



Course Syllabus

Course Title: Leadership Academy (6-8)

School Year: 2024-2025

Semester(s): 1 and 2

Grade Level(s): 6, 7, 8

Course Day(s) and Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm PST

Teacher Information:

- **Name:** Elizabeth Rydall
- **Email:** Elizabeth.rydall@brancheslearning.org
- **Office Hours:** By appointment only
- **Branches Learning Main Office Number:** (323) 955-0114

Class Materials: <https://brancheslearning.org/product/leadership-academy/#Materials>

Course Description: Middle School Leadership nurtures fundamental leadership abilities through engaging activities, collaborative projects, growing empathy, and meaningful discussions. Participants will delve into crucial topics like communication, teamwork, problem-solving, decision-making, goal-setting, time management, and study skills. By honing these skills, students will gain self-awareness, empathy, and resilience, empowering them to lead effectively within their school and community. This course provides a supportive atmosphere where students can cultivate their potential, inspire peers, and make a positive difference in their immediate environment and beyond.

This course complements students' other courses and helps them build lifelong skills.

Course Units

Unit 1: What does leadership mean to me?

Unit 2: The Six Hats and Problem Solving and an Open Mind

Unit 3: The Nova Effect

Unit 4: Atomic Habits

Unit 5: World Class Work

Unit 6: Synchronization

Unit 7: Above and Beyond

Course Expectations:

Be on time, be prepared and always come to class. Have your camera on and be willing to discuss, debate and grow.

Assignments will often be linked to other school work, so proof of the application will be needed.

Grading Scale

Middle School, Grades 6-8

- A = 90% -100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 0%-59%

Final grades are determined by the quality and completion of assignments, attendance, and participation.

Important Branches Learning Policy Information

Camera Policy

Branches Learning requires students to keep their cameras on during live classes unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Exceptions can be made in rare circumstances if the course teacher, supervising teacher (HST), and the parent all approve a camera waiver.

Headset Policy

Students attending live classes from a shared space must have a headset with a microphone to ensure the class is not disrupted by background noise.

Attendance Policy

Absences must be reported to the course instructor via email or sent to info@brancheslearning.org. Class recordings are available upon requests.

Attendance and participation are part of the final grade. Students who miss more than 40% of live classes may fail the course. Exceptions may be made if a pre-approved plan is in place.

Late Work

Assignments turned in after the due date will result in a lower grade unless pre-approved by the instructor.