



**Course Description Book  
2020-2021**

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## Our Mission

St. Francis Xavier Catholic School System is a Christ-centered community dedicated to the faith formation, academic excellence, community engagement, and individual growth of our students in a safe environment.

## Welcome

Dear Students and Families

The faculty and staff of St. Francis Xavier Middle School is committed to providing our students with engaging, relevant course offerings and student life activities to capture their interests and provide a variety of intellectual experiences. The course offerings will allow our students to build lifelong habits all while generating a love for learning and a willingness to grow. These skills will be beneficial during their years at Xavier Middle School and will be carried with our students as they continue onto high school. The faculty and administration at Xavier Middle School devote considerable time and energy to reviewing current courses and developing new curriculum that is rigorous and aligned with the most current middle and high school standards.

This course description book provides a comprehensive listing and description of each course offered within each grade level at Xavier Middle School. We are excited to offer classes that serve a wide range of academic interests that focus on growing in our Catholic faith, exploring the important areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM), and improving 21st century learning skills.

It is our hope that the time spent at Xavier Middle School allows our students an opportunity to grow as individuals, discover ways to become servants within our community, and gain knowledge as they become lifelong learners. We encourage each student to create lasting experiences that will stay with them as they continue their journey into becoming young adults.

Welcome to Xavier Middle School; we are excited to have you and your family be a part of the wonderful Xavier community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Bires". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Robert Bires  
Principal

# Xavier Middle School Curriculum Overview

5th Grade Course Offerings		
<b>Core Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Religion</li> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Language Arts</li> <li>• Social Studies</li> </ul>	<b>Encore Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art (once a week)</li> <li>• Spanish Exploratory (full year, once a week)</li> <li>• Physical Ed. (twice a week)</li> <li>• General Music (twice a week)</li> </ul>	<b>Elective Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Band (twice a week)</li> <li>• Orchestra (twice a week)</li> </ul>
6th Grade Course Offerings		
<b>Core Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Religion</li> <li>• Literature</li> <li>• Language Arts</li> <li>• Social Studies</li> </ul>	<b>Encore Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art (twice a week)</li> <li>• French Exploratory (1 semester, once a week)</li> <li>• German Exploratory (1 semester, once a week)</li> <li>• Physical Ed. (twice a week)</li> </ul>	<b>Elective Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Band (three times a week)</li> <li>• Choir (twice a week)</li> <li>• Orchestra (three times a week)</li> <li>• General Music (twice a week)</li> </ul>
7th Grade Course Offerings		
<b>Core Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Religion</li> <li>• Language Arts</li> <li>• Social Studies</li> <li>• Literacy Elective</li> </ul>	<b>Encore Course</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Ed. (twice a week)</li> </ul>	<b>Elective Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art (three times a week)</li> <li>• Band (three times a week)</li> <li>• Choir (three times a week)</li> <li>• General Music (twice a week)</li> <li>• Orchestra (three times a week)</li> <li>• World Languages (Every day)</li> </ul>
8th Grade Course Offerings		
<b>Core Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Religion</li> <li>• Language Arts</li> <li>• Social Studies</li> <li>• Literacy Elective</li> </ul>	<b>Encore Course</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Ed. (twice a week)</li> </ul>	<b>Elective Courses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art (three times a week)</li> <li>• Band (three times a week)</li> <li>• Choir (three times a week)</li> <li>• Orchestra (three times a week)</li> <li>• General Music (twice a week)</li> <li>• World Languages (Every day)</li> </ul>

# Considerations for High School

## World Languages

Completing two years worth of a world language at Xavier Middle School in 7th & 8th grade is equivalent to a Level 1 course at a high school. This will allow students to complete up to a Level 5 world language course in high school with the possibility of earning college credit as a senior in high school.

## Project Lead the Way

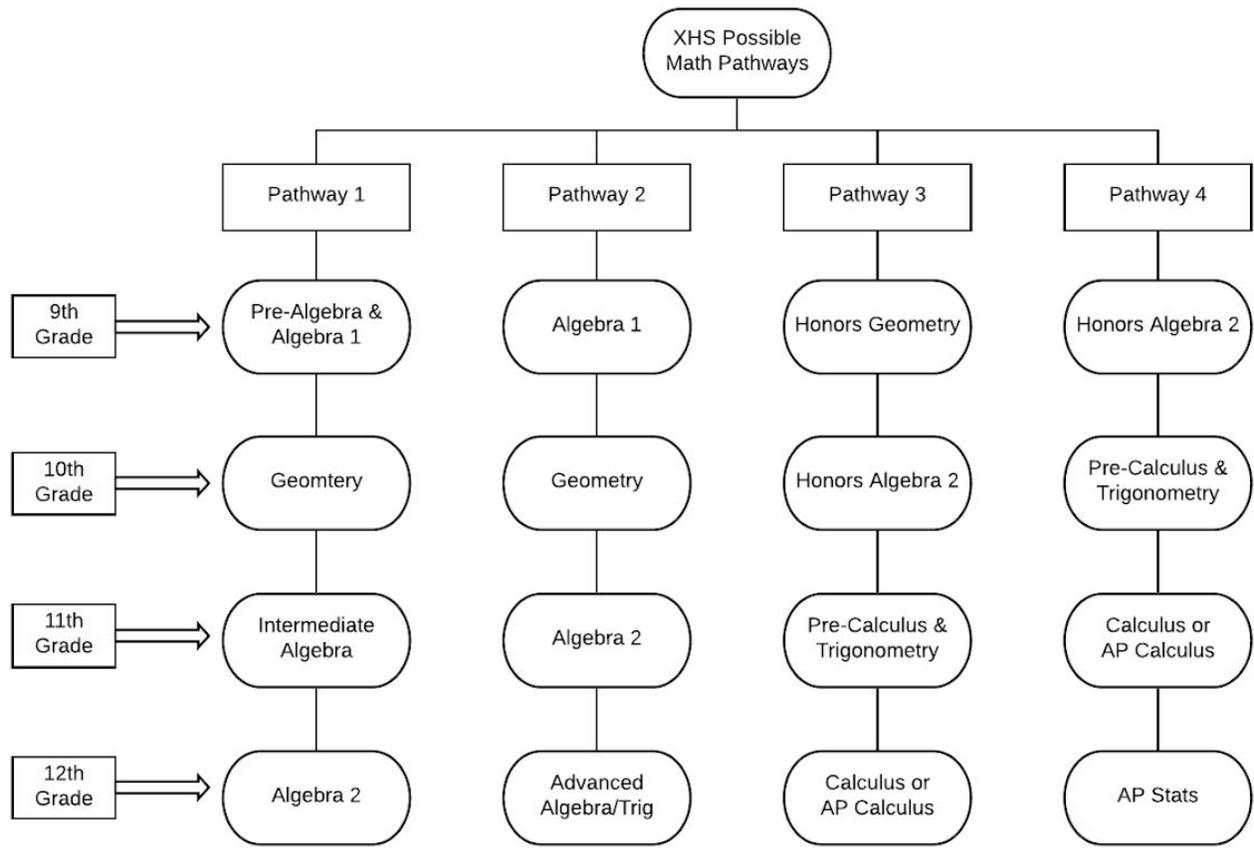
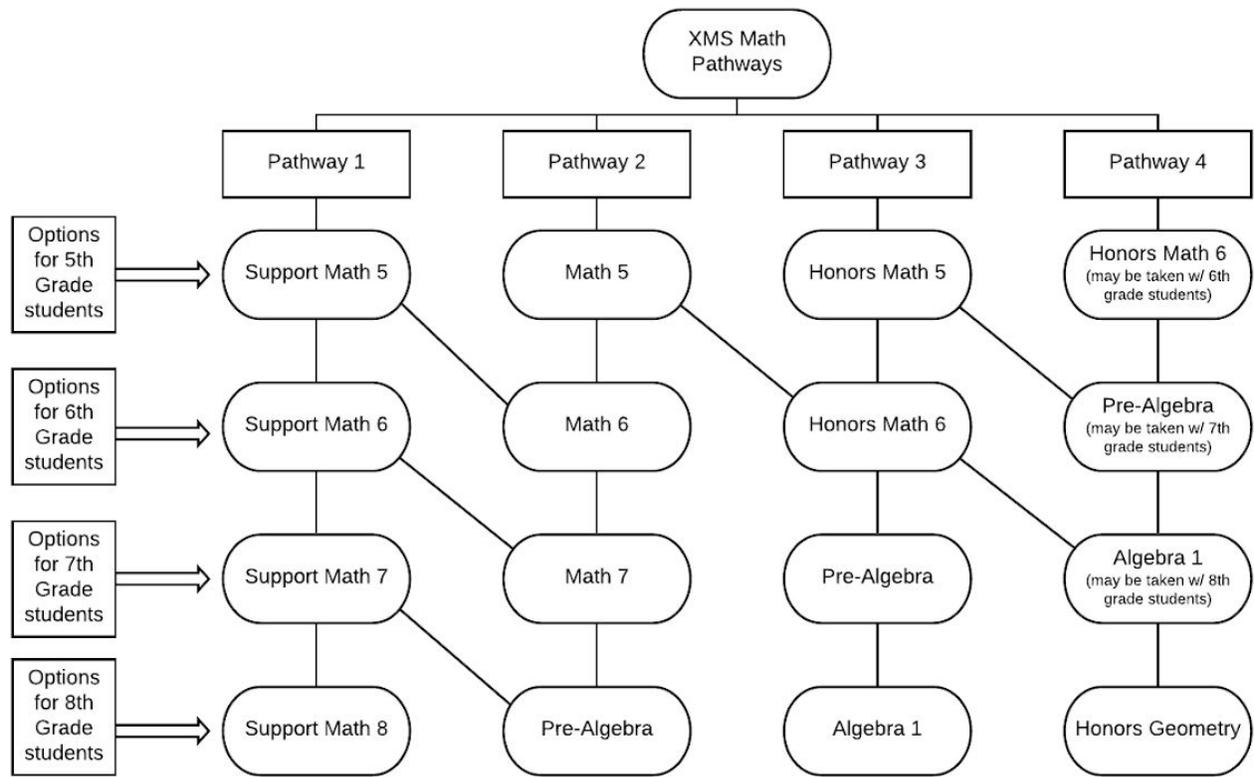
Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is a STEM program offering a problem-based curriculum that is infused in all science courses at Xavier Middle School. By completing science courses at Xavier Middle School, students will be prepared to enroll in PLTW courses offered in high school.

## Grade Scale

Grade	Percentage
A+	99-100
A	95-98
A-	93-94
B+	91-92
B	87-90
B-	85-86
C+	83-84
C	79-82
C-	77-78
D+	75-76
D	71-74
D-	69-70
F	0-68

## Math

Proper placement in a math course is extremely important. Students should be challenged at their appropriate level for math, but should not be placed in a class that is too difficult or too easy. The Xavier System uses multiple pieces of information to assist with the proper math placement for our students. Students are placed in math courses based off of overall academic and math ability, standardized testing data, and teacher, students and parent input. Below are potential math pathways beginning at Xavier Middle School and how they align with Xavier High School. This chart should help for planning purposes only and can be used to help visualize the math courses sequence. Please note that not every math pathway for Xavier High School is identified. For more information about all possible math pathways at Xavier High School please contact the administration at Xavier High School.



# Grade 5 Course Descriptions

## **LANGUAGE ARTS**

The fifth grade Language Arts program promotes effective oral and written communication. The program is based on the writing process with all grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling skills introduced, practiced and reviewed in the context of writing and textbook work. For Spelling the 5th grade will use a program based on common spelling patterns, prefixes, suffixes and root words. The *Wordly Wise* Vocabulary series concentrates on building vocabulary by using words in context. To develop their writing skills, the students and teachers use a combination of resources: English textbook, *Write*, web resources, and the *6+1 Trait Writing*. Three main pieces of writing in 5th grade include: an opinion, an informative, and a narrative piece, all of which are taken through the writing process. Graphic organizers and rubrics are used to help students formulate their information. Students use Google Drive, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher, and websites to facilitate their learning.

## **LITERATURE**

Students learn through a variety of reading formats. Using novels the students learn how to quote accurately from a text, make inferences, determine the theme, summarize, find the point of view of characters, determine the meaning of words, learn about figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification, idioms, hyperbole) and identify genres in literature. Non-fiction reading skills learned include finding the main idea and details, learning about text structure (chronological order, compare and contrast, cause/effect, problem/solution), and using evidence from text to support answers. The students will also have time for reading books of their own choosing and are tested on these in the Accelerated Reader Program. Through the STAR Reading Assessment, the students' goals are determined, based on their individual needs.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Honors Math 6**

Prerequisite: B+ or better in Honors Math 5 and teacher recommendation  
Recommended MAP Range: 225 to 240

This course will take students through a spiraling fast paced review of 6th grade math, while looking ahead to 7th grade math skills. Students will develop algebraic concepts and processes that can be used to solve a variety of real-world mathematical problems. Students will continue to build on a foundation in fundamental middle grade topics such as decimals, fractions, geometry, and measurement with grade appropriate introduction to key algebraic topics. Extensive application to word problems is a part of this course.

### **Honors Math 5**

Recommended MAP Range: 220 or higher and teacher recommendation

Honors Math 5 is a core course that is taught at an advanced pace. Students will work in our Math program and will be evaluated informally and formally throughout the year. This program will build the foundation and launch the students into a successful transition to Middle School math. Students will begin to look at advanced topics covered in 6th and 7th grade math. This course will begin to study important middle school mathematics concepts and understand how they are related to real data and

real-life application. Students will form a solid foundation in fundamental middle grade topics such as decimals, fractions, geometry, and measurement with grade appropriate introduction to key algebraic topics. Extensive application to word problems is a part of this course. Students who successfully complete Honors Math 5 will be placed in either Pre-Algebra in 6th grade or Honors Math 6.

### **Math 5**

Recommended MAP Range: up to 225

Math 5 covers place value relationships, operations with whole numbers and decimals, volume of right rectangular prisms, addition and subtraction of fractions with like and unlike denominations, multiplication and division of fractions, construction and interpretation of graphs and classification of two-dimensional figures. The class uses different mediums to learn, including math games, online practice, and paper and pencil problem solving. Support Math is offered as needed to meet the instructional needs of students.

### **RELIGION**

Fifth grade religion explores 7 central ideas that make up who we are as Catholics: Knowledge of the Faith, Liturgy and Sacraments, Moral formation in Jesus Christ, Prayer, Community Life in the Church, Missionary Spirit, Safe Environment. The integration of technology includes obtaining and exploring knowledge and information concurrent with Catholic teaching. Websites, online videos, and other video sources along with inspirational music that promote Catholic identity are used to facilitate prayer, examine issues dealing with morality, and explain how the 7 sacraments bring grace to our lives. Study skills used and reinforced include classroom review, study guides for each chapter in the religion text, written and oral assignments, and in depth discussions and memorization.

### **SCIENCE**

Fifth grade science covers topics from Earth, Life and Physical sciences through the SEPUP science series. Topics for the year include:

1. Studying soils scientifically- Students study the properties of different types of soils in the context of preparing a school garden. They investigate soil profiles, organic and inorganic components, use of fertilizers, and soil mapping.
2. Rocks and minerals-Students investigate properties of rocks and minerals as they consider questions related to use of our natural resources.
3. Cell biology and disease-Students study microbiology, cell size, structure, function and permeability; systems of classification. They explore the function of the immune system and the growth of antibiotic-resistant organisms. A project on disease develops research skills.
4. Energy-Students explore energy transfers and conversion in the context of household energy usage. They learn that energy can be obtained, stored and used in various ways. Renewable and non-renewable energy sources are discussed.
5. Force and motion- Hot Wheels Speedometry. Students work in groups to deepen their understanding of potential and kinetic energy by measuring distance to describe energy, changing variables in the experiments and constructing bar graphs to chart their data.
6. Project Lead the Way with VEX IQ robotics - Students explore the ways robots are used in today's world and their impact on society and the environment. Students learn about a variety of robotic components as they build and test mobile robots that may be controlled remotely.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Fifth grade Social Studies begins with the first Native Americans in the United States and leads to the exploration of North America and the development of the first colonies. Students learn about the growth of the original 13 colonies and study the Revolutionary War. Also explored are the U.S. Constitution, the three branches of government, and the election process in the United States. Students will develop an understanding of economics and the geography of our country. Presentations, simulations, reports and written assessments are used to demonstrate students' learning. Resources used are the textbook, web resources and *CNN Student News*. Students are given study guides and review sheets to help focus their learning. Technology is also incorporated into the curriculum through projects that use Google Drive, interactive websites and online videos.

## **ART (Once a week)**

The fifth grade visual art curriculum continues to build on students' knowledge of, and experiences in art. Students work with color, line, shape, texture, form, and design in a variety of lessons. These lessons include two and three-dimensional art; drawing, painting, printing, metal tooling, collage, fiber art, and sketchbooks. Developing an appreciation for art and art history is also emphasized, along with reading and writing about artists and their contributions to art and design. The year culminates with a school-wide art show in May.

## **GENERAL MUSIC (Twice a week)**

Fifth grade Music is a required music appreciation class that explores the structure and elements of music. Students will compose, sing, play, explore music of other cultures and styles, and move to music. Fifth grade music students will participate in the December and May concerts as well as share their musical gifts at Mass.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Twice a week)**

At Xavier Middle School, the Physical Education staff is committed to a comprehensive quality program with a designed curriculum based on lifetime fitness and positive experiences. The units are designed to incorporate fundamental skills, physical fitness and knowledge of various lifelong activities. Students who choose to actively participate in a quality physical education program receive a variety of benefits, including:

- A variety of motor skills and abilities related to lifetime leisure activities
- Improved understanding of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- Improved understanding of movement and the human body
- Self-confidence and self-worth as they relate to physical education recreation programs
- A feeling of success in a fitness facility where students learn how to plan and create their own personal fitness goals.

## **SPANISH (Once a week)**

All fifth grade students will be registered for Spanish class. Students with an accommodation plan may opt out with administration approval. Spanish during 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be a continuation of the Spanish curriculum from the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Schools System. The class will meet one day per week for the full school year. This is considered a beginning course and prior knowledge or classes in

Spanish are not required. This is a class to explore the Spanish language and culture. In this class students will explore the alphabet, numbers, colors, animals, clothing, some basic conversation, culture and holidays.

## Electives

### **BAND (Twice a week)**

In fifth grade, band rehearsals are 40 minutes in length and held two days per week. Students receive individual lessons weekly during the school day. Students participate in solo ensemble recitals and festivals, and winter and spring concerts. Fifth grade band students participate in our annual System band concert. This combined concert includes band members from grades 5 - 12. Each quarter students are given a variety of music theory and listening assignments. Computer programs such as Smart Music and various iPad apps are used to evaluate and drill music skills. Students who have played a band instrument prior to fifth grade, as well as beginning students, are all welcome to join our program.

### **ORCHESTRA (Twice a week)**

Orchestra is available to students in grades 5-8 at XMS. Orchestra meets two times per week in 5th grade, and each student has one 15 minute private lesson per week. Students perform in 2-3 concerts per year and are encouraged to participate in the annual Solo and Ensemble Festival at XMS in March. Students will continue to learn how to play and perform on their instruments as a large ensemble through the Essential Elements book, in addition to learning a variety of string orchestra repertoire in both class and at their lesson. If a student is beginning orchestra for the first time as a 5th grader, summer lessons are highly recommended. Please contact the 5th grade orchestra teacher for a list of instructors.

## Grade 6 Course Descriptions

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

Students are given the opportunity to experiment with and develop different styles of writing. The emphasis is on writing as a process using the ideas and vocabulary of *6+1 Trait Writing*. The study of grammar, plus sentence and paragraph structure, provide students with the tools needed to write fluently. Vocabulary practice and mastery are also incorporated into the curriculum. Touch-typing is continued as students work to gain skill and speed at word-processing. Google Docs is used to enhance learning and collaboration among students. A portfolio of each student's creative writing is assembled throughout the year.

### **LITERATURE**

Students learn to appreciate good literature in many forms. Trade books, short stories, poetry, and plays are used to develop basic reading skills. Students develop strategies to comprehend, analyze and use inferences to gain a better understanding of literature. Five thinking strategies are stressed: recall, analysis, inference, synthesis, and evaluation. Opportunities are given in units to build and develop listening skills. Many of the literature selections are tied in with Social Studies and Religion,

including *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*, *The Devil's Arithmetic*, an excerpt from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and *The Adventures of the Speckled Band*, a Sherlock Holmes mystery. Time is set aside for silent reading, which is encouraged through the use of the Accelerated Reader program. Through the STAR Reading Assessment, the students' goals are determined, based on their individual needs.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Pre-Algebra**

Prerequisite: Honors Math 6 and teacher recommendation

Recommended MAP Range: 235 or higher

This Pre-Algebra course will help students develop the skills necessary to manipulate numbers, solve equations and understand the general principles at work. Students will compute interest through percentages, graph linear functions, compare rational numbers with scientific notation, and convert fractional numbers between fractions, decimals, and percents. Practical application through the incorporation of word problems is required in this course.

### **Honors Math 6**

Prerequisite: B+ or better in Honors Math 5 and teacher recommendation

Recommended MAP Range: 225 to 240

This course will take students through a spiraling fast paced review of 6th grade math, while looking ahead to 7th grade math skills. Students will develop algebraic concepts and processes that can be used to solve a variety of real-world mathematical problems. Students will continue to build on a foundation in fundamental middle grade topics such as decimals, fractions, geometry, and measurement with grade appropriate introduction to key algebraic topics. Extensive application to word problems is a part of this course.

### **Math 6**

Prerequisite: Math 5 or Honors Math 5

Recommended MAP Range: up to 230

Courses offered in sixth grade Mathematics focus on problem solving as a method of inquiry and application; communication skills and techniques for conveying mathematical ideas and concepts; reasoning experiences and processes that reinforce and extend thinking skills; and investigations of mathematical connections that students use in their daily lives. Topics explored are general computation using the four properties of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions; and measurement using standard and metric. Upon completion of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics course students will be ready for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics course.

## **RELIGION**

The Hebrew Scriptures are the focal point of study in sixth grade religion. Students learn how to use the Bible and how to interpret what they read. Units also include a continuing study of prayer, Catholic worship, and the history of the Bible. Students express their faith through participation in prayer services, liturgies, and retreats. Sixth graders participate in two retreats (a three day camp experience in September and a one day service retreat in April). The focus is on choices, consequences and Catholic moral teachings. Students are given the opportunity to write their own Psalms which are shared via our Haiku page. Our program follows the Standards of the Green Bay Diocese.

## **SCIENCE**

This is a Physical Science course with emphasis on "hands-on" experiences to get a better understanding of science concepts. Class participation, group work and lab activities are used to gain knowledge of science in everyday life. The topics covered in the curriculum are matter, atoms, compounds, energy and waves, and force and motion.

Sixth grade will also devote a nine week quarter to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education. Using the Project Lead the Way programming, students will learn, experience and create items through the course titled "Design and Modeling".

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

In 6th grade social studies, students will learn about the Medieval Period in the Arabian Peninsula, Africa, China, Japan, and Europe. Students will also learn how major religions influenced the regions in the Middle Ages. Students will learn about the achievements, economy, geography, leadership, religion, and social structure of each region. After the Middle Ages, the course will follow Europe through the Reformation, Renaissance, and Scientific Revolution. Students will engage in learning through many different ways including simulations, presentations, projects, and hands-on activities.

## **ART (Twice a week)**

Sixth grade art is devoted to the elements of art; line, shape, color, texture, value. The implementation of this goal focuses on two things: developing core art ability and fostering creative thinking skills.

Projects include a Bible themed creativity booster,, still life drawing, Art history unit, portraiture study and an oil pastel illustration. The students will also create a carve and peel - a study in positive and negative space, The curriculum is designed to meet important developmental goals in a relevant, sequential, and invigorating manner.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Twice a week)**

At Xavier Middle School, the Physical Education staff is committed to a comprehensive quality program with a designed curriculum based on lifetime fitness and positive experiences. The units are designed to incorporate fundamental skills, physical fitness and knowledge of various lifelong activities. Students who choose to actively participate in a quality physical education program receive a variety of benefits, including:

- A variety of motor skills and abilities related to lifetime leisure activities
- Improved understanding of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- Improved understanding of movement and the human body
- Self-confidence and self-worth as they relate to physical education recreation programs
- A feeling of success in a fitness facility where students learn how to plan and create their own personal fitness goals.

### **STUDY SKILLS (1-2 times a week depending on music elective)**

The Study Skills class is designed to assist students in learning independent study skill strategies. All students will be registered for this class. Students have the opportunity to develop and strengthen good study habits like staying organized, taking notes, managing time, and taking tests. Students will also be utilizing typing.com to practice and grow in their typing skills.

### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE GERMAN EXPLORATORY (Once a week for a semester)**

All students will be registered for German class. Students with an accommodation plan may opt out with administration approval. This is considered a beginning course and prior knowledge of a foreign language is not required. The goal of the exploratory German class is to expose students to some of the basics of the German language and culture. Students will participate in a variety of activities to give them a basic overview of German greetings, cognates, the alphabet, numbers, colors, animals, and traditions. A small number of homework assignments and assessments of a student's ability to communicate in German will be used for evaluation. This should help them make a more informed decision on which language is most interesting to them, and the language in which they can be most successful in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE FRENCH EXPLORATORY (Once a week for a semester)**

All students will be registered for the French Exploratory class. Students with an accommodation plan may opt-out with administration approval. This is considered a beginning course and prior knowledge of a foreign language is not required. The goal of the exploratory French class is to expose students to some of the basics of the French language and culture. Students will participate in a variety of activities to give them a basic overview of French greetings, cognates, the alphabet, numbers, colors, animals, and traditions. A small number of homework assignments and assessments of a student's ability to communicate in French will be used for evaluation. This should help them make a more informed decision on which language is most interesting to them, and the language in which they can be most successful in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **ELECTIVES**

***Each 6<sup>th</sup> Grade student needs to choose one of the 4 electives below. Please see the course section form for requirements and procedures.***

### **BAND (Three days a week)**

In sixth grade band rehearsals are 40 minutes in length and held three days per week. Students receive individual lessons weekly during the school day. Students participate in band festivals, solo ensemble recitals and festivals, winter and spring concerts. Sixth grade band students participate in one Pep Band performance with the Xavier High School Band. They also participate in our annual System band concert. This combined concert includes band members from grades 5 - 12. Second semester students are given the option of participating in Jazz Band. Each quarter students are given a variety of music theory and listening assignments. Computer programs such as *Smart Music* and various iPad apps are used to evaluate and drill music skills. Students who have played a band instrument and beginning students are all welcome to join our program.

### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE CHOIR (Twice a week)**

Sixth grade Choir meets as a full group twice a week and once each week for a small group lesson. Lessons are scheduled based on the student's academic schedule. Sight-singing skills, music notation, parts singing, and proper vocal technique are developed. Students will also explore and perform music of various styles. Performances include several concerts each year, Mass music, and a Solo/Ensemble performance in March.

### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE GENERAL MUSIC- PERFORMANCE PRODUCTION (Two days a week)**

The general music course is a project-based class that incorporates technology to explore careers in the music industry and the production of musical theater and performances. Aspects of stagecraft, production design & theater direction, acoustics, performers, and theater technologies are explored.

### **ORCHESTRA (Three days a week)**

Orchestra is available to students in grades 5-8 at XMS. Orchestra meets 3 times per week, and each student has one 15 minute private lesson per week. Students perform 2-3 concerts per year, and are encouraged to perform for the Solo and Ensemble Festival at XMS or the WSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival in March. Students will continue to develop their skills learned in 4th and 5th grade, through the Essential Elements and Sound Innovations books, in addition to a variety of string orchestra repertoire both in class, and at their lesson. If a student is beginning orchestra for the first time as a 6th grader, summer lessons are highly recommended. Please contact the 6th grade orchestra teacher for a list of instructors.

## **Grade 7 Course Descriptions**

### **LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERATURE**

Language Arts and Literature are combined and taught together throughout the entire year. Grammar, descriptive, and persuasive writing are included in the Language Arts portion. The *6+1 Trait Writing* provides the platform for written expression. During the year research is conducted and a persuasive piece is written. Sensory language is taught and practiced using different styles such as narrative, descriptive, and expository texts. Online Google Docs is used frequently for written items.

Literature includes reading, discussing, and working with many different literary genres including fiction, nonfiction, biography, drama, poetry, and more. Plot elements are learned and applied to explore how an author uses plot to shape a story. Theme and inference are important components in applying comprehension to the various stories. Reading outside of class is encouraged. Content is compared with film versions and comparisons are drawn between the two venues. Google Docs is used often to relay learned information. The students will also have time for reading books of their own choosing and are tested on these in the Accelerated Reader Program. Through the STAR Reading Assessment, the students' goals are determined, based on their individual needs.

## LITERACY ELECTIVES

***Each 7<sup>th</sup> grade student is required to be enrolled in one literacy elective course each semester. These classes focus on writing and reading. Each elective is a semester class and may only be taken once during the student's 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. Please review the requirements and procedures on the class selection form. When choosing literacy electives, each student needs to select one "A Literacy Elective" and one "B Literacy Elective". The letter is not a determination of when the class is taught.***

### "A" LITERACY ELECTIVES

#### **CARPE DIEM!(One semester & may not be repeated)**

Seize the day! Many great men and women have seized the day to make the world a better place. Learn about people in all walks of life (community members, athletes, musicians, etc.) who have strived to help others and our world. Go back through the years of Italy and look at the lives of the Saints and other heroic men and women who have seized the day. Write a short fictional story about a Saint's life, discover the Latin roots of your vocabulary words, and read a couple novels about the lives of great men and women. Find out what it takes to seize the day, and possibly our class will explore an opportunity and make a positive change in our school, community, or world. Carpe Diem!!

#### **ALL THE "WRITE" STUFF (One semester & may not be repeated)**

**Recommended Lexile score is 900 or higher.**

Have you ever thought, "Wow! I love how this book is written!" Recognizing great writing can be fun and exciting. In this higher level class we will begin by analyzing several short stories that span over several genres. We will determine which elements make a short story come alive and which elements hinder a story's progression. After several weeks of analysis, we will begin to incorporate these elements into our own short stories and this class will serve as an intense writer's workshop. Join us as we read and write all the "write" stuff!

#### **WRITING WITH iPADS (One semester & may not be repeated)**

Students will explore different types of writing by using a variety of iPad apps. Some of the apps used are: *Visual Poetry, Max Journal, ToonTastic, Write About, SpellGrid, Prezi, WordJoust, BookCreator* and *Animoto*. Students will also write an essay utilizing 'song' as the overall theme and they will create *Powtoons*, utilizing an app in Google. In this course, students will also analyze how the elements of a story interact. They will participate in a variety of technology projects to enhance their overall writing techniques. Students will also have the opportunity to share some of their projects with their classmates.

#### **HEALTH: LIFE IS THE FUTURE (One semester & may not be repeated)**

Within this course, students will dive deep into the world of lifelong health and what that means for their future. We will have in-depth discussions and challenging units which will include Social Health/Teen Relationships, Mental/Emotional Health, Alcohol and other Drugs, Spiritual Health, Cognitive Health, Cultural Health, Financial Health, and Nutrition/Physical Activity. This class will provide students ways to live their best life for success through mindful thinking and health advocacy, all while using the decision making process to meet our end goals. Students will be given healthy tools to use as they start

the transition from middle school to high school as well as asking the question, "What are my lifelong goals and how do I get there with great success?" Life is our future, let's learn the ways to live out our best life as God planned.

## **"B" LITERACY ELECTIVES**

### **GOD'S GREEN EARTH (One semester & may not be repeated)**

This is a semester literary elective where students look into our wonderful world and the environmental issues it faces. Students will read nonfiction pieces introducing them to the world of ecology and the interdependence of life on Earth. They will read about environmental issues through current events and past mistakes that have impacted our world and resources. Hands on activities and solutions to environmental issues will be a highlight of the course. Their reading will also include fiction pieces where the characters in the story deal with environmental issues and are challenged to make a positive difference. Throughout the semester, students will look for ways that they can better our world. As they learn, they will undoubtedly see ways that they can make a difference. Our beautiful earth is a gift from God. Let's learn how to take care of it.

### **MYTHOLOGY (One semester & may not be repeated)**

Mythology is a study of how ancient societies learned to function, communicate, and grow. How did all things begin? Students will see the world through the eyes of the gods and will strive to find connections to different cultures and religions. Students will read about the Greeks and how gods were a part of daily life. Students will also use Greek and Latin root words to apply to their vocabulary they use today.

### **SONGWRITING & COMPOSITION (Fall Semester Only)**

Are you interested in learning piano, guitar, bucket drumming, and ukulele? If so, this course is for you! This survey course looks at the history, genre and theory behind music composition. Students will be exploring these subjects through class projects, some of which include Medieval Era music, Classical composition, commercial music, pop music, and movie music. Chromebooks and online programs will be used on a regular basis to give an understanding of music technology and students will create their own unique compositions. This class is open to students of all music abilities.

### **DISCOVERING LATIN AMERICA (One semester & may not be repeated)**

This class will discover and explore different aspects of modern Latin America. During this literary elective, students will read and explore several cultural components of the Latin American countries including climate, cuisine, art, music, sports, education, transportation, holidays and festivals, religion, and tourism. Students will apply their knowledge by creating artwork to resemble that of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. They will cook and bring in Mexican food to share with the class to have a taste of

the exceptional cuisine. Students will also learn about holidays and festivals in several countries as they occur. The way of life among the communities in each country will be compared and contrasted with readings and discussions.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Algebra**

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Recommended MAP Range: 245 or higher

Algebra is an upper level math course and follows the high school curriculum. Students will be challenged and work at a rigorous pace with an above-normal workload. This course examines the following concepts of Algebra: operations with real numbers and powers; expressions, equations, and inequalities; linear functions; polynomial and nonlinear functions; and rational functions and radicals. Learning these major topics will set the foundation for future math courses.

### **Pre-Algebra**

Prerequisite: Honors Math 6

Recommended MAP Range: 230 or 250

Prior knowledge of basic computation skills, order of operations, and basic fraction skills such as finding a common denominator and simplifying a fraction are recommended. Pre-Algebra is designed to give students the fundamental skills necessary to succeed in the Algebra course taken the following year. Students will explore arithmetic operations, number systems and properties, measurement, geometry, and have an introduction to algebraic thinking and concepts. They will solve one-step and multi-step equations and inequalities, compute with integers, follow order of operations with exponents and square roots, master computation skills with rational numbers, classify and name basic geometric figures, calculate the area and volume of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional figures, calculate percent problems, and learn the basics of linear equation.

Beyond the textbook, students will use resources such as *Khan Academy* (a non-profit educational organization that provides free video tutorials and interactive exercises) and *KUTA* software as enrichment and extra practice. Students who successfully complete Pre-Algebra with a B average or better will move onto Algebra the following year.

### **Math 7**

Prerequisite: Math 6 or Honors Math 6

Recommended MAP Range: up to 235

This course prepares students to transition to more advanced mathematical topics such as Algebra and Geometry while enhancing their basic arithmetic knowledge. Students develop abstract reasoning and symbolic manipulation skills and will support answers by showing various process steps. Problem solving reinforces concepts and makes mathematical connections to their daily lives. Topics in this course include: order of operations, exponents, basic pre-algebra, integers, rational numbers (positive and negative fractions and decimals), proportions, percentages, basic geometry and probability. Upon completion of this course, students will be ready for Pre-Algebra.

## **RELIGION**

The seventh grade Religion curriculum focuses on the life of Christ. Students gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a member of the Church and a follower of Christ. Parts of the New Testament are studied, *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth*, as well as parts of the *Catholic Catechism*. Exciting faith and character building experiences include: learning, making and praying the Rosary, followed up by a visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help for Mass and a tour, and Christmas Cookie Decorating and donations to St. Joseph's Food Program. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders also attend a special Winter Camp that harnesses the teaching of our Lord's Beatitudes.

The school year is full of liturgies, retreats, seasonal units, hands-on activities, technological communications and projects, activities of the Church year, as well as service projects, all of which provide a means for students to grow and express their faith. Seventh grade religion also has a special focus on the *Theology of the Body*, Pope John Paul II's integrated vision of the human person, body, soul and spirit. The religion department also works closely with our school counselors to bring awareness and education on the topics of alcohol, and other drug abuse prevention. The focus is on choices, consequences and Catholic moral teachings.

## **SCIENCE**

In this Life Science course students study all forms of living organisms. They begin by learning the characteristics of living things, and move into the wonderful animal kingdom. To aid in learning, a variety of technology sources are used, such as video and live web cameras to view these animals in action. Students will do dissections along the way including a worm, grasshopper, starfish, and a frog. Labs are a big part of the course of study, as students will extract DNA from wheat, examine cells, and perform numerous data collecting experiments. The animal unit culminates with an in-depth unit on the human body. The course then moves into the world of plants and a study of ecology. The course contains many hands-on activities and has a strong emphasis on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) skills. In addition, a Project Lead the Way class called "Medical Detectives" is infused to allow additional experiences in scientific problem solving.

Throughout this Life Science course, students will learn to acknowledge that all of these miraculous things they are learning about have been created by God. They are encouraged to remember that they are called to be stewards of the Earth and all its creatures, and they must respect life and value all that is entrusted to them.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

The purpose of seventh grade Social Studies is to provide a more in-depth study of the figures and events that shaped America's early history. The course begins with researching local and national Native American groups and concludes with the end of the Civil War. Topics explored in this course also include early colonial America, the American Revolution, early government, the Jacksonian Era, Western Expansion, and the complex origins and progression of the Civil War. This course utilizes several different methods to enhance student learning such as presentations, short essays, perspective journaling, competitive debates, video reports, and role-playing simulations.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Twice a week)**

At Xavier Middle School, the Physical Education staff is committed to a comprehensive quality program with a designed curriculum based on lifetime fitness and positive experiences. The units are designed to incorporate fundamental skills, physical fitness and knowledge of various lifelong activities. Students who choose to actively participate in a quality physical education program receive a variety of benefits, including:

- A variety of motor skills and abilities related to lifetime leisure activities
- Improved understanding of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- Improved understanding of movement and the human body
- Self-confidence and self-worth as they relate to physical education recreation programs
- A feeling of success in a fitness facility where students learn how to plan and create their own personal fitness goals.

### **ELECTIVES**

*The following 7<sup>th</sup> grade courses are electives. Students may select a subject based on interest and ability. Additional details and requirements are listed on the class selection form.*

### **ART ( Three days a week)**

The theme of seventh grade art is “Communicating with Visual Images”. The internet and global marketplace have made this a tremendously valuable tool in any student’s skill set.

Projects include:

- \*Creativity booster
- \*Core skill advancement (intermediate still life drawing)
- \*Art history study
- \*Printmaking and composition
- \*Art theory - an in-depth look at the elements of art and principles of design
- \*Putting art theory to use: landscape painting
- \*Study in symbolism

The curriculum is designed to meet important developmental goals in a relevant, sequential, and invigorating manner.

### **BAND (Three days a week)**

In seventh grade band rehearsals are 40 minutes in length and held three days per week. Students receive individual lessons weekly during the school day. Students participate in band festivals, solo ensemble recitals and festivals, winter and spring concerts. Seventh grade band students participate in one Pep Band performance with the Xavier High School Band. They will also participate in our annual System band concert. This combined concert includes all band members from grades 5 - 12. Second

semester students are given the option of participating in Jazz Band. Each quarter students are given a variety of music theory and listening assignments. Computer programs such as *Smart Music* and various iPad apps are used to evaluate and drill music skills.

### **CHOIR (Three days a week)**

Seventh grade Choir meets three times each week for large group rehearsal and once each week in a small group session. Lesson time is used to enhance the overall vocal technique and repertoire. Sight-singing skills, music notation, parts singing, and proper vocal techniques are further developed. In addition, students will learn about composers and musicians of varied genres, and careers in music. Performances include several concerts each year, Mass music, and a Solo/Ensemble performance in March.

### **ORCHESTRA (Three days a week)**

Orchestra is available to students in grades 5-8. If students are beginning orchestra for the first time, summer lessons are highly recommended and instructor approval is required. This course meets three times per week for 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade. Each student has one 15 minute private lesson per week. Students perform in 3 performances each year and are expected to perform as a group at WSMA Solo Ensemble.

### **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE GEN MUS - WORLD MUSIC (Twice a week)**

The general music course is a project-based class that incorporates technology to explore the music of world cultures, music history, and music composition. The students will explore world music drumming and percussion as well as the mechanics of music. The students will also have the opportunity to study an instrument from those available from the music department, which include the piano keyboard, guitar, ukulele, handbells, recorder, Celtic whistle, African drums, and harmonica.

### **WORLD LANGUAGES (Five days per week)**

A good understanding of basic grammar is necessary for students to learn a world language. Therefore, students must have average or better grades in Language Arts in sixth grade in order to take a world language. Completion of World Language 1A in 7th grade and 1B in 8th grade is equivalent to level 1 at the high school.

### **French 1A**

French 1A includes the first three units of the book, *Discovering French Nouveau, Bleu 1*. Students learn basic necessary vocabulary including days, months, colors, weather, foods, beverages, the body, nationalities, etc. In addition, French 1A focuses on sentence formation, proper grammar, pronunciation, and conversation development. This is accomplished through fun dialogues, skits, and lots of repetition. Supplementary resources include the webpage, [www.classzone.com](http://www.classzone.com), where students can access an online practice workbook and vocabulary flashcards, as well as practice quizzes for lessons and units. Google Docs and Drive are used for class projects including skits and other writing

activities. Students who complete French 1A with a C+ or better are prepared for and encouraged to continue on to French 1B.

### **German 1A**

German 1A will introduce students to the German language and culture and enable them to speak and understand German at a basic level. Students will learn listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills in the target language. Interpretive listening and reading skills will be practiced and assessed through listening activities, music, and reading short passages and realia from the target culture. Interpersonal speaking will be practiced and assessed through basic conversations and pair work. Presentational writing and speaking skills will be assessed through larger projects and presentations. The themes explored are those found in chapters 1-4 of *Komm mit!* and include “Who am I?”, free time activities, home and family, and school. The corresponding grammatical structures include verb conjugations, present tense, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs and sentence structure. In addition to the textbook, several online resources are available for practice. This course is continued in 8<sup>th</sup> grade (German 1B) .

### **Spanish 1A**

Spanish 1A will introduce basic Spanish verbal and written skills with an emphasis on good pronunciation and written and oral comprehension. Vocabulary is continually enlarged and grammar skills stressed. Grammar units include: numbers, alphabet, definite and indefinite articles, possessive adjectives, adjective/noun agreement and subject/verb agreement, interrogatives, present tense, simple future tense, *gustar*, *ser* and *estar*. Classroom work is primarily in Spanish and exams are frequent. Students will use the *Conjuguemos* webpage to help practice vocabulary and grammar. This course is continued in 8<sup>th</sup> grade (Spanish 1B) .

## **Grade 8 Course Descriptions**

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

Throughout the year, students will focus on both reading and writing. Students will review proper writing for narrative, comparison and contrast, and persuasive writing, and will also work on writing about what they’ve read. Each quarter, students will also continue to work on their writing skills using journals. Spelling, grammar, and vocabulary are incorporated into each unit. Students have Accelerated Reader (AR) book checkout in the library during class time, and are expected to read books in their Lexile range. They must also meet a minimum requirement of AR test points, which are determined on an individual basis by the STAR Reading Assessment.

Students will start off the year focused on elements of stories and the reinforcement of grammar basics. They will read short stories like *Flowers for Algernon*. Literary elements covered are conflict, plot, irony, point of view, and voice. Students then read *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and explore both the play and the original diary. The third quarter will be focused on nonfiction writing, and students will complete a research project. This will consist of students being able to research a variety of topics, writing a formal research paper in MLA format, and presenting their research. The students will also take part in book

clubs throughout the third quarter. The students will also read stories such as the historical fiction novel, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, and *The Giver*.

## LITERACY ELECTIVES

***Each 8<sup>th</sup> grade student is required to be enrolled in one literacy elective course each semester. These classes focus on writing and reading. Each elective is a semester class and may only be taken once during the student's 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Please review the requirements and procedures on the class selection form. When choosing literacy electives, each student needs to select one "A Literacy Elective" and one "B Literacy Elective". The letter is not a determination of when the class is taught.***

### "A" LITERACY ELECTIVES

#### **CREATIVE WRITING (One semester & may not be repeated)**

Students will produce a range of written work and create a writing portfolio. While learning to develop characters as well as their imaginations, students will be able to think and write outside the box. We will be dabbling in parodies, screenwriting, and working on connecting our writing with the senses and our personal experiences. We will also spend time evaluating and editing each other's pieces, learning how to be a critique without criticizing.

#### **HEALTH: LIFE IS THE FUTURE (One semester & may not be repeated if taken in 7<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Within this course, students will dive deep into the world of lifelong health and what that means for their future. We will have in-depth discussions and challenging units which will include Social Health/Teen Relationships, Mental/Emotional Health, Alcohol and other Drugs, Spiritual Health, Cognitive Health, Cultural Health, Financial Health, and Nutrition/Physical Activity. This class will provide students ways to live their best life for success through mindful thinking and health advocacy, all while using the decision-making process to meet our end goals. Students will be given healthy tools to use as they start the transition from middle school to high school as well as asking the question, "What are my lifelong goals, and how do I get there with great success?" Life is our future, let's learn the ways to live out our best life as God planned.

#### **INTRODUCTION TO MEDIA (One semester & may not be repeated)**

During this course students will explore beginning skills in video creation. Scripts will be written and storyboards created for a minimum of four projects. The projects will include commercials, public service announcements, and newscasts, all completely planned, produced and edited by the students. All work will be done on classroom computers. Students will explore many forms of media, as well as interviewing, public speaking, and data analysis.

#### **EVOLUTION OF JAZZ (One semester & may not be repeated)**

This course is designed to take the student through the diverse musical styles of American jazz through performance and study (ragtime, blues, Dixieland, big band/swing, bebop, rock, funk, bossa nova, and

Latin). Other elements of study will include the theory of jazz as well as jazz history. The Jazz Band will be featured at a benefit concert for Dan's House of Hope, at the International Food Fair, and participate in the school's Solo & Ensemble Festival.

**Prerequisite:** Students must play an instrument (band, orchestra, drum set, piano, guitar, or bass guitar) to register for this course.

## **"B" LITERACY ELECTIVES**

### **BOOK CLUB (One semester & may not be repeated)**

**This class is faster paced and recommended for someone with a Lexile score of 1000 or greater.** Reading enthusiasts who enjoy talking with friends, look no further, this is the course for you! This class is geared towards those students who have a love for reading. We will read as an entire class as well as in smaller book clubs to explore different novels. Find people who share similar interests in books and discover books that you fall in love with. Get ready to talk about your favorite characters and make predictions about the outcome of books.

### **INTO THE LIMELIGHT (One semester & may not be repeated)**

This is a great course for students who enjoy acting or want to learn more about theater. It will also help improve public speaking skills. Students will be reading different scripts or stories and acting them out. We may also watch some recordings of theatrical productions. Students will learn about the theater itself including stage directions and lighting & sound. Part of this includes participation in running sound/lighting for all-school liturgies and assemblies. We will also learn about the history of theater. At the end of the semester, students will have the opportunity to write their own plays and act them out for the class. This is a class where you can just be yourself and step into the limelight!

### **BUSINESS BASICS (One semester & may not be repeated)**

In this class, students will learn what it means to be an entrepreneur, the characteristics of an entrepreneur, and will research famous entrepreneurs. Students will learn the fundamentals of starting and running a small business through their participation in running our school store, called The Snack Shack. They will also work on a "Starting a Small Business" project in which they will generate an idea for a business and learn how to write a business plan, determine the target market of their business, learn how to gain information from their customers, and learn how to use that information to enhance their business. The students will then "pitch" their business idea to the class, similar to the tv show "Shark Tank."

### **STORIES OF MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE (One semester & may not be repeated)**

Did you know that the original detective story is not one about Sherlock Holmes, but is a gothic mystery by Edgar Allan Poe? Students will participate in crime-solving activities and explore mystery stories through the formats of novels, short stories, plays, videos, syndicated television recordings, radio broadcast recordings, and poems. They will explore stories by Edgar Allan Poe, Arthur Conan Doyle, Richard Connell, Ellen Raskin, and W.W. Jacobs, among others. Character, setting, and data analysis

are key processes that students will use to solve “mini-mysteries” within the class. Students will write crime report summaries upon the conclusion of stories, and at the end of the semester, students will be able to write their own mysteries!

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Honors Geometry**

Prerequisite: B+ or better in Algebra

Recommended MAP Range: 250 or higher

This course covers the essential topics in geometry, concepts such as congruence; similarity; perpendicular and parallel lines; quadrilaterals; right triangle trigonometry; circle relationships; polygons; surface area and volume of three-dimensional solids; as well as coordinate and transformational geometry. Fundamentals of deductive and inductive logic are presented using mathematical proofs, geometric proofs and real-world problem solving as tools. This course will include all topics covered in Geometry, but the topics will be covered in greater depth with more challenging problems and a greater emphasis on problem solving.

### **Algebra**

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Recommended MAP Range: 230 - 255

Students must have successfully completed the Pre-Algebra class with a B average or better to be able to take Algebra. Prior knowledge of computing with rational numbers, integers, and solving basic equations is recommended. This course is designed to give students the requisite skills that provide a foundation for all future mathematics courses. Students will explore writing and solving linear equations, learn identity and equality properties, and use proportional reasoning when using trigonometric ratios, solving interest formulas and weighted averages word problems. Students will solve quadratic equations, equations with polynomials and factoring, and learn graphing and solve linear functions and inequalities.

Beyond the textbook, students will use *Khan Academy* (a non-profit educational organization that provides free video tutorials and interactive exercises) and *KUTA* software for enrichment and extra practice. Students who successfully complete Algebra will move on to Honors Geometry the following year.

### **Pre-Algebra**

Prerequisite: Math 7

Recommended MAP Range: 240 or lower

Prior knowledge of basic computation skills, order of operations, and basic fraction skills such as finding a common denominator and simplifying a fraction are recommended. Pre-Algebra is designed to give students the fundamental skills necessary to succeed in the Algebra course taken the following year. Students will explore arithmetic operations, number systems and properties, measurement, geometry,

and an introduction to algebraic thinking and concepts. Students will solve one-step and multi-step equations and inequalities, compute with integers, follow order of operations with exponents and square roots, master computation skills with rational numbers, classify and name basic geometric figures, calculate the area and volume of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional figures, calculate percent problems, and learn the basics of linear equation.

Beyond the textbook, students will use resources such as *Khan Academy* (a non-profit educational organization that provides free video tutorials and interactive exercises) and *KUTA* software as enrichment and extra practice. Students who successfully complete Pre-Algebra will move on to Algebra the following year.

## **RELIGION**

This course covers the history of the Catholic Church from its beginning to the present day. Students learn who, when, why, and how Church traditions were formed to better understand and deepen their own faith. Prayer, world religions, Marks of the Church, Trinity, Catholic Social Teaching, laws of the Church, and other doctrines are studied in the curriculum. Articles from *The Compass*, the *Green Bay Diocesan Newspaper*, are read and discussed on a regular basis. Students express their faith through participation in daily prayer, prayer services, liturgies, and retreats. Theology of the Body is also a part of the religion program. Projects will be done on prayer, the saints, and world religions. Completing five hours of community service each semester is expected. Students are encouraged to witness to their faith in their daily lives.

## **SCIENCE**

Eighth grade science focuses on earth science. Topics covered in this course include: plate tectonics, volcanoes & earthquakes, erosion & deposition, natural resources, weather & climate, and outer space. Each of these topics is taught through an inquiry-based, issue-oriented curriculum that engages students in the process of learning through hands-on labs or activities. It also encourages students to use scientific evidence to make decisions and helps educate tomorrow's citizens about the application of science to everyday life. In addition to this earth science curriculum, we will be using *Project Lead the Way: Energy and the Environment*. The three main topics of this curriculum are investigating energy, sustainable energy, and making an impact. Students will explore energy usage on a global level and different forms of alternative energy. They will then look at the idea of making small changes as an individual and collectively making a large impact.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Social Studies in 8th Grade takes the time to focus on American History from the Industrial Era (late 1800s) to present day. This class will make connections from events in the past and how it relates to students today. Students learn America's role in both World Wars and the connection America has with other countries and cultures on a global level. The Roaring Twenties, Great Depression, and Civil Rights Movement help students understand the challenges our country faced as America moved forward. Eighth graders will look at the political, economic, cultural, and social events throughout each of the decades. This is an interactive class that pushes students to connect to people from the past and recognize their role in the world around them. Primary documents, projects, simulations, and

classroom discussions are tools used to help students become involved members of our community on a local, national, and global level.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Twice a week)**

At Xavier Middle School, the Physical Education staff is committed to a comprehensive quality program with a designed curriculum based on lifetime fitness and positive experiences. The units are designed to incorporate fundamental skills, physical fitness and knowledge of various lifelong activities. Students who choose to actively participate in a quality physical education program receive a variety of benefits, including:

- A variety of motor skills and abilities related to lifetime leisure activities
- Improved understanding of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- Improved understanding of movement and the human body
- Self-confidence and self-worth as they relate to physical education recreation programs
- A feeling of success in a fitness facility where students learn how to plan and create their own personal fitness goals.

## **ELECTIVES**

Each 8<sup>th</sup> grade student is required to choose 3 elective courses per semester. Please see the course selection form for requirements and procedures.

### **ART (Three days a week)**

Eighth grade art is a time for advanced work in visual art. The year is dedicated to the concept of space: the illusion and actual use of three dimensional space ...

Projects include:

- \*Creativity booster
- \*Core skill development (advanced still life drawing)
- \*One point perspective studies and research
- \*One point perspective scenes
- \*Papier mache sculpture

The curriculum is designed to meet important developmental goals in a relevant, sequential, and invigorating manner.

### **BAND (Three days a week)**

In eighth grade band rehearsals are 40 minutes in length and held three days per week. Students receive individual lessons weekly during the school day. Students participate in band festivals, solo ensemble recitals and festivals, winter and spring concerts. 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students participate in one Pep Band performance with the Xavier High School Band and also participate in our annual System band concert. This combined concert includes all band members from grades 5 - 12. Second semester students are given the option of participating in Jazz Band. Each quarter students are given a variety of music theory and listening assignments. Computer programs such as *Smart Music* and various iPad apps are used to evaluate and drill music skills.

### **CHOIR (Three days a week)**

Eighth grade Choir meets three times each week for large group rehearsal and once each week in an individual or small group session. Lesson time is used to enhance the overall vocal technique and repertoire. Sight-singing skills, music notation, vocal independence, parts-singing, and proper vocal technique are further developed throughout the school year. Students will explore the many composers and musicians of varied genres, and careers in the music industry. Performances include several concerts each year, Mass music, and a Solo/Ensemble performance in March.

### **ORCHESTRA (Three days a week)**

Orchestra is available to students in grades 5-8. If students are beginning orchestra for the first time, summer lessons are highly recommended and instructor approval is required. The course meets three times per week for 6th-8th grade. Each student has one 15 minute private lesson per week.

Students perform in 3 school performances each year and are expected to perform as a group at WSMA Solo Ensemble.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE GEN MUS - ORIGINS OF ROCK (Twice a week)**

The general music course is a project-based class that incorporates technology to explore the music of popular culture such as Rock & Roll, Folk, Pop, Rock, K-Pop, and HipHop. The music industry, the influence of social media, musical style development, recording, composition mechanics and music sequencing are also explored. A wide variety of music and performers from around the world will be included in this course. The students will also have the opportunity to study an instrument from those available from the music department, which include the piano keyboard, guitar, ukulele, handbells, recorder, Celtic whistle, African drums, and harmonica.

### **WORLD LANGUAGE (Five days per week)**

#### **French 1B**

Prerequisite: French 1A with passing grades

French 1B includes units four through six of the book, *Discovering French Nouveau, Bleu 1*. Students add onto the basic building blocks they learned in the previous year to become more independent speakers and writers. Learning to ask for directions, expressing opinions about various topics, and building on their vocabulary are skills stressed in level 1B. Students continue to build their irregular and regular present tense verb lists while learning to converse in the near future and past tense. Several student-created skits are created and presented. GoogleDocs and Drive are used for any writing project for the class. Students that earn a C+ or better will be able to enter French 2 in high school.

## **German 1B**

Prerequisite: German 1A with passing grades

After reviewing the concepts of German 1A, the students continue to expand their knowledge of German through further development of listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills in the target language. The themes explored are those found in chapters 5-8 in *Komm mit!* and include clothing, making plans, expressing obligations, and shopping. More advanced grammatical concepts are also introduced. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade course also exposes the students to extended reading selections where the students will read graded readers and be expected to discuss the content in German. Google drive and GoogleDocs will also be used. This course is a continuation of German 1A. Completion of the two-year course allows interested and excelling students to be able to enter German 2 in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and ultimately reach German 5 at the high school, potentially earning a substantial number of college credits.

## **Spanish 1B**

Prerequisite: Spanish 1A with passing grades

After a review of Spanish 1A concepts, new grammar and vocabulary units are added. Grammar units include adjectives/agreement, reflexive verbs, ser/estar, present progressive and present perfect tenses, and the related use of gerunds and past participles. Conversational skills are constantly reinforced. Frequent oral and written exams test students' comprehension of the target language. Classroom work is primarily in Spanish. Students will use the *Conjuguemos* webpage to help practice vocabulary and grammar. After completing this course many students will go on to Spanish 2 in high school.