

White Bear Lake Area Schools



2019-20
Registration Guide
Grades 6 through 8





Dear White Bear Lake Area Middle School families,

Middle school is an exciting time in White Bear lake. We offer students the opportunity to explore a variety of classes such as choir, band, orchestra, art, health, FACS, physical education, Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and Chinese, French, German or Spanish as their world language. Students also take core classes including math, language arts, science and social studies. Our goal is for all students to have enriching and inspiring experiences during their years with us. Both Central and Sunrise Park Middle School staff members dedicate themselves to challenging students with engaging curriculum, encouraging them to take pride in their work and stressing the importance of getting involved in the middle school community.

Our most successful students get involved in both academic and extracurricular programs. These experiences are invaluable. We encourage parents and students to read this registration guide, talk with teachers and use our counselors as resources. Making informed decisions now will help ensure success into the future. We look forward to seeing you in the upcoming school year.

Christina Pierre, Ed. D.
Principal
Sunrise Park Middle School

Tim Schochenmaier
Principal
Central Middle School

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*Leading minds to learning,
hearts to compassion,
and lives to community service.*



LUS CEEB TOOM!

Yog koj xav tau daim ntawv no txhais ua lus Hmoob, thov hu rau
(651) 407-7623.

ATENCIÓN:

Si usted necesita hablar con una persona que hable Español, por favor,
llame al (651) 407-7625.

Contact Information

CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
General Information	651-653-2888	
Tim Schochenmaier, Principal	651-653-2886	timothy.schochenmaier@isd624.org
Bob Brewer, Associate Principal	651-653-2890	bob.brewer@isd624.org
Lori Mosser, Dean of Students	651-407-7604	lori.mosser@isd624.org
Karen Schmitz, Counselor	651-653-2883	karen.schmitz@isd624.org
Jill Bristow, Counselor	651-407-7659	jill.bristow@isd624.org
Calli Moreau, Counselor	651-653-2882	calli.moreau@isd624.org
Erika Kelly-Kennedy, School Psychologist	651-653-2739	erika.kelly-kennedy@isd624.org
SUNRISE PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
General Information	651-653-2700	
Christina Pierre, Principal	651-653-2743	christina.pierre@isd624.org
Matt Menier, Associate Principal	651-653-2709	matt.menier@isd624.org
Dr. Hala Asamarai, Dean of Students	651-653-2708	hala.asamarai@isd624.org
Erika Heltner, Counselor	651-653-2724	erika.heltner@isd624.org
Sarah Fuhrman, Social Worker	651-653-2710	sarah.fuhrman@isd624.org
Janeen Kuemmel, Social Worker	651-653-2711	janeen.kuemmel@isd624.org
Stephanie Tollison, Psychologist	651-653-2712	stephanie.tollison@isd624.org

Explore Your Options IN MIDDLE SCHOOL



Welcome to Middle School

Middle school is a time of great excitement, growth, and discovery. Students look forward to middle school because it means they are growing up and gaining independence. At the same time, the transition to middle school can be daunting. Students may be apprehensive about meeting new people, getting lost in a larger school building, or having a hard time with locker combinations. We work hard to make sure that your child feels at home in a safe, comfortable learning environment when they join our schools.

HELPING ALL STUDENTS SUCCEED

- English Learner (EL) programs are available for students who are learning English.
- Special Education services are available for students with special needs.
- Before and after school programs are available for students who need help with homework or with understanding their coursework.
- Support groups are available to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of students.



CURRICULUM

- The middle school curriculum is designed to meet the interests and abilities of students. It is a rigorous curriculum with high standards designed to meet the unique needs of each individual student.
- A variety of elective classes are available: Art, Health, FACS (Family and Consumer Science), Tech Ed, Band, Orchestra, Choir, Phy Ed, World Language, etc.
- Test scores and teacher recommendations are used to place students into 6th grade mathematics courses that are appropriate for their individual achievement levels.
- Six levels of math are available, including algebra, geometry, and algebra II.
- Students who need more help in basic skills may be assigned an additional math or reading course.
- Enriched classes are available in math and language arts for grade 6, and math, language arts, and social studies for grades 7 and 8. All students may choose to enroll in enriched courses. Successful students will typically have advanced standardized test scores. More specific information about MAP test scores are noted in the course descriptions.
- PLTW (Project Lead the Way) Gateway To Technology (GTT) is a middle school program designed to help students explore math, science, and technology. PLTW is an activities, project, and problem-based learning program designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity of middle school students. Students who continue on with PLTW at the high school are able to earn college credit.



HOME BASE/ADVISORY

- Students meet daily with a teacher who is their advisor. A variety of activities are planned during this period:
- Teachers monitor students' academic progress and may check student planners.
- Students have time for reading, math, games, academic enrichment activities and career exploration.
- Students experience lessons focused on social and emotional learning.

ACTIVITIES

Middle school students are encouraged to get involved in activities outside the school day. This is a great time to try out a new sport, club, or hobby.

- Students can work on volunteering and leadership by participating in student council, service club, or the WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) mentoring program.
- A variety of athletic programs are offered through the District's community education program including cross country, tennis, volleyball, football, wrestling, and track and field.
- White Bear Lake Area Schools have a strong archery club program that has been successful at the state and national level.
- Students are invited to participate in extra-curricular activities such as jazz band, art club, or the musical.
- Future journalists and photographers can work with the yearbook or newspaper.
- Students compete with other middle schools through the math team and various class-related competitions such as geography bee and history day.
- Throughout the year, after-school groups meet for chess club, scrapbooking, Xbox tournaments, gym rats, rocket club, and book club.



RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION

The White Bear Lake middle schools strive to provide support for students across the continuum of learning. One such example of these student-specific supports are the science, math, and reading intervention classes offered as a part of our Response to Intervention (RtI) framework. These small group courses are offered across all grade levels six through eight, either as a replacement for a regular class or as an additional course that takes the place of an elective course. Participation in courses is by invitation only; the RtI lead and/or school counselors will contact the families of students who meet the entrance criteria for these classes.

KEEPING PARENTS INFORMED

Parents are an integral part of the formula for student success. In order to work as a team, every effort is made to provide parents with timely, accurate information.

- Each school has a website that provides updates on important information including calendars of upcoming events and activities.
- Principals and teachers utilize the “SchoolMessenger” system for automated phone calls to parents about major school issues, upcoming events, and unique opportunities for parents and students.
- Most middle school students carry a planner that helps them keep track of important dates and school work.
- Secondary schools use a web-based Skyward “Family Access” program to provide students and parents with up to the minute information about upcoming homework, grades, attendance, and discipline.
- Schoology is a learning management system and social network that makes it easy to create and share academic content. The Schoology system gives instructors, students, and parents free access to manage classes, grades, assignments and more.
- Google Classroom is an organization tool for teachers and students. Teachers may use Google Classroom to assign and distribute online assignments that use Google Docs.

Planning Information

Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Can I change my music, world language, or electives during the year?

Students are expected to stay with their choices for the entire school year.

What classes will I have?

Students will take Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, and Science. Students also take elective courses, which include FACS (Family and Consumer Science), Physical Education, Health, Technology Education, Band, Orchestra, Choir, Art, and World Languages.

What must I do if I want to play a band instrument?

All fifth grade students will receive a Beginning Band Brochure in March. The brochure includes information about the process of selecting a band instrument, the summer beginning band program and other topics. Interested students, along with their parents, will be scheduled for an interview with the middle school band director to determine what instrument will be best suited for them. These interviews usually take place in early April.

Why do we have to make selections beyond our top requests?

We have students rank their requests in case there are conflicts with their individual schedules. In the majority of cases, students do receive their top choices. Sometimes we may need to use alternate choices when specific demands on a student's schedule are made.



I did not take band or orchestra in 6th or 7th grade, may I take it for the following year?

Yes, band and orchestra are open to everyone interested; however, you must obtain instructor approval to take band or orchestra in 7th or 8th grade because it builds upon skills learned in 6th and 7th grade.

Can I take a different language each year?

In order to build fluency, it is recommended that students pick a language that they intend to stay with for three years.

What are enriched classes and how are students placed?

Enriched classes use an accelerated curriculum. Students are placed into advanced math classes using a variety of data, including test scores, grades, and teacher recommendations. Students are able to choose enriched Language Arts in sixth grade, and enriched Social Studies and Language Arts in seventh and eighth grade.

Planning Information

Secondary Planning Chart

GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts
Math	Math	Math
Physical Science	Life Science	Earth Science
Minnesota History, World Language	U.S. History	Geography
Phy Ed, Music Elective	Phy Ed, Art or Music	Phy Ed, Art or Music
Art, FACS, Health, Design & Modeling I	Health, Design & Modeling II, World Language	World Language; FACS, Manufacturing Ed., Automation & Robotics, or Visual Media Art and Design 8
GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11
Language Arts	Language Arts	Language Arts
Math	Math	Math
Science	Science	Science
Phy Ed/Health, Geography	US History	World History
Two Electives	Two Electives	Two Electives
GRADE 12	<i>* Students must take at least 1/2 credit in the Arts and an additional 1/2 credit in Health, Phy Ed or the Arts during grades 9-12.</i>	
Language Arts		
Government/Economics, Phy Ed/Health, Elective		

Programs Available in White Bear Lake Area High School

PROGRAM	EXPLANATION	ADVANTAGES	CONSIDERATIONS
AP (Advanced Placement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College curriculum Rigorous Nationally recognized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May receive college credit Develops higher-level thinking skills Weighted GPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must take AP exam to receive college credit Above average ability in reading, writing and math
CIS (College in the Schools)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U of M college curriculum Challenging Grades 11-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May receive college credit at the U of M Weighted GPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top 20 percent of class recommended Must receive C or higher to get college credit
H (Honors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faster paced More in-depth Grades 9 through 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good preparation for college/university study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rigorous Requires more work
CLEP (College Level Examination Program)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take tests at university CLEP Centers Earn college credit by passing test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saves time when you get to college Allows student to skip general level courses Saves money at college 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test fee is approximately \$70 Not all universities accept the credit
PLTW (Project Lead The Way)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rigorous Nationally recognized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College credits Good preparation for college Weighted GPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires more work Rigorous
Vo-Tech (NE Metro Vo-Tech)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocational programming at Century College through Intermediate District 916 Offers Vo-Tech programs not offered at most high schools Available to juniors and seniors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore career options Courses offered on college campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus transportation required from WBLAHS - South Campus Takes two periods of school day

Course Selection

alphabetized subjects	page
Arts (Art & Music), Grade 6	6
Arts (Art & Music), Grade 7	9
Arts (Art & Music), Grade 8	12
AVID, Grade 6	6
AVID, Grade 7	9
AVID, Grade 8	12
English Learner Program, Grades 6-8	15
Family & Consumer Science (FACS) 6	7
Family & Consumer Science (FACS) 8	12
Language Arts, Grade 6	7
Language Arts, Grade 7	10
Language Arts, Grade 8	13
Mathematics, Grade 6	7
Mathematics, Grade 7	10
Mathematics, Grade 8	13
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Physical & Health Education, Grade 7	10
Physical & Health Education, Grade 8	13
Science, Grade 6	8
Science, Grade 7	11
Science, Grade 8	13
Social Studies, Grade 6	8
Social Studies, Grade 7	11
Social Studies, Grade 8	13
Technology Education, Grade 6	8
Technology Education, Grade 7	11
Technology Education, Grade 8	14
World Language, Grades 6-8	15

Course Selection

by grade level

GRADE 6

ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION (AVID)

AVID 6 (year)

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an elective course for students in the academic middle who have the desire and determination to prepare for admission to four-year colleges and universities. The elective class provides students with the academic and motivational support to succeed in rigorous courses. The AVID curriculum teaches higher-level reading, writing, organizational and study skills. Two days per week in AVID class, students are coached by trained college tutors, and work collaboratively in groups with curriculum focused on writing and inquiry. The course also includes motivational presentations by guest speakers and field trips to college campuses.

ARTS

Art 6 (quarter)

Start a beginner, leave an artist! This intro course focuses on the elements of art, which are the building blocks for all art production. The format of this class allows you to learn a variety of art basics and materials, some examples may include still life painting, contour drawing, found object sculptures, collage, clay pinch pots and more! This class will teach you the secret to being able to draw anything using tricks to jump start the creative part of your brain. The class includes a variety of activities including group work, games and experimentation with different materials and projects.

Band 6 (year - every other day - elective)

Playing a band instrument and being a part of the WBL band program can be a fun and rewarding experience that has many long-term benefits. Band instruction in the White Bear Lake Area Schools begins the summer before sixth grade. Students must participate in a two-week summer band lesson program so that they are prepared to be in Band 6 in the fall. The summer band lesson program is tentatively scheduled for mid-August. Additional information including dates for summer lessons and band registration materials will be distributed to 5th grade students sometime in January.

Choir 6 (year - every other day - elective)

Choir students learn and practice healthy vocal techniques, including proper use of breath and care of the voice. Members of the choir also practice good musicianship including self-discipline, reading music, development of sight-singing skills and correct concert behavior as performer and listener. Students apply these skills while learning and preparing a variety of musical styles from many cultures. Participation in choir requires two or three evening performances throughout the school year.

Music Enrichment 6

(year - every other day - elective)

This course will focus on studying the elements of music (melody, harmony, dynamics, tone color, tempo, pitch, rhythm, texture, duration and form). These elements will be applied in analyzing music, composers, and cultural backgrounds. This course will also include the study of various musical styles and music history.

Orchestra 6

(year - every other day - elective)

Orchestra is another way for students to learn a musical instrument. Participation in sixth grade orchestra involves a full group rehearsal every other day, a small group lesson once every six to eight school days, consistent practice time at home each week and participation in two or three evening concerts throughout the school year. Students must have previous orchestra experience or receive permission from the music department before registering.

ENGLISH LEARNER (EL) PROGRAM

See page 15.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (FACS)

FACS 6 (quarter)

This course introduces students to aspects of food and nutrition. Students will explore nutrition through nutrient research and food preparation. By applying their nutrient knowledge students will be able to use the nutrition label to make informed consumer decisions. Students will analyze and apply healthy lifestyles. The Big Foot Pillow Project will be constructed through the skills of technical reading and basic sewing skills.



LANGUAGE ARTS

Enriched Language Arts 6 (year)

Literature, writing, speaking, and listening skills are developed over the course of this class. The content of the course focuses on fiction and nonfiction reading skills and strategies

as well as vocabulary building and comprehension skills. Students are required to read independently on a daily basis. Writing requirements for sixth grade include a response to literature, descriptive writing, poetry, and oral presentations. Students also work on spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation skills. In Enriched Language Arts class, students move through rigorous coursework at a faster pace. These courses explore texts that are complex and written at a comprehension level several grades above the average.

A MAP reading score of 216 or above is recommended.

Language Arts 6 (year)

Literature, writing, speaking, and listening skills are developed over the course of this class. The content of the course focuses on fiction and nonfiction reading skills and strategies as well as vocabulary building and comprehension skills. Students are required to read independently on a daily basis. Writing requirements for sixth grade include a response to literature, descriptive writing, poetry, and oral presentations. Students also work on spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation skills.

MATHEMATICS

Advanced Math 6

(invitation only, year)

Students will investigate and explore fraction operation, two- and three-dimensional measurement, rational numbers, similarity, proportional reasoning, rate, ratio and percent, integers, exponents, variables, equations, linear relationships, and probability. Emphasis will be placed on learning algebra and geometry topics using graphs, tables, equations, and written explanations. Students who complete Advanced Math 6 will take Algebra I in 7th grade.

Algebra I (Advanced Math)

Grade 6 (invitation only, year)

This course will focus on high-level algebraic concepts while working with real data, real-life situations and real-world applications. Topics include statistics, proportional reasoning, linear relationships, systems of equations and inequalities, exponential relationships, functions, and quadratic relationships. Students who complete Algebra I will take Geometry in 7th grade.

Math 6 (year)

During the year students will investigate and explore the following topics: number theory, data analysis, two- and three-dimensional geometry, ratios, proportions, integers, rational numbers (including fractions, decimals and percents), and probability. Emphasis will be placed on communicating mathematically using graphs, tables, formulas, calculations, and written explanations. Students who complete Math 6 will take Math 7 in 7th grade.

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Personal Health 6 (quarter)

Students will examine the influence of family, peers and media on health, decisions, and behavior. They will utilize resources to access valid health information. Students will examine healthy and unhealthy relationships and learn to manage stress and conflict. They will use the decision making process to reach health goals and positively influence others' choices.

Physical Education 6 (year - every other day)

Physical education for sixth grade students consists of individual activities, rhythms/dance, group/team activities, and outdoor educational activities. Health-related physical fitness and wellness activities are promoted and supported throughout the curriculum.

SCIENCE

Science 6: Physical Science (year)

In this course, the students will be introduced to the scientific process, science laboratory equipment and metric measurement. Students will learn about the properties of matter, magnetism, static electricity, force and motion, properties of light and sound, and energy transformations. The engineering process will be introduced throughout these units of study.



SOCIAL STUDIES

Minnesota History 6 (semester- every day)

In this course students will study Minnesota history using the Northern Lights textbook and a variety of other sources. This course covers Minnesota from pre-statehood through today. This course has been designed to capture the interests of middle school students by relating the stories of previous Minnesotans. Students taking this required course will learn that history is the process of uncovering and interpreting evidence. They will examine historical documents of all types and learn to compare and analyze data from maps, images, and text.



TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

The Gateway To Technology® (GTT) cutting-edge program is part of the nationally adopted *Project Lead the Way* (PLTW) curriculum. This program addresses the interest and energy of middle school students while incorporating national standards in mathematics, science, and technology. GTT is “activity oriented” to show students how technology is used in engineering to solve everyday problems in units of study. There are currently five instructional units that excite and motivate students to use their imaginations and teach them to be creative and innovative, while gaining the skills they need to develop, produce, and use products and services. White Bear Lake schools were recognized as a PLTW school of excellence by the State of Minnesota.

Design and Modeling I (quarter)

Students will design and create projects such as sailboats, dragsters, and magnetic levitation vehicles. Each student will become familiar with the computer software program *Autodesk Inventor* and will learn basic CAD (computer aided drawing) skills and experience how we use engineering skills to solve everyday problems. This is a rigorous curriculum that incorporates national STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) standards into our technology classroom. Students will be required to demonstrate their abilities to use computer programs such as Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. Basic skills in page formatting, spread sheets, layering, copying, pasting and networking will also be covered during the quarter.

WORLD LANGUAGE

See page 15.

GRADE 7

ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION (AVID)

AVID 7 (year)

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an elective course for students in the academic middle who have the desire and determination to prepare for admission to four-year colleges and universities. The elective class provides students with the academic and motivational support to succeed in rigorous courses. The AVID curriculum teaches higher-level reading, writing, organizational and study skills. Two days per week in AVID class, students are coached by trained college tutors, and work collaboratively in groups with curriculum focused on writing and inquiry. The course also includes motivational presentations by guest speakers and field trips to college campuses.

ARTS

Art 7 (elective, year - every other day)

What is the truth behind Vincent Van Gogh's ear? Did Frida Kahlo really have a unibrow? What was art's impact during World War II and the Holocaust? Art has many different types and styles and in this course you will get a taste of everything. Some projects we may do in 7th grade include: paper mache masks, printmaking, realistic drawing, abstract painting, clay grotesque faces, and photography. In addition to projects, we will explore the interesting and sometimes controversial lives of artists through group work, fun practice projects, games, debating about art topics and other engaging activities.



Band 7

(elective, year - every other day)

Participation in seventh grade band involves a full group rehearsal every other day, a small group lesson once every six to eight school days, consistent practice time at home each week and participation in two or three evening concerts throughout the school year. Students must have previous band experience or receive permission from a band instructor before registering.

Choir 7

(elective, year - every other day)

Choir students learn and practice healthy vocal techniques including proper use of breath and care of the voice. Members of the choir also practice good musicianship including self-discipline, reading music, development of sight-singing skills and correct concert behavior as performer and listener. Students apply these skills while learning and preparing a variety of musical styles from many cultures. Participation in choir requires two or three evening performances throughout the school year.

Orchestra 7

(elective, year - every other day)

Orchestra is another way for students to learn a musical instrument. Participation in seventh grade orchestra involves a full group rehearsal every other day, a small group lesson once every six to eight school days, consistent practice time at home each week and participation in two or three evening concerts throughout the school year. Students must have previous orchestra experience or receive permission from the music department before registering.

ENGLISH LEARNER (EL) PROGRAM

See page 15.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Enriched Language Arts 7 (year)

This course further develops reading, writing, and speaking skills. Reading strategies include: topic, main idea, supporting details, fact and opinion, inferences and drawing conclusions, author's purpose, point of view, and word study. Units in this course use literature as a way to make connections with American history. Students are required to read independently on a daily basis. In addition to reading, students will enhance their writing skills through essays. The writing curriculum requires students to complete various pieces of writing including a large scale research project. In Enriched Language Arts class, students move through rigorous coursework at a faster pace. These courses explore texts that are complex and written at a comprehension level several grades above the average. **A MAP reading score of 223 or above is recommended.**

Language Arts 7 (year)

This course further develops reading, writing, and speaking skills. Reading strategies include: topic, main idea, supporting details, fact and opinion, inferences and drawing conclusions, author's purpose, point of view, and word study. Students are required to read independently on a daily basis. In addition to reading, students will enhance their writing skills through essays. The writing curriculum requires students to complete a personal narrative, a compare/contrast essay, and a research report. Speaking components include large and small group discussions as well as formal and informal presentations.



MATHEMATICS

Algebra I (Advanced Math) Grade 7 (year)

This course will focus on high-level algebraic concepts while working with real data, real-life situations and real-world applications. Topics include statistics, proportional reasoning, linear relationships, systems of equations and inequalities, exponential relationships, functions, and quadratic relationships. Students that complete Algebra I will take Geometry in 8th grade.

Geometry (Advanced Math) Grade 7 (year)

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Emphasis in this course is on developing a strong understanding of geometry through hands on exploration and the use of technology. Topics include reasoning in geometry, using tools of geometry, triangle properties, polygon properties, circle properties, transformations and tessellations, area, volume, Pythagorean Theorem, right triangle trigonometry, similarity, congruence, and proof. Students that complete Geometry will take Algebra II in 8th grade.

Math 7 (year)

During the year, students will investigate and explore rational numbers, similarity, proportional reasoning, rates, ratios, percents, integers, exponents, variables, surface area and volume, linear relationships, and probability. Emphasis will be placed on communicating mathematically using graphs, tables, formulas, and written explanations. Students that complete Math 7 will take Math 8/Algebra I in 8th grade.

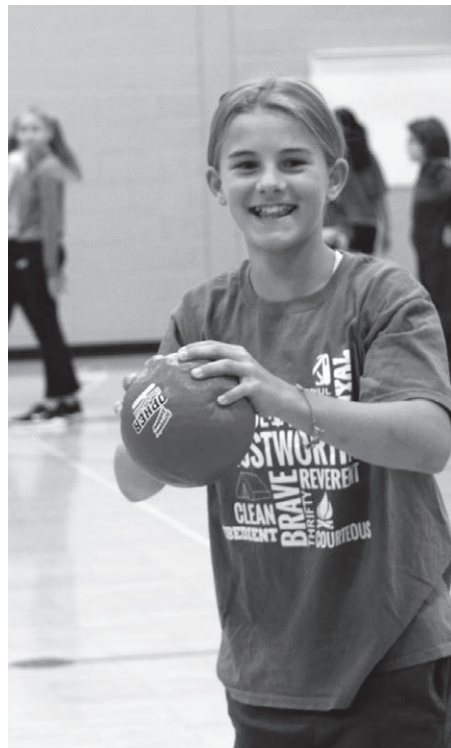
PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Personal Health 7 (quarter - every day)

Students will examine causes and prevention of health problems and will compare health products and services. Students will examine the influence of culture and technology on health and personal goals. Students will also examine the consequences of decisions and healthy behavior and will improve their interpersonal communication skills. They will analyze health information and opinions and work cooperatively to advocate for health.

Physical Education 7 (year - every other day)

Physical education for seventh grade consists of individual/dual activities, rhythms/dance, group/team activities, and outdoor educational activities. Health-related physical fitness and wellness are promoted and supported throughout the curriculum.





SCIENCE

Life Science 7 (year)

In this course, students will continue to use the scientific process, the engineering process, metric measurement, and science laboratory equipment. Students will continue their exploration of matter and will learn about cells, animals, human anatomy, genetics, disease, and ecology. Students will have additional projects and be given additional opportunities for furthering their science knowledge in conjunction with the science curriculum.



SOCIAL STUDIES

Enriched U.S. History 7 (year)

In addition to the curriculum requirements of U.S. History 7, students who choose to take this advanced course will work at a faster pace, do more research, critical thinking, and will be required to actively participate in rich classroom discussion. There will be more essay writing, research projects, and involvement in academic competitions such as National History Day.

U.S. History 7 (year)

This course explores topics from 1800 through the early 2000's. Students will explore a wide range of historical documents, images, maps, and text. A key component of this course is critical thinking and analysis. Students will expand their knowledge base, build critical thinking and processing skills, internalize beliefs/values, and build awareness of social participation while living in a democratic republic. Students will extend their knowledge and skills by participating in National History Day.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

The Gateway To Technology® (GTT) cutting-edge program is part of the nationally adopted *Project Lead the Way* (PLTW) curriculum. This program addresses the interest and energy of middle school students while incorporating national standards in mathematics, science, and technology. GTT is "activity oriented" to show students how technology is used in engineering to solve everyday problems in units of study. There are currently five instructional units that excite and motivate students to use their imaginations and teach them to be creative and innovative, while gaining the skills they need to develop, produce, and use products and services. White Bear Lake schools were recognized as a PLTW school of excellence by the State of Minnesota.

Design and Modeling II (quarter - every day)

Students will continue in the nationally recognized PLTW (Project Lead the Way) pre-engineering curriculum. This is a rigorous curriculum designed to include all of the required national technology standards with plenty of applied science and mathematical concepts. Hands-on project work with emphasis on using the Autodesk Inventor Software program, and animation and exploded assembly work will give each student skills above those in a typical CAD drawing program. By showing and doing, this course focuses on using engineering skills to solve everyday problems. Students will have the opportunity to manufacture projects that they design and create.

WORLD LANGUAGE

See page 15.

GRADE 8

ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION (AVID)

AVID 8 (year)

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an elective course for students in the academic middle who have the desire and determination to prepare for admission to four-year colleges and universities. The elective class provides students with the academic and motivational support to succeed in rigorous courses. The AVID curriculum teaches higher-level reading, writing, organizational and study skills. Two days per week in AVID class, students are coached by trained college tutors and work collaboratively in groups with curriculum focused on writing and inquiry. The course also includes motivational presentations by guest speakers and field trips to college campuses.

ARTS

Art 8

(elective, year - every other day)

Get your hands dirty in 8th grade art! Some projects you may get the opportunity to make are plaster casts of your hand, pastel landscapes, charcoal people drawing, wire sculptures, realistic drawings, paintings of some of your favorite items, cartoon and comic book design and much more! During this class you will focus on the materials you are working with (media), what your project is about (subject matter) and how these two things work together to make incredible art.



Visual Media Art and Design 8 (elective, semester - every day)

Is it a great photo...or is it a result of Photoshop? If you are ready to put down the pencil and move into 21st century art techniques, this is the class for you! You will be using tablets to create amazing digital artwork like movie making, digital photo editing, graphic design and logo creation, posters, photography and so much more. From online portfolios to group critiques of electronic images, you will be plugged in to the latest in digital media technology.

Band 8

(elective, year - every other day)

Participation in eighth grade band involves a full group rehearsal every other day, a small group lesson every six to eight school days, consistent practice time at home each week and participation in two or three evening concerts through-out the year. Students must have previous band experience or receive permission from a band instructor.

Orchestra 8

(elective, year - every other day)

Orchestra is another way for students to learn a musical instrument. Participation in seventh grade orchestra involves a full group rehearsal every other day, a small group lesson once every six to eight school days, consistent practice time at home each week and participation in two or three evening concerts throughout the school year. Students must have previous orchestra experience or receive permission from the music department before registering.

Choir 8

(elective, year - every other day)

Choir students learn and practice healthy vocal techniques, including proper use of breath and care of the voice. Members of the choir also practice good musicianship including self-discipline, reading music, development of sight-singing skills and correct concert behavior as performer and listener. Students apply these skills while learning and preparing a variety of musical styles from many cultures. Participation in choir requires two or three evening performances throughout the school year.

ENGLISH LEARNER (EL) PROGRAM

See page 15.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (FACS)

FACS 8

(elective, semester - every day)

This course places an emphasis on food choices which promote a healthy lifestyle through the exploration of preparation skills. Focus will be placed on current trends in food and nutrition. Additionally, students will learn how to make spending decisions in order to be more informed consumers as well as how to investigate various careers and job-seeking skills. This course also explores the use of technology and design elements to create sewing projects.



LANGUAGE ARTS

Enriched Language Arts (year)

This course concentrates on reading, speaking, writing, and critical thinking. Students accomplish this through the use of analyzing and evaluating and discussion. Students will apply advanced skills in analysis. Students will also be expected to read and write above grade level. In addition, students can expect an increased workload in reading and writing through rigorous coursework. In Enriched Language Arts class, students move through rigorous coursework at a faster pace. These courses explore texts that are complex and written at a comprehension level several grades above the average.

A MAP reading score of 226 or above is recommended.

Language Arts 8 (year)

This course continues to reinforce the skills introduced in grades 6 and 7 by concentrating on units that incorporate theme-based fiction and nonfiction reading. Students will concentrate on various styles of writing, expanding vocabulary, and enhancing grammar and speaking skills. Students will complete a persuasive research paper and a literary analysis. The literature curriculum consists of assigned and student-selected novels and short stories. Students are also expected to read independently outside of class.

MATHEMATICS

Algebra II (Advanced Math)

Grade 8 (year)

Prerequisite: Geometry

This course will focus on high-level algebraic concepts while working with real-life situations and real-world applications. Topics include: describing data, linear models and systems, functions and transformation, exponential functions, power functions, logarithmic functions, matrices, quadratic functions, rational functions, applications of probability and statistics.

Geometry (Advanced Math)

Grade 8 (year)

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Emphasis in this course is on developing a strong understanding of geometry through hands on exploration and the use of technology. Topics include reasoning in geometry, using tools of geometry, triangle properties, polygon properties, circle properties, transformations and tessellations, area, volume, Pythagorean Theorem, right triangle trigonometry, similarity, congruence, and proof.

Math/Algebra 8 (year)

Students will investigate and explore an introduction to functions, scientific notation, Pythagorean Theorem, irrational numbers, linear relationships, exponential relationships, quadratic relationships, systems of equations, solving equations, and algebraic properties. Emphasis will be placed on communicating mathematically using algebra through graphs, tables, equations, and written explanations.

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION

Physical Education 8

(year - every other day)

Physical education for eighth grade consists of individual/dual activities, rhythms/dance, group/team activities, and outdoor educational activities. Health-related physical fitness and wellness are promoted and supported throughout the curriculum.

SCIENCE

Earth Science 8 (year)

Students will continue to use the scientific process, the engineering process, metric measurement and science laboratory equipment. Students will continue their exploration of matter and learn about rocks, minerals, landforms, erosion, plate tectonics, weather, environmental concerns, and space. Students will have additional projects and be given additional opportunities for furthering their science knowledge in conjunction with the science curriculum.



SOCIAL STUDIES

Enriched World Geography 8 (year)

In addition to the World Geography 8 curriculum, students study global current event articles and perform additional research projects. There will be in-depth student work comparing the geographic, cultural, and political structures around the world. Students who choose this course will work at a faster pace and will be expected to actively participate in rich classroom discussion.

World Geography 8 (year)

This course presents the interdisciplinary approach, relating physical geography to the economic, political, social, historical, and cultural aspects of human activity. Every cultural region of the world is studied with an emphasis on global awareness, interdependence, change, and the need for cooperation among people of all nations. Students will develop skills in map reading, map making, and the collection and analysis of factual information. Global current events are introduced which will enlarge the students' knowledge and awareness as well as set the foundation for future reading, study, and investigation.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

The Gateway To Technology® (GTT) cutting-edge program is part of the nationally adopted *Project Lead the Way* (PLTW) curriculum. This program addresses the interest and energy of middle school students while incorporating national standards in mathematics, science, and technology. GTT is “activity oriented” to show students how technology is used in engineering to solve everyday problems in units of study. There are currently five instructional units that excite and motivate students to use their imaginations and teach them to be creative and innovative, while gaining the skills they need to develop, produce, and use products and services. White Bear Lake schools were recognized as a PLTW school of excellence by the State of Minnesota.



Automation and Robotics 8 (semester - every day)

In this exciting curriculum, students trace the history and development of automation and robotics. Today’s robotics increase factory and manufacturing capabilities, assist in public safety and surveillance, plus play a vital role in the military and medical fields. Each student will study a specific area of interest and develop a presentation to share with others. They also learn about structures, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Beginning programming using an icon based system will be introduced with each student required to write and produce a working automated program of their own creation. Students acquire knowledge and skills in engineering problem solving and explore requirements for careers in engineering. This Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum can be continued at the high school with the Introduction to Engineering and Design course.



Manufacturing Education 8

(elective, semester - every day)

The curriculum will provide each student with the opportunity to experience and explore the manufacturing processes that surround us in our everyday lives. This is a “hands on” class that will look at the processes used in the woods, metals, and plastics industries. Concepts in the material sciences, such as chemical bonding and thermoforming will be explored making this more than a “hobby class”. Project work will allow students to study measuring, use both hand and power tools, look at natural resources and study the growing area of synthetics. Applied mathematics, machine safety, and career occupations will be explored. Newer technologies like 3D printing, CNC (Computer Numeric Control) machining, and laser engraving are being implemented in the course work to meet the state and national standards concerning Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).



ENGLISH LEARNER (EL) PROGRAM

Grades 6-8

Students whose primary language is not standard American English and who are found to be in need of support will receive English Learner Program services to assist them in the acquisition of the English language. The level of service will be determined by the proficiency level of the student. Courses include:

- **EL Reading** for students who need support in addition to their grade-level Language Arts class.
- **EL Resource** for students who need support in comprehending the demands of their content area classes.
- These classes will be individually scheduled by the English Learner teacher.



WORLD LANGUAGE

Grades 6-8

The best way to gain proficiency in a language during middle school is to take the same language each year. Students who successfully complete level C of a language will be able to enroll in the Level II class of that language in high school.

All world language courses are semester-long electives and held every day.

Current middle school language offerings include: Chinese, French, German and Spanish.

World Language A

Students will acquire Chinese, French, German or Spanish through the focus on high frequency structures used in class discussions, stories, and cultural explorations. The goal is to help students become effective communicators of their chosen World Language.

World Language B

Students will continue the process of Chinese, French, German or Spanish acquisition through the increased focus on high frequency structures used in class discussions, stories and cultural explorations. The goal is to help students continue to become effective communicators of their chosen World Language.

World Language C

Students will continue the process of Chinese, French, German or Spanish acquisition by building upon their previous experiences. The goal is to help students become effective communicators of their chosen World Language while preparing them for Level 2 Chinese, French, German or Spanish at the high school.



Assistance for Students

Section 504 Accommodation / Special Education

SECTION 504 ACCOMMODATION

A student may be eligible for a Section 504 Accommodation Plan if a multidisciplinary team has determined the student has “a substantial limitation in a major life activity”. The 504 Accommodation Plan will describe accommodations which the team, inclusive of parents, has determined to be necessary to allow the student to access instruction. The 504 Accommodations may include, but are not limited to, adapted assignments, untimed tests, adaptive equipment, assigned seating or an adjusted schedule.

Students who are placed on a 504 Accommodation Plan will participate in the state and local assessment of academic standards.

For more information, please call Lisa Ouren, Director of Special Services (651-407-7553).

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A continuum of special education services is available for students who have a disability as defined by criteria established by the Minnesota Department of Education and who demonstrate the need for special education and related services.

A special education case manager will team with parents, general education teachers and an administrative representative in developing an Individual Education Plan (IEP). The IEP will address the student’s progress in the general education curriculum. Progress toward IEP goals will be reviewed and revised annually by the IEP team. The plan will describe the student’s participation in the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) testing and other district-wide testing as well as the special education and related services the student needs.

During or before ninth grade, students will participate in an evaluation of skills necessary for transition to adult life. The student’s IEP will begin to focus on the transition needs of the student. Transition IEPs begin to focus on such things as employment, post-secondary education, and independent living.

For more information, please call Lisa Ouren, Director of Special Services (651-407-7553), Becky Mullaly, Special Education Supervisor - Central (651-407-7513), or Nicole Loch, Special Education Supervisor - Sunrise (651-407-7557).



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