impact of forces on motion, energy transfer, and the cycling of matter in various systems. They will explore how Earth's environments support life and how organisms survive and reproduce through their mechanisms and adaptations. Evidence for the evolutionary history of life on Earth will be explored through the fossil record, organism development, and genetic similarities. Students will also study the forces that shape Earth and its materials. Throughout the course, students will investigate cause and effect in science and explore evidence to support scientific theories.

**\*\*College and Career Awareness: (R7)** This course is designed to increase awareness of college and career pathways through simulations and project-based experiences. Explores high school, college, and career options based on individual student interests, abilities, and skills. Students will investigate high-skill and/or in-demand jobs with appropriate developmental information related to careers, educational pathways and professional opportunities in the Utah labor market while developing workplace skills. Concepts and standards outline in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education.

**\*\*English Language Arts 8: (R8)** Includes work in comprehension strategies, composition, listening, and speaking and viewing. Traditional and Honors offered.

**\*\*Grade 8 Science: (R8)** Exploration of Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Earth Science. Sensemaking for how matter is arranged into simple or complex substances. The emphasis is on how substances store and transfer energy, physical and chemical reactions, processes or energy cycles and changes for living organisms in ecosystems.

**\*\*Health: (R8)** Develops the skills needed to improve the quality of life by helping students to cope with and solve problems, develop positive self-image and make better decisions.

**\*\*U.S. History: (R8)** United States history including exploration, colonization, the American Revolution, the Constitution and other major historical themes. .

**\*\*Math 8: (R7 & R8)** Focus on expressions and equations, linear equations, functions, quantitative relationships, and the Pythagorean Theorem. Traditional and Honors offered.

**\*\*Secondary Math 1 Honors:** Use of properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge. Algebraic and geometric ideas are tied together. This is an accelerated course for students who demonstrate mathematical abilities **well above grade level**. Students are expected to have mastered 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math material to be prepared for the depth of this class.

## REQUIRED Half Year

**Digital Literacy:** A foundation to the digital world. Understanding key applications, computing fundamentals, and living online.

**Life Skills:** A foundation to the basics executive functioning skills including but not limited to organization strategies and time management.

**\*\*Utah Studies: (R7)** Utah history from geological formation through exploration, including colonization, statehood, and present day.

**Physical Education: (R7 & R6)** Emphasizes skills, knowledge, and participation in a variety of team sports and recreational activities.

## Fine Arts Classes

**(Must take one of these classes in 6th grade)**

**(Must take one of these classes between 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Art Foundations 1: (FA)** Covers a wide variety of art mediums, including watercolor, acrylic, charcoal, chalk, and photography, learning about contemporary and past art methods,

**Art Foundations 2: (FA)** An intermediate course in visual arts that builds on concepts introduced in Art Foundations 1 (**Prerequisite Art Foundations 1**)

**Theater 1: (FA)** Introductory course in theater with an emphasis on performance, teamwork, and storytelling

**Theater 2: (FA)** Continuation of the studies from theater 1 and includes scene performance, playwriting, monologues, and ancient Greek theater. (**Prerequisite Theater 1**)

**Theater 3: (FA)** A continuation of the studies from theater 2 and includes play analysis, scene work, play reading, and performance. (**Prerequisite Theater 2**)

**\*Beginning Band: (FA)** An opportunity for students to perform a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument in a band ensemble. Study includes; care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, ability to read music, building of technical skills, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will learn about the foundation of musical elements, and strengthen musical skills. Percussion students accepted by audition with Ms. Loose only. Providing your own instrument is required. **Concert participation is a requirement. (Percussion class strongly recommended for percussion players)**

**\*Intermediate Symphony-Listed as intermediate band & advanced orchestra: (FA)** An opportunity for students to perform a woodwind, brass, percussion or string instrument in a symphony ensemble. Further develops and refines core concepts and fundamentals introduced in the Beginning Band and Orchestra class. Providing your own instrument is required. **Concert participation is a requirement. (Prerequisite Beginning Band and/or Orchestra) Teacher approval required.**

**\*Orchestra: (FA)** An opportunity for students to perform a string instrument in an orchestra ensemble. Study includes; care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, ability to read music, building of technical skills, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will learn about the foundation of musical elements, and strengthen musical skills. Providing your own instrument is required. **Concert participation is a requirement.**

**Three-Dimensional Art: (FA)** This class will give you the opportunity to explore art composition and learn about different types of art design and styles using a variety of materials.

**\*\* Concert Choir: (FA)** An opportunity for students to perform in a choral ensemble. Study includes; care and cultivation of the vocal instrument, aesthetic awareness, ability to read music, building of technical skills, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will learn about the foundation of musical elements, and strengthen musical skills. **Concert participation is a requirement.**

**\*\*Chamber Choir: (FA)** This is an **advanced audition only choir** where students can improve their choral skills and perform in a choral ensemble. Study includes; care and cultivation of the vocal instrument, aesthetic awareness, ability to read music, building of technical skills, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will strengthen musical skills. **Concert participation is a requirement.**

## Additional Elective Options

**Cardio Games:** Enhancement of fitness skills learned in required physical education course. Students will have the opportunity to improve cardiovascular endurance by participating in a variety of fun games while learning important information about being heart healthy. **This class CANNOT be substituted for Physical Education Class.**

**Civics & Economics:** This course introduces students to the fundamentals of government, law, and civic engagement. Students will explore the U.S. political system, global governments, and key historical events that have shaped politics today. Through debates, simulations, and hands-on activities, students will learn about democracy, the Constitution, elections, the electoral college, and the role of media in politics. The course encourages critical thinking, discussion, and problem-solving, preparing students to understand and engage with the world around them.

**Commercial Art:** The Commercial Art course introduces students to the fundamentals of illustration and animation, preparing them with creative and technical skills relevant to the commercial art industry. Students will develop foundational drawing techniques, including character design, composition, and perspective, before transitioning to digital tools for refinement and animation. They will explore principles of motion, frame-by-frame animation, and storytelling, culminating in a stop-motion animation project that integrates learned skills into a final creative piece. Through individual and group projects, students will build a portfolio showcasing their artistic growth. This course fosters creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration, making it an engaging and valuable addition to the curriculum.

**Computer Science & Coding:** Introduction to learning the fundamentals of Computer Science and coding through fun projects. Learn by doing, become a creator and share with the growing digital community. The students will learn concept loops, logic statements, and input/output along with basic computer knowledge and skills designed to help them wherever they end up in the future. Learn all these skills (no prior knowledge necessary). Also learn important computer usage like where files are located, and how to run a program, etc. Concepts and standards outlined in Sciences, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education.

**Design/Interior Design:** Enables students to explore their creativity in the field of Interior Design. Topics covered: Elements & Principles of Design, floor plan evaluation and scale, architectural features and styles, basic furniture arrangement as well as basic industry codes. Concepts and standards outlined in Sciences, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education.

**Debate:** Everyday life displays a rich dynamics within which we try to think things through to logical conclusions; distinguish between solid arguments, determine the value of claims, and make efforts to figure out what to believe or not to believe based on the evidence that is given; gauge the probability of whether something might or might not occur; and thoughtfully construct arguments to present to others in a variety of situations. The purpose of this course is to make students more skilled in these kinds of everyday reasoning. Part of the course will be focused on understanding the

logical structures of the different types of arguments—for instance, arguments that involve statistical generalizations or ones where we reason to the best explanation-- that we frequently employ in the course of everyday life. We will cover common missteps that people often make in everyday reasoning, including missteps that people make in making judgments based on probability, so that you will be able to better recognize these when you see them and to avoid making them ourselves. We will look at some principles of probability, and how these might be used in making good judgments in situations of uncertainty where risks need to be calculated as best as possible. The course will also involve class group work that will help develop students skills in evaluating and making arguments. Toward the end of the course, we will take a step back and take a critical look at some aspects of critical thinking itself.

**Drawing:** Focuses on black and white rendering from life, pictures, masterworks, and imagination. Learning and practicing drawing techniques along with creative assignments.

**Fashion Apparel and Design:** Explores how fashion influences everyday life and introduces students to the basic sewing techniques. Topics covered: Elements & Principles of Design, history of fashion, textile characteristics and fashion related careers with an emphasis on personal application. This course will develop clothing construction skills including the use of standard sewing machines, reading and using a commercial pattern and basic clothing alterations. Concepts and standards outlined in Sciences, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education.

**Film Analysis:** Discover how stories come to life in both books and films in this engaging and dynamic elective! In Film & Literature, students will explore the relationship between written works and their cinematic adaptations. Through critical analysis, students will examine how filmmakers interpret characters, themes, and settings from the page to the screen. This course includes lively discussions, comparative essays, and creative projects that encourage students to think critically about storytelling across mediums. Students will also have opportunities to create their own storyboards, write reviews, and even adapt short stories into mini film scripts. Whether you're a bookworm, a film buff, or just curious about storytelling, this course is designed to ignite your creativity and deepen your appreciation for the art of narrative. In this class:

- Compare iconic novels, short stories, and plays with their film adaptations.
- Learn about film techniques, such as cinematography, sound, and editing, and how they enhance storytelling.
- Participate in group projects like recreating scenes or reimagining endings.
- End the semester with a showcase of student projects, including reviews, adaptations, and creative presentations.

No prior experience with film or literature analysis is required—just a passion for stories and a curious mind!

**Focus:** Students learn and apply social and academic skills and strategies including organization, time management, stress management, reading strategies, studying strategies, & note taking. Students are required to bring study materials to teacher guided class. ***Teacher recommendation only***

**Food & Nutrition:** Designed to focus on the science of food and nutrition. Experiences will include food safety and sanitation, culinary technology, food preparation and dietary analysis to develop a healthy lifestyle with pathways to career readiness. Laboratory-based experiences

strengthen comprehension of concepts and standards outlined in Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education.

**Forensics:** Designed for students to use scientific reasoning and critical thinking to analyze crime scene investigation including physical and trace evidence, fingerprinting, blood splatter, ballistics, arson, fiber and hair analysis, and more. Whether or not students desire to be crime scene investigators, forensic pathologists, or some other medical scientist, this course will help them hone their investigative skills and review a wide range of scientific concepts.

**\*\*Hope Squad:** a peer leadership group that learns how to help save lives through identifying warning signs, seeking help from adults and providing friendship to all. The purpose of Hope Squad members is not to be a counselor, but rather to listen to others and help them recognize when they need additional help. *Teacher recommendation only*

**History Takes the Stage:** Learn about a variety of musical theater productions which are directly related to history. As we dissect lyrics and stories, we will compare them to the true events of that time period. We might learn about the Founding Fathers through the musicals "1776" and "Hamilton". We might explore the Homestead Act by learning more about the musical "Oklahoma". "Come From Away" will help us better understand the impact Gander had on airline passengers after the 9/11 attacks. Come join me as we embark on this musical trip back into history.

**Journalism/Newspaper:** Create stories and learn to be journalists. Learn to evaluate what you read and create a fun piece of history.

**Keyboarding:** Increase student computer keyboarding skill through drill practice and reinforcement of correct techniques. Students will use word processing software to create, format, and edit personal and business documents. Concepts and standards outlined in Sciences, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education.

**Lego/Robotics 1 & 2:** Students will learn how to build robots, and robot elements to accomplish various tasks. They will apply programming, math, design, and engineering skills to accomplish this. Concepts and standards outlined in Sciences, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education.

**Makerspaces:** Encourages students to use tools and skills to create and creatively solve problems. Involves using technology, tools, materials, and concepts from STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math) subjects in new and exciting ways. Tools and materials are provided for students. Projects include challenges in physics, engineering, design, recycling, programming, and the arts.

**Math Lab 6, 7, 8:** A supplemental math class designed to support students who need additional instruction beyond their Core mathematics course. This course is intended to increase student understanding and achievement by increasing time and intensity on grade level core standards. It will be taught either A or B day. *Teacher recommendation only.*

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understanding and achievement by increasing time and intensity on grade level core standards. It will be taught either A or B day. *Teacher recommendation only. (Support Services)*

**Mythbusters:** Ever wondered if double-dipping really spreads germs? Does toast really always land butter-side down? Can you make a glow stick out of Mountain Dew, vinegar, and baking soda as claimed on the internet? Separating truth from fiction can be tough! In this elective we will endeavor to find the truth as we investigate claims using research and the scientific method. We will also watch episodes of MythBusters as inspiration and to analyze and critique the investigative methods demonstrated on the show.

**Ocean Explorers (The Science of the Sea):** This course explores the mysteries of the oceans, focusing on marine biology, ocean physics, and the environmental science behind marine ecosystems. Students will learn about buoyancy, ocean currents, coral reefs, and the impact of pollution on marine life. Through hands-on experiments like building model submarines to test buoyancy or investigating ocean currents, students will deepen their understanding of how the ocean functions. By creating 3D models of coral reefs and exploring microplastic pollution, students will also study how human activities affect the marine environment.

**Office Aide:** Assists the office in various messenger duties. **(Must have quality grades and citizenship) Elementary & Jr High offices**

**Peer Leadership Team (PLT):** The opportunity to be a leader with the younger students; working with them to create relationships with their peers. Helping younger students learn to be resilient as well as being a role model and a support for elementary students.

**Photography:** Learn how to take captive photographs by using the elements of composition. This class will teach you how to use a camera, how to change the exposure settings, and will apply this knowledge in real life situations.

**Reading 1 & 2:** Provides focused individual skill-specific instruction for students identified with a reading deficiency. Enrollment in the reading class is fluid. Once students build proficiency, they are able to move out of the class into another course offering. This class is taught every day.  
*Teacher recommendation only (General Education)*

**\*\*Spanish 1 & 2:** Elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading and spelling of the specific language. Beginning vocabulary and the culture will also be studied.

**Spanish Culture:** Ever wonder about other countries' cultures and traditions? In these classes you will explore the differences among cultures that speak the Spanish language. Some of the cultures you might dive into include, but are not limited to, Mexican, Chilean, Argentinian, and more! Come learn about the different cultures and get an introduction to the Spanish language with this fun class.

**Stage Tech:** Technical Theatre class will introduce the first year technician to the areas of stagecraft and theatrical production including lights, set, sound, stage management, safety and much more.  
**(Prerequisite Theater 1)**



**\*\*Student Council:** Course designed for students who have been elected to student council to learn leadership skills and provide service for Summit Academy. *Must be elected into office.*

**The Natural and the Supernatural:** Fact, Fiction, or Folklore?

Explore the fascinating world of zoology and venture into the mysterious realms of cryptozoology and extraterrestrial life. In this course, students will investigate the incredible diversity of life on Earth, while examining the legends and lore surrounding creatures like Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, and alien beings. Using scientific principles and critical thinking, we'll separate fact from fiction, uncover the natural history of known animals, and delve into why humans are captivated by the unknown, whether it's a cryptid from the depths of the Earth or an extraterrestrial being from beyond the stars.

**Writing Fiction:** If you've ever dreamed of being an author, or have wanted to write a book this class is perfect for you. You will be learning all about the craft and structure of a story. We will also learn about what it takes to be an author, which includes giving and receiving feedback, extensive revising and editing. Those who choose to will be able to publish a book at the end of the year long course. Be ready to work hard and learn a lot. Students admitted to the course with teacher approval only.

**Yearbook/Multimedia:** Explore different ways of presenting information and visuals, including: printed materials such as brochures and posters, audio products such as podcasts, and a combination of audio and visual such as videos, blogs, and vlogs. We will also take photos of different activities and classes and design the yearbook for the school year. If you like photography, art, and design, this is the class for you!

**Zoology Adventures (Animals and Their Habitats):** In this course, students dive into the biology of animals and the ecosystems they inhabit. By studying animal behavior, food webs, and the adaptations that help animals survive, students will gain a deeper appreciation for wildlife and their habitats. Activities include observing local wildlife, creating habitat models, and designing food webs that show the interconnectedness of ecosystems. This course emphasizes how animals adapt to their environment and how various species rely on one another for survival in complex ecosystems.