

College. Career. Community. Ready.

Oshkosh Area School District  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
PLANNING AND COURSE GUIDE

2019 - 2020



**OSHKOSH**  
AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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"The Oshkosh Area School District, including all school buildings/sites/programs, does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, creed, age, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital status or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Therefore, no student shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any curricular, extracurricular, student services, recreational or other program or activity. When separation by sex in education activities is appropriate for health and/or safety reasons, equal educational opportunities shall be provided for both sexes."

## WHAT IS A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT?

These characteristics may or may not be displayed in your child, but are listed as those that frequently appear in this particular age group and may be helpful to parents in better understanding their children's physical, mental, emotional, and social growth as well as behavior.

### Physical Development:

- Uneven and accelerated growth
- Increases in height, weight, and skeletal and muscular systems
- Coordination issues
- Fluctuations in metabolism that may result in restlessness, apathy, and increased appetites.
- Desire to eat junk food, but proper nutrition is very important
- Vulnerability to poor physical fitness, poor health habits, and high-risk behaviors
- Development of sexual reproductive organs
- Discomfort about physical development due to visibility and different rates of physical changes

### Intellectual Development:

- Wide range of intellectual development, independent thought, and thinking about one's own thinking
- High curiosity and expanded interests
- Favor active over passive learning experiences
- Prefer peer interaction with educational activities
- Developing capacity for abstract thinking
- Interested in observing adult behavior, often questioning authority
- Increasing understanding of higher levels of humor
- Less interest in conventional academic subjects and more interest in real-world experiences
- Ability to think about the future and develop personal goals

### Moral/Ethical Development:

- Idealistic, wanting the world to be a "fair" place
- Increased ability for reflection and thinking about others
- Becoming aware of flaws in others but less able of seeing faults in themselves
- Moving away from blind acceptance of adult moral judgment and toward their own personal values
- Start to question "black and white" answers to moral questions but are unable to completely understand more complex answers.
- At risk for making sound moral and ethical choices

### Emotional/Psychological Development:

- Seek independence and uniqueness
- Search for identity as well as adult and peer acceptance
- Feelings of conflict over allegiances between family and peer expectations
- More vulnerable due to becoming aware of differences between themselves and others
- Exhibit moody, restless, and erratic behavior
- Self-conscious, lack self-esteem, and be highly sensitive to criticism
- Resort to childish behavior when in emotional charge situations

### Social Development:

- Strong need to belong to a group
- Peer approval increases as adult approval decreases
- Experimentation with slang and alternative behavior
- Rebellious to adults yet dependent on them
- Test the limits of acceptable behavior and adult authority
- Overreact to social situations, ridicule others, and feel embarrassment

Adapted from

Caskey, M. M., & Anfara, V. A., Jr. (2007, April). *Research summary: Young adolescents' developmental characteristics*. Retrieved from <http://www.amlc.org/TabId/207/ArtMID/841/ArticleID/300/Research-Summary-Developmental-Characteristics.aspx>

# MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPLORATORY SCHEDULE

Offering	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
1	Literacy 6A (r)	Literacy 7 (r)	Literacy 8 (r)
2	Literacy 6B (r)	Math 7 (r)	Math 8 (r)
3	Math 6 (r)	Science 7 (r)	Science 8 (r)
4	Science 6 (r)	Social Studies 7 (r)	Social Studies 8 (r)
5	Social Studies 6 (r)	Physical Education (r)/Health (r)	Physical Education (r)/Family and Consumer Science - Teen Money (r)
6	Physical Education (r)/Music ( <b>required w/choice</b> )	Music(c) or Art Media & Techniques /Family and Consumer Science - Teen Work (c)	Music (c) or Drawing Art Connections/Technology and Engineering-Problem Solving and Design (c)
7	Art Explore /Family and Consumer Science (r)	Applied Technology and Engineering/World Language - Spanish (r)	World Language - Spanish(c) or Technology and Engineering - Manufacturing and Engineering/Art 3D & Sculpture (c)

r = Required

c = Student/Parent Choice

\*Music Choices are Band, Chorus and Orchestra

\*\*6th Grade PE/Music is every other day = semester of each course -- one music choice is required

\*\*\*7th Grade Music is one full year **OR** 1 semester of Art and 1 semester of FCS.

\*\*\*\*8th Grade Music is one full year OR semester of Art, semester of Tech.

\*\*\*\*\*8th Grade World Language is one full year OR semester of Tech, semester of Art.

++Students with unique needs that require a schedule modification may not be able to access all elective courses. Students and families will work with their school to develop a schedule that meets the child's needs.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM of STUDIES

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
<p><b>Literacy</b> Literacy courses uses both reader’s and writer’s workshop throughout the year. During writer’s workshop students engage in the “Units of Study in Argument, Information, and Narrative Writing Middle School Series.” During workshop, students will also work with lessons in grammar, word study, and using media resources and technology.</p> <p>The best way for students to become proficient readers is read as much as possible. We encourage all OASD middle school students to engage in at least 20 minutes of reading outside of the school day every day.</p>	<p><b>Required - Year (2 periods per day)</b> This course takes place during a 100-minute block. Students engage in 50 minutes of reader’s workshop and 50 minutes of writer’s workshop. The specific units of study during during writer’s workshop, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 1, <i>Personal Narrative: Crafting Powerful Life Stories</i></li> <li>• In Unit 2, <i>The Literary Essay: From Character to Compare/Contrast</i></li> <li>• In Unit 3, <i>Research-Based Informational Writing: Books, Websites, and Presentations</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Required - Year</b> This course takes place during a 50-minute block. Students engage in reader’s workshop for about two to three weeks, and writer’s workshop for four to six weeks. The specific units of study during during writer’s workshop, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Unit 1, <i>Writing Realistic Fiction: Symbolism, Syntax, and Truth</i></li> <li>• In Unit 2, <i>Writing About Reading: From Reader’s Notebooks to Companion Books</i></li> <li>• In Unit 3, <i>The Art of Argument: Research-Based Essays</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Required - Year</b> This course takes place during a 50-minute block. Students engage in reader’s workshop for about two to three weeks, and writer’s workshop for four to six weeks. The specific units of study during during writer’s workshop, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Unit 1, <i>Investigative Journalism</i></li> <li>• In Unit 2, <i>Literary Essay: Analyzing Craft and Theme</i></li> <li>• In Unit 3, <i>Position Papers: Research and Argument</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Mathematics</b> CPM’s (College Preparatory Mathematics) Core Connections is a three-year sequence of courses designed to prepare students for a rigorous college preparatory algebra course. It uses a problem-based approach with concrete models. The courses help students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts.</p>	<p><b>Required - Year</b> Concepts covered are using multiple representations of portions for decimal, fraction, and percent, working with variable expressions, computing area, surface area and volume of rectangular solids and solving percent problems with discounts, interest and tips. CPM program is followed in all grades.</p>	<p><b>Required - Year</b> Concepts covered are operations with integers and rational numbers, using percents to determine percent increase or decrease, discounts and markups, solving linear equations, comparing experimental and theoretical probabilities, and comparing ratios and finding unit rates. CPM program is followed in all grades.</p>	<p><b>Required - Year</b> Concepts covered are representing linear functions with a graph, table, and rule, solving problems using proportional reasoning, computing volume of a variety of solids, using the Pythagorean Theorem and collecting, analyzing, and making predictions based on the trend of data. An emphasis will be made on the transition to high school mathematics. CPM program is followed in all grades.</p>
<p><b>Science</b></p>	<p><b>Required – Year</b> This course will deal with many aspects of physical science including interactions, energy, conservation, and chemistry. Laboratory and enrichment activities are included.</p>	<p><b>Required – Year</b> The Grade 7 science program is a continuation of the K-9 science curriculum. The focus is on life science. Laboratory and enrichment activities are included.</p>	<p><b>Required – Year</b> The Grade 8 science course will include a study of the atmosphere, rocks and minerals, landforms, astronomy, meteorology and earth history. Laboratory and enrichment activities are included.</p>

	<b>Grade 6</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>
<b>Social Studies</b>	<p><b>Required – Year</b> The countries of Latin America and Canada will be studied. Students will also learn how to use the tools of geography (maps, globes, graphs, diagrams, pictures).</p>	<p><b>Required – Year</b> The countries of Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia will be studied. Students will develop their map reading skills, and study environmental, population and economic issues. Research and primary source analysis are an important part of this course.</p>	<p><b>Required – Year</b> The history of the United States will be studied in this first year of a two-year sequence. The second year will follow in Grade 10. Students will learn about cause and effect relationships, founders of the nation, and turning points in history. Research and primary source analysis are an important part of this course.</p>
<b>Physical Education</b>	<p><b>Required – Every other day</b> This is a course designed to develop and improve skills of team games and individual sports. Emphasis will be placed on physical fitness, lifetime fitness, health and safety.</p>	<p><b>Required – 1 Semester</b> This is a course designed to develop and improve skills of team games and individual sports. Emphasis will be placed on physical fitness, lifetime fitness, health and safety.</p>	<p><b>Required – 1 Semester</b> This is a course designed to develop and improve skills of team games and individual sports. Emphasis will be placed on physical fitness, lifetime fitness, health and safety.</p>
<b>Health</b>		<p><b>Required - Semester</b> The course will consist of topics that fall within: mental/emotional health, social health, physical health, human growth and development, drug, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Besides the Health Educator the students will have guest educators such as the police liaison, counselors, and social workers to help with topics such as: bullying, harassment, laws, and internet safety.</p>	
<b>World Language - Spanish</b>		<p><b>Required - semester</b> Level One Spanish at the middle school is a 3-semester course with one semester of formal study required in the seventh grade. The students will learn the language through listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities. They will develop an awareness of and appreciation for the diversities of the target</p>	<p><b>Elective - Year long class</b> Successful completion (based on achievement and teacher recommendation) of seventh grade world language is a prerequisite for electing the eighth grade course of the same language. The Level One course, begun in seventh grade, will be continued in the eighth grade. Upon successful completion (achievement and teacher recommendation)</p>

culture. In eighth grade the students may complete (based on achievement and teacher recommendation) the remaining two semesters of the same language OR may elect to wait until high school to schedule for a Level One World Language course.

**Prerequisite for 8<sup>th</sup> grade World Language**

students are eligible for Level Two of the same language at the high school. All eighth graders who elect a world language will continue to learn the language through listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities. They will continue to explore the diversities of the new culture.

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
<p><b>Music (Band)</b> Instruments may be rented or purchased from music dealers. Some are available in the school.</p>	<p><b>Elective - Every other day</b> Most students will have their first experience in band instruments. Basic skills will be taught. By the end of the year most students should be quite skilled. Performances during and outside the school day are required.</p>	<p><b>Elective – Year long class</b> Students will continue to work on their skills and will be given opportunities to participate in concerts, solo ensembles, jazz band, and marching band. Performances during and outside the school day are required.</p>	<p><b>Elective – Year long class</b> Students will further develop their skills and be offered more opportunities to perform. These may include honor bands (statewide), all-city band festivals, marching band, city and school performances, and workshops. Performances during and outside the school day are required.</p>
<p><b>Music (Chorus)</b></p>	<p><b>Elective - Every other day</b> Students will develop their vocal skills and an appreciation of vocal music. Performances during and outside the school day are required.</p>	<p><b>Elective – Year long</b> This course deals with the maturing and changing adolescent voice. Students are given opportunities to increase self-confidence through mini-musicals, school and community concerts, city festival of choirs, and optional solo and small groups. Performances during and outside the school day are required.</p>	<p><b>Elective – Year long</b> This course deals with the maturing and changing adolescent voice. Students are given opportunities to increase self-confidence through mini-musicals, school and community concerts, city festival of choirs, and optional solo and small groups. The course prepares students for a lifetime of pleasure using the singing voice. Performances during and outside the school day are required</p>
<p><b>Music (Orchestra)</b> Instruments may be rented or purchased from music dealers. Some are available in the school.</p>	<p><b>Elective - Every other day</b> <u>Beginner</u> This course is open to beginning students or those who have learned basic skills in the after-school string program. Performances during and outside the school day are required.</p>	<p><b>Elective – Year long</b> <u>Intermediate/Advanced</u> Students must have one or more years of experience on a string instrument to take this course. Advanced string techniques and advanced music will be taught. Performances during and outside the school day are required.</p>	<p><b>Elective – Year</b> <u>Intermediate/Advanced</u> This course is open to a student with one or more years of experience on a string instrument. Students will learn advanced string techniques and play advanced music. They will have more opportunities to perform in concerts and string festivals, solo ensembles, recitals, and chamber orchestra. Performances during and outside the school day are required.</p>



	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
<b>Art</b>	<p><b>Required - Art Exploration</b> (one semester) If you love to work with a variety of materials, this is the class for you. Develop additional skills in the areas of drawing and painting techniques, clay, art history, fibers, printing, and mixed media. Take your artwork to a new level!</p>	<p><b>Elective – Art Media &amp; Techniques</b> (one semester) Discover real artist processes for two and three-dimensional artwork. Develop skills in a wide variety of media and learn techniques for drawing and painting, clay, fibers or mixed media, art history and styles, printmaking, color theory, and computer art.</p>	<p><b>Elective - Drawing Art Connections</b> (one semester) Investigate art skills that connect to the world of work through a wide variety of materials. Topics may include, but are not limited to graphics, illustration, technology in art, set design, teaching, architecture, commercial and fine art, art history and gallery skills. Projects may include sculptures, book-making, large-scale painting, group work, cartooning, camera and computer work, and community involvement.</p> <p><b>3D Art &amp; Sculpture</b> (one semester) If you love to work with your hands, Art 3D will strengthen your three-dimensional skills. You will be introduced to the potter’s wheel, life and perspective drawing, shading and illusions, art history, fibers, and a wide range of sculpture processes. Materials may include plaster, clay, wire, metal, found objects, foil tooling, and mixed media.</p>
<b>Family &amp; Consumer Sciences</b>	<p><b>Required Teen Life and Leadership</b> (one semester) Come and discuss teen life as we learn how to be positive leaders, deal with conflict and care for others through awareness and acceptance of their needs. Build lifelong independence and team cooperation as you participate in many hands on projects.</p> <p><b>**This course is under revision for the 2019-2020 school year. Be on the lookout for exciting changes.</b></p>	<p><b>Elective – Teen Work - Careers</b> (one semester) Come explore and experience the world of work including job seeking and job keeping skills. Students will be engaged in hands on activities and foods labs.</p>	<p><b>Required Teen Money- Consumerism/Community</b> (one semester) Do you like to spend money? Did you know that teens spend over 109 billion dollars a year? Students will explore making wise consumer choices; learn about checking accounts and credit cards; and money management. Students will apply these consumer skills in the areas of food production labs, nutrition, fashion design, and community service projects</p>

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
<p><b>Technology &amp; Engineering - making you school, work, and community ready!</b></p> <p>What is Technology and Engineering? It includes required and elective courses to help make you school, work, and community ready!</p> <p>Learning can be fun and it starts here. This program provides students with real-world, hands-on learning. Students work cooperatively to solve problems, design, manufacture, and even mass-produce products! From measurement, to design, manufacturing process, to lab and machine safety, you get it all! This program strives to provide cutting edge, state of the art equipment such as Computer Aided Design (CAD) &amp; 3D Modeling software which allows students to design 3D prototypes and print them on a 3D printer, just like they do in industry!</p>		<p><b><u>Applied Technology &amp; Engineering Concepts</u></b> (one semester)</p> <p>This course provides students cooperative learning environment. Students will learn and apply measurement, to design, CAD, 3D printing, basic manufacturing processes, and lab and some machine safety practices.</p> <p>Students are given the basics of what they need for school, work, and community readiness. In addition, they will be given many opportunities to apply knowledge gained in their core classes as well.</p>	<p><b><u>Manufacturing &amp; Engineering Concepts</u></b> (one semester)</p> <p>Students design and manufacture products just like they do in industry. Expand your manufacturing skills in this hands-on learning environment!</p> <p>Students will refine what they learned in Applied Technology and apply it at the next level including but not limited to measurement, design, CAD, 3D printing, advanced manufacturing processes, and lab and machine safety practices.</p> <p>Students are given an overview of what they need for school, work, and community readiness.</p> <p><b><u>Problem Solving &amp; Engineering Concepts</u></b> (one semester)</p> <p>This course is unlike any other course you have ever had before! Students will be challenged with real-world problems on a daily basis in a hands-on, cooperative setting!</p> <p>The purpose of this course is to teach students to think outside of the box and be open-minded when it comes to solving design problems. Students will refine what they learned in Applied Technology and apply it at the next level including but not limited to measurement, design, CAD, 3D printing, and lab and machine safety practices. They will also have the opportunity to build and program a robot to complete various tasks!</p> <p>Students are given an overview of what they need for school, work, and community readiness.</p>

# HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY COURSES

- High school equivalency courses taken at the high school or middle school while in grades 6-7-8 will not have the grade count as part of the high school grade point average (GPA). The courses will not apply toward the 23 credits needed for high school graduation. However, the course is documented on the student's high school transcript.

- Students may take selected high school credit courses during the summer upon completion of grade 8.

Students taking **Spanish 1 in Grade 8** will not have the grade recorded as part of the high school record. However, courses completed will be documented on the high school transcript. The course does not count toward the 22 credits required for graduation from high school. Students also have the option to take the second year course in grade 9. In these cases, the world language course taken in grade 8 will be recorded on the high school transcript as a no-credit course.

Students who meet the criteria may take **Algebra** during their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Algebra is a high school equivalent course but is not calculated in the grade point nor is credit awarded.