

# Island Pacific Academy

Middle School  
Course Catalogue

2010 - 2011



Aloha IPA Middle School Families:

For the 2010 – 2011 school year, the following curricular **choices** are available to students in IPA's Middle School:

- ☑ **Learning Communities:** Learning Communities are structured in ways that are similar to traditional electives, but without formal grades. Instead, Learning Communities will be assessed through student journaling, reflection, and teacher observation. The goal of Learning Communities is to have students experience the thrill of learning for learning's sake in areas in which they possess a curiosity or innate interest. Learning Communities also provide opportunities for students to develop in areas such as self-discipline, critical thinking, and creativity. Please review the attached course catalogue for more information on each Learning Community.
- ☑ **Japanese or Spanish:** Middle school students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be able to choose between the two languages. Sixth grade will have one semester of each language.
- ☑ **Middle School Art:** Middle School students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be able to choose from two media of study: Ceramics and Painting/Drawing. All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will take General Art.
- ☑ **Middle School Music:** Middle School students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be able to choose between Chorus and Instrument. All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will take General Music.
- ☑ **IPA Astronaut Academy:** For 7<sup>th</sup> grade only. Please read the description in the course catalog.

**All other courses will be assigned to students.**

In this packet you will find materials that will assist you and your child in selecting Learning Communities (grades 6-8), Arts (grades 7-8), Music (grades 7-8), and World Languages (grades 7-8) choices for the 2010-2011 school year.

*While we will do everything we can to accommodate your child's request for courses, please know that some choices may not be available due to scheduling conflicts. We ask for your flexibility and willingness to have an open mind to classes that may not be your preference. First priority goes to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, then 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and lastly 6<sup>th</sup> grade.*

Please mail your Course Request Sheet no later than June 8, 2010 to:

Island Pacific Academy  
Attn: Janin Johnston  
909 Haumea St.  
Kapolei, HI 96707

## Learning Community Selections

Please review the Learning Community descriptions below. On your Course Request Sheet, indicate your preferences by placing them in the boxes, Box 1 being the highest preference, Box 3 the lowest. Courses are subject to cancellation depending on enrollment.

All Learning Communities are *open to all students in grades 6 – 8 and are one semester in length, so please select two.*

### **Global Challenge**

“Be the change that you want to see in the world!” ~Mahatma Gandhi

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to develop themselves as leaders locally and globally. Students will participate in a global network of schools linked by a common problem to solve. **(No lab fee or textbook required)**

### **Fiber Art**

Take your imagination to a whole new level! Make a work of art, something functional, or even a gift. This Learning Community will give students the opportunity to create individualized projects using a variety of materials, new and used, natural and man-made. Leather, wire, metal, fabrics, plastics, photographs, and much more. Students will plan, design, and create their own projects with the guiding hand of the teacher. This class will be “tailored” to fit the needs and skills of each student. **(\$30.00 lab fee in lieu of textbooks)**

### **Open Art Studio**

This Learning Community will focus on art production using the various elements and principles of art. Students will be self-directed as they design and complete their projects across various art media. Possible art projects could include personal drawing using pen, pencil, charcoal, or color pencil; painting using watercolor or acrylic; and ceramic wheel or hand built projects. Students will be expected to demonstrate self-motivation in the creation of meaningful works of art. **(\$15.00 lab fee in lieu of textbooks)**

### **Hula**

The purpose of this class is to keep the "Aloha Spirit" (Love of Human Nature) alive. Students will learn the ancient and modern versions of the hula, lei making, implement making, use of hula implements, some language and history, through chant, music and song. This class is designed for the beginner. Students should expect physical movement, footwork, handwork, and singing. **(\$30.00 lab fee in lieu of textbooks)**

### **Martial Arts**

The Martial Arts Learning Community will introduce the students to the basics and fundamentals of Karate. It will include learning the various techniques of punching, kicking, blocking, and exercises. Katas, forms, which are prescribed patterns of movement, and Kumite, sparring, is a way of practicing karate techniques with a partner, will also be taught.

Discipline, respect, and perseverance are the important essentials that will be integrated in this class. **(Required equipment must be purchased: karate gi- uniform and sparring gear. Information on purchase of this equipment will be given in August.)**

### **Robotics**

Join us in the laboratory to learn about the basics of robotics. This course will bring together the sciences of electronics, mechanics, and software. When our students complete this course, they will have a greater understanding of robotics and the future of this fascinating field of science. **(\$40 in lab fee supports class materials and competition)**

### **Digital Photography**

Students will explore the use of the digital camera and PhotoShop software to image the world around them. Building on the Elements & Principles of Design learned in art classes, students will learn to take great digital photographs and enhance them using PhotoShop. We will investigate some of the software's tools as we unleash our creative sides! **(Fee for photo-printing \$25)**

### **Creative Writing, My Way**

This learning community explores creative writing in a personal way. Whether you are interested in writing stories, creating comic books or Manga, developing plays, generating storyboards for digital media, writing songs, exploring poetry, this class will allow you to explore writing in a way that feels right to you.

### **Family Quest**

This learning community will focus on getting to know family members, including the preservation of family memories. Students will go on a quest to discover their family roots and find ways to preserve them by creating their own personal family book. This book can be filled with personal journal entries, memoirs of family members, pictures, and other memorabilia that may be photocopied. In addition, members of the class will be encouraged create a family tree and open communication with family members. This goal may be achieved by writing letters to family, interviews, starting a family blog, or even creating a family Facebook page. The objective of this class is to strengthen family ties and preserving precious memories for the future. Needless to say, family involvement will provide for a richer experience. **(\$10 materials fee)**

**\*PLEASE NOTE: All lab fees and/or textbooks that accompany Learning Communities will be collected in August. More information will follow. Please do NOT send any money with your Course Request Sheet.**

## **Middle School Art Selections**

(Open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade only. Sixth grade will take 6<sup>th</sup> grade Art.)

### **Ceramics I**

This course is designed to provide beginning students experience with wheel-throwing and hand-building techniques. Students will start with turning traditional cylinder forms into functional cups, bowls, and vases. Hand-building projects will vary from making box forms with lids to tea pots and figurative animals. **(\$15.00 lab fee)**

### **Ceramics II**

This course will continue the refinement of traditional hand building and wheel-throwing techniques. Modeling tools will be used more extensively in decoration. Sculpting of larger more highly refined subjects will be required. Students will be encouraged to stretch the limits of clay as a modeling material and explore possibilities outside of the traditional functional work. **(\$15.00 lab fee)**

**(Prerequisite: Completion of Ceramics I with a “Progressing” or higher)**

### **Painting I**

This course is designed to introduce and develop technical and compositional principles of painting using acrylic and watercolor. Students will complete a variety of assignments in both media including still life, portraits, landscapes, and non-objective/abstract painting experiments.

### **Painting II**

This course continues the study of watercolor and acrylic painting started at the end of Painting I. Control of media, washes and mixed media are covered. While students continue to develop their own style, they will also be introduced to the works of artists from Classics, Impressionist, Post-impressionist, Expressionist, Abstract, Contemporary, and others.

**(Prerequisite: Completion of Painting I with a “Progressing” or higher)**

### **Drawing I**

This course is designed to introduce and develop students’ ability to draw using pencil, charcoal, ink, and oil pastels. Students will complete a variety of assignments that will utilize composition, line value, shading, and use of positive and negative space.

### **Drawing II**

This course continues the study of drawing started at the end of Drawing I. Refinement in line, shape, value, texture, and volume will be executed in a variety of media including pencil, charcoal, pastel, ink and watercolor to produce finished drawings on a variety of surfaces. Students are encouraged to develop their own style, and required to produce compositions as “fine” art works.

**(Prerequisite: Completion of Painting I with a “Progressing” or higher)**

## **Middle School Music Selections**

(Choices open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade only. Sixth grade will take 6<sup>th</sup> grade Music.)

### **Chorus**

The Middle School Chorus is designed to advance each student's general music and vocal training. Students will sing music from the Renaissance period to Contemporary in this ensemble, and they will be encouraged to participate in the larger performing arts community (e.g. The Middle School Spring Musical, Honor Choir). This course creates a venue for singers (and prospective singers) to explore and control their vocal mechanisms safely (especially for the boys' changing voice), while experiencing the joy of joining voices harmoniously.

### **Instrument**

This course will provide lessons for various instruments, including piano and guitar. The lessons will be structured for beginning students; although more advanced students will continue their studies in technique, control, and musicianship. Electronic keyboards are provided in the classroom; however, guitar students are expected to provide their own instrument, as the school has few available. Students will learn to accompany themselves while singing, begin (or continue) their fundamentals of music training in a safe, low-pressure, fun environment.

## **World Language Selections**

(Choices are for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades only. Sixth grade will have one semester of each.)

### **Spanish**

This course provides continued focus on vocabulary acquisition, correct grammar, exposure to Hispanic culture, reading, writing, listening, and speaking in the Spanish language.

### **Japanese**

This course is for students with no prior knowledge of the Japanese language. Students will learn through a functional approach that emphasizes communication skills in everyday life, such as family, peer relations, and social customs in the country and culture of the target language. A variety of exercises and activities designed with an emphasis on using the language will help students become proficient in listening, speaking, reading and writing at an entry level. Students will learn the 46 *hiragana* characters and 46 *katakana* characters. Approximately 40 *kanji* characters will be introduced. Only twenty slots are available for this course.

## **Science Selections** (*Open to 7<sup>th</sup> grade ONLY*)

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science**

Students will investigate the influence of physics on our daily lives as we explore power grids, roller coasters, and flight. Students will have the opportunity to gain skills and content

through inquiry, hands-on investigations, and research. Students will demonstrate their knowledge through a variety of projects.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Integrated Science and Math – Island Pacific Astronaut Academy**

***This is a new pilot course. Students in this course will be working with a NASA satellite.***

In this exciting new class, students will be trained as astronauts. The focus of our training will be math, physics and astronomy. In order to become astronauts we need to study data analysis, algebra readiness, probability, number theory, forces and motion, and planetary and stellar science. Whether you want to be a doctor or a journalist, a scientist or a senator, science and math applies to YOU. The exploration of the universe has only just begun and new findings could change our lives. We use physics and math everyday in everything we do whether we take a car to school, use a computer, or play sports.

Over the year we will answer the following questions:

- What is the relationship between energy, space and time?
- What do we know about the universe?
- How do math, physics, and astronomy influence your life?