

# MIDDLE SCHOOL

Experience Guide

**2021-2022**

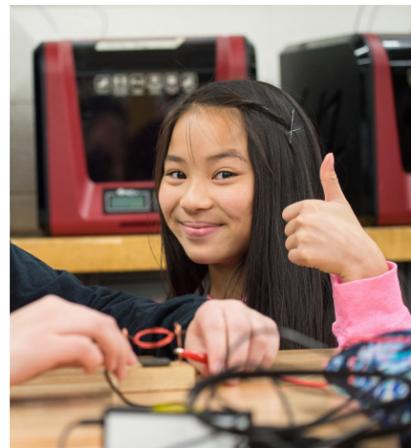
# Two Middle Schools. One Experience.

## FUEL EXPLORATION. FIND INSPIRATION.

» At the middle school level, learning is designed to foster exploration and nurture creativity as students consider their futures. We're serious about building inclusive spaces because it gives students the best chance to continue healthy self-discovery as they bridge into our high school experience.

The middle schools offer similar programming and opportunities.

- Each student will be assigned to an interdisciplinary team of teachers.
- The schedule at the middle school allows students the opportunity to explore more subjects and interests.
- Advisory will focus on college/career readiness, social and emotional learning standards, community building, and enhancing the relationships between students and teachers.
- Embedded honors opportunities will be available to students that provide enhanced rigor, primarily through the complexity of the work and materials in core subject areas (literary arts, social studies and science).
- All students will have one period each day for reading instruction at their level with students at the same level.
- Expanded opportunities for elective and exploratory offerings.



4. SCHOOL CULTURE



8. AVID



7. ONE-TO-ONE TECH



16. PATHWAYS

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### Learning

With rigorous curriculum to challenge all learners and varied assessments to appropriately measure progress, our middle school experience has been designed to prepare students for future success.

### Leadership

We know that investing in tomorrow's leaders means giving them opportunities to grow and learn today. Through programs like Where Everybody Belongs (WEB), older students act as mentors for incoming sixth-grade students and help ease the transition from elementary school life.

### Culture

We keep our schools safe and inclusive by choosing students over scores, time and again. At the middle school level, we've made renewed efforts to engage families, make guidance and support services accessible, and emphasize health and wellness in our curriculum.

# Eagle Ridge Middle School

## SCHOOL CULTURE

District 191 middle schools are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment where all students can be successful in school. To support this commitment, we use an organizational approach called Positive Behavior Interventions and

Supports (PBIS) that sets consistent expectations throughout the school, uses a common language when talking about behavior, and focuses on reinforcing good choices that students make every day.

# Nicollet Middle School

## Eagle Ridge FIRE

**FOCUS**

**INTEGRITY**

**RESPONSIBILITY**

**EXCELLENCE**



## Nicollet RISE

**RESOURCEFUL**

**INCLUSIVE**

**SAFE**

**EXCELLENCE**

## CONTACT EAGLE RIDGE

13955 Glendale Rd.  
Savage, MN 55378  
952-707-2800  
[www.isd191.org/eagleridge](http://www.isd191.org/eagleridge)

Attendance: 952-707-2804

**Para hablar con alguien en español sobre la información contenida en este catálogo de cursos, póngase en contacto con:**

Eagle Ridge Middle School  
Mary Lopez, 952-707-2866

Nicollet Middle School  
Mary Lopez, 952-707-2609

**Si'aad ula hadasho qof Somali ah xaga macluumaadka buugaga maadoyinka, fadlan lasoo xiriir:**

Eagle Ridge Middle School  
Axmax Kaahiye, 952-707-2800

Nicollet Middle School  
Axmax Kaahiye, 952-707-2600

## CONTACT NICOLLET

400 E. 134th St.  
Burnsville, MN 55337  
952-707-2600  
[www.isd191.org/nicollet](http://www.isd191.org/nicollet)

Attendance: 952-707-2604

# Academic Information



## GRADING SYSTEM

GRADE	1 CR
A	4.00
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C-	1.7
D+	1.33
D	1.0
D-	.7
F	.00
NO CREDIT	.00
INCOMPLETE	.00
PASS/FAIL	.00

## CALCULATING GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA):

Each grade received in a semester is assigned a numerical value (see above grading system). The sum of these numerical values is divided by the number of credits attempted in the semester to determine a GPA. A GPA is calculated for each student at the end of each semester.

## GPA RECOGNITION

Honor Roll: Numerical equivalencies are used to determine the "A" and "B" honor rolls for each semester. Students who have achieved an average of 3.600 to 4.000 will be listed on the "A" honor roll. Students who have achieved an average of 2.60 to 3.599 will be listed on the "B" honor roll. A student must be full-time at their middle school to be eligible for the honor roll.

## COURSE CANCELLATIONS

Courses may be canceled because of low enrollment or availability of a licensed teacher. Students are notified of course cancellations as early as possible. In some instances, it is necessary to reduce the number of sections of a course that is offered.

## NAVIANCE

Students and families have access to Naviance Family Connection, a tool to help students plan their coursework and prepare for post-high school. See more on Page 15 in the Burnsville High School Course Catalog.

## SCHEDULE CHANGES

A schedule change must be made through a counselor. Reasons for making a schedule change include:

- A student has an incomplete schedule, and needs to add a course.
- A student doesn't meet the requirements for a course for which she or he is presently enrolled.
- A student needs to schedule/reschedule a required course for graduation.
- A student is recommended by her or his teacher to move from one level to another within the same discipline (i.e. regular Algebra II to Honors Algebra II or vice versa).
- The change is a recommendation on a student's IEP or 504 Plan.

## TIPS FOR PARENTS

Middle school is the beginning of each child's journey toward graduation and post-secondary programs. Parents should monitor course progress during the school year, review testing information (FAST, MCA, Aspire), research areas of interest, and begin discussing post-secondary options and the requirements for acceptance. Work with your child's school counselor to develop the Post-Secondary Plan during their 8th grade year.

## TECHNOLOGY & STUDENT INFORMATION

All District 191 middle school students are issued Chromebook personal learning devices. Please watch for information before the start of the school year regarding distribution and use. Read more about how Chromebooks are used by District 191 students at [www.isd191.org/chromebook](http://www.isd191.org/chromebook).

We have two online tools that help parents access student information, attendance, grades and more.

## PARENTVUE

ParentVue is a place to access basic information about your child. On ParentVue you can find:

- Daily attendance
- Completed grades
- Student Schedules
- Lunch Account
- Emergency Contacts
- Health Information

[www.isd191.org/parents/parentvue](http://www.isd191.org/parents/parentvue)

## SCHOOLGY

Schoology is an online program that is the central hub for your child's learning. On Schoology you can find:

- Class descriptions
- Upcoming assignments and announcements
- Resources for classes

Parents should have both a ParentVue and Schoology account. Both have apps that make it very easy to access your student's information on your phone.

[www.isd191.org/learning/technologyone91/schoology](http://www.isd191.org/learning/technologyone91/schoology)

# AVID College Readiness

» District 191 middle schools offer AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), a college prep program designed to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges. AVID serves all students by ensuring they acquire the organizational and study skills needed for them to be successful. Students learn academic strategies to develop critical thinking skills and ask probing questions.

“Through AVID, students develop habits that will help them throughout their learning journey.”

– **AMY SMALLEY, AVID COORDINATOR**

AVID is available as an elective course for students in grades 6-8. Use of AVID teaching methods, such as Cornell note-taking and group collaboration, takes place in all classes and creates a college-going culture across all schools, so that every student benefits from this renowned national program.



# Support & Enrichment

## **ADVANCED LEARNING**

Our middle school model provides enrichment programming for advanced learners at both middle schools through embedded honors programming in Literary Arts/Communications, Social Studies, and Science and through accelerated Math courses. All students will have access to the embedded honors opportunities provided in Literary Arts/Communications, Social Studies, and Science. For accelerated math, students will need to meet certain academic criteria to register for these courses.

## **ENGLISH LEARNERS**

Students who qualify for English Learner (EL) services are serviced in pull-out, sheltered content or mainstream classes, as determined by their WIDA language proficiency level. Please discuss your child's placement in this program with your school's Guidance Counselor. Students who demonstrate an English language proficiency level of 5.0 overall and 4.0 or higher in each ACCESS domain (speaking, listening, reading, writing) are exited from formal English Learner services and served in the mainstream classroom setting.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Special Education Services are provided to eligible students with disabilities. Students can be eligible in one of 13 disability areas. The services are based on the results of an individual evaluation and documented in a student's Individual Education Program (IEP) plan. Services may include: specialized instruction in math, reading, written language, social skills, transition skills, and independent living and employment skills.

Additionally, students may require services in the areas of speech/language, occupational therapy, school social work, developmental adapted physical education, school nursing, physical therapy, orientation and mobility, sign language interpretation, instruction from a vision or deaf/hard of hearing teacher and/or teacher of the physically impaired.

# Schedule for Success

» An updated schedule has a positive impact on the student experience by building in a variety of student supports into the daily schedule. The middle school schedule features the following improvements:

- Built-in advisory period
- Combined literary arts and communications period. This means students have the same teacher for both, providing consistency and a stronger student-teacher relationship
- Extended math block. What I Need (WIN) time is a part of the math block, enabling students to receive additional math support taught by their math teacher

## SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE

Period	Course/Subject
1	Advisory
2	Literacy/Communications
3	Math
<b>LUNCH</b>	
5	Science or Social Studies
6	Elective/Exploratory
7	Elective/Exploratory



## CORE COURSES

The subject areas of communications, literary arts, math, science and social studies continue to be the core of our curriculum. All students are required to take these courses in grades 6-8.

## ADVISORY

Students have a daily advisory period (approximately 20 minutes) where they are provided an opportunity for academic check-in and social engagement. During this time students will participate in college and career readiness activities, set and monitor academic goals, engage in team building activities and receive support to navigate social and emotional situations.

## ELECTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Middle school is a time when students are learning about themselves and their passions. Our schedule gives them more opportunities to explore elective courses that interest them, including music, world languages, physical education, film & animation, AVID, Project Lead The Way and more.

## EXPLORATORY

In 6th and 7th grades, students will rotate through a series of four exploratory classes, taking one each quarter. The exploratory classes will include Project Lead The Way engineering, family & consumer sciences, art, computer technology and health.

## STEM

Our middle school model increases STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) programming. All students have exploratory classes focused on digital literacy in both 6th and 7th grade, as well as Project Lead the Way (PLTW) engineering courses in Design & Modeling and Automation & Robotics.

All students in 8th grade have elective opportunities in PLTW in Green Architecture with Energy in the Environment and Science of Technology & Magic of Electrons and as well as Digital Age and Computer Animation courses. STEM enrichment opportunities during Blaze Time are offered to interested students.

# College & Career Core

The subject areas of communications, literary arts, math, science and social studies continue to be the core of our curriculum. All students are required to take these courses in grades 6-8.

## ENGLISH/LITERARY ARTS

### LITERARY ARTS/COMMUNICATIONS 6

**Course Number:** 0616/0617

This course will provide students a solid foundation in reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Students will learn to use specific critical reading strategies to analyze literary and informational text resources. Writing assignments will focus on students writing well developed, single paragraphs with an emphasis on structure and supporting details. A significant portion of class time is devoted to independent reading with self-selected texts in order to foster an enjoyment of reading, build stamina, and further enhance comprehension skills. At various points during this course, embedded honors opportunities will be available to students that provide enhanced rigor, primarily through the complexity of the work and materials. Students can also anticipate a more intense workload with these honors opportunities.

### LITERARY ARTS/COMMUNICATIONS 7

**Course Number:** 0716/0717

This course will explore advanced and complex concepts within and beyond the Minnesota ELA Standards and will provide deeper learning through higher level questioning, inquiry, and active exploration of the content. Real-world applications will require reflective thinking, reasoning, problem-solving, written communication, and insight. Students will become more self-directed in their studies and be able to work across disciplines. A significant portion of class time is devoted to independent reading with self-selected texts in order to foster an enjoyment of reading, build stamina, and further enhance comprehension skills. At various points during this course, embedded honors opportunities will be available to students that provide enhanced rigor, primarily through the complexity of the work and materials. Students can also anticipate a more intense workload with these honors opportunities.

### LITERARY ARTS/COMMUNICATIONS 8

**Course Number:** 0816/0817

This course provides reading, writing, media literacy, and English language instruction and focuses on higher-level questioning, inquiry, and reading and writing skills and strategies. Students will be exposed to various genres of reading such as short stories, nonfiction and poetry, and various forms of writing including research and persuasive writing. Culturally diverse resources will be used to foster college and career readiness. A significant portion of class time is devoted to independent reading with self-selected texts in order to foster an enjoyment of reading, build stamina, and further enhance comprehension skills. At various points during this course, embedded honors opportunities will be available to students that provide enhanced rigor, primarily through the complexity of the work and materials. Students can also anticipate a more intense workload with these honors opportunities.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### SOCIAL STUDIES 6

**Course Number:** 1611/1612

Minnesota Studies  
Minnesota Studies features history as the lead discipline; however, the focus includes geographic, economic, and civic understandings. Students study Minnesota history and its government, placing the state and its people within the context of the national story. They engage in historical inquiry and study events, issues, and individuals significant to Minnesota history. Additionally, students analyze how the state's physical features and location of resources affect settlement patterns and the growth of cities. Overall, students will learn about the unique role Minnesota has played, and continues to play, in regional, national, and global politics. At various points during this course, embedded honors opportunities will be available to students that provide enhanced rigor, primarily through the complexity of the work and materials. Students can also anticipate a more intense workload with these honors opportunities.



## SOCIAL STUDIES 7

**Course Number:** 1711/1712

US History

The primary emphasis of this course will be the chronological study of American History from post Revolution to present times as outlined by the Minnesota state standards. The course uses a variety of inquiry and critical thinking strategies. Incorporated in this course are governmental, societal, economic, and geographic perspectives. At various points during this course, embedded honors opportunities will be available to students that provide enhanced rigor, primarily through the complexity of the work and materials. Students can also anticipate a more intense workload with these honors opportunities.

## SOCIAL STUDIES 8

**Course Number:** 1811/1812

Global Studies

Eighth grade social studies students will explore geography and contemporary world history. Students in Global Studies explore the regions of the world using geographic information from print and electronic sources. You will analyze important trends in the modern world such as demographic change, shifting trade patterns, and intensified cultural interactions due to globalization. Students participate in civic discussion on contemporary issues, conduct historical inquiry and study events over the last half century that have shaped the contemporary world. You will analyze connections between revolutions, independence movements and social transformations, and understand reasons for the creation of modern nation states. You will also learn that governments are based on different political philosophies and serve various purposes. At various points during this course, embedded honors opportunities will be available to students that provide enhanced rigor, primarily through the complexity of the work and materials. Students can also anticipate a more intense workload with these honors opportunities.



## MATH

### MATH 6/WIN

**Course Number:** 2601/2602; 2616/2617

In sixth grade math, students will focus on representing positive rational numbers in a variety of ways including fractions, decimals and percents, and compute fluently with each of these to solve real-world and mathematical problems. Students will explore mathematical situations using algebraic properties to solve problems. This exploration will include using function rules, graphs, tables, and equations. The course will also focus on calculations and relationships involving lengths, areas, and angles of geometric figures in mathematical problems. WIN stands for "What I Need" and provides an opportunity within the math block for students to get the additional support they need in math, whether supplemental supports or extension and enrichment.

### PRE-ALGEBRA/WIN

**Course Number:** 2711/2712; 2716/2717

**Grade Level:** 7 & Accelerated 6

This course is the foundation for algebraic concepts. Students will study integers, rational numbers, equations and expressions, proportional reasoning, circles and cylinders, and data analysis. Students will apply their learning to solve real-world mathematical problems. This course prepares students to be mathematically literate, as well as prepare them for future math courses, the 7th grade MN Math Standards, and MN standardized math tests. WIN stands for "What I Need" and provides an opportunity within the math block for students to get the additional support they need in math, whether supplemental supports or extension and enrichment.

### ALGEBRA/WIN

**Course Number:** 2811/2812; 2816/2817

**Grade Level:** 8 & Accelerated 7

In eighth grade Algebra, students will explore linear relationships and how they can be used to model real-world situations and solve problems. This exploration will include the use of tables, graphs, equations, and functions. Students will apply these tools to situations involving two distinct mathematical relationships. The meaning of equality will be emphasized and explored throughout the course as students learn how to solve equations in one and two variables. Students will also study slope, y-intercepts, linear inequalities, Pythagorean Theorem, and arithmetic sequences. Students will use algebra as a tool to model real-world situations and solve related problems. Emphasis will be placed on developing the skills to explain their reasoning in algebraic terms. WIN stands for "What I Need" and provides an opportunity within the math block for students to get the additional support they need in math, whether supplemental supports or extension and enrichment.

## GEOMETRY A/B

**Course Number:** 2611/2622

**Grade Level:** Accelerated 8th Grade

Students will learn to read, interpret, represent, and use geometry to solve real-world problems. Coordinates and transformations, being critical to building and maintaining algebra skills and concepts, will be studied semester 1. Measurement and area, topics important to all students, will also be studied in the first semester. Proof, requiring geometry knowledge and experience, is built throughout the year. Study of areas and volumes in three dimensions, Pythagorean Theorem, coordinate geometry, similarity, logic, indirect reasoning, and right triangle trigonometry are all studied in the second semester. Calculator required: Scientific Calculator (TI-84 or TI-84 Plus or TI-83 Graphing Calculator highly recommended)

## SCIENCE

### SCIENCE 6

**Course Number:** 3611/3612

Earth Science

Sixth-grade science is a course that focuses on students using data and evidence to understand phenomena and the world around them to solve problems. Students will learn to analyze, interpret, and recognize patterns and relationships in data. Students will develop, revise and use models to understand phenomena, develop predictions and/or explanations, and will communicate their ideas to others

### SCIENCE 7

**Course Number:** 3711/3712

Life Science

The seventh grade curriculum emphasizes concepts central to life science. Students use scientific tools within hands on laboratory experiments to enrich their learning. Students study the cell, heredity, evolution, ecology, classification, human biology and immunology. At various points during this course, embedded honors opportunities will be available to students that provide enhanced rigor, primarily through the complexity of the work and materials. Students can also anticipate a more intense workload with these honors opportunities.

### SCIENCE 8

**Course Number:** 3811/3812

Eighth-grade science covers rocks and minerals, plate tectonics, the solar system, climate, and weather. This course uses math and language skills in the exploration and understanding of core scientific concepts along with controlled experiments in a lab setting. This course includes middle-level Minnesota earth science standards, as well as the Nature of Science and Engineering middle-level standards.



## ADVISORY/SUCCESS

### ADVISORY PROGRAM

**Course Number:** M260/M261, M270/M271, M280/M281

**Grade Level:** All Students 6-8

Students have a daily advisory period (approximately 20 minutes) where they are provided an opportunity for academic check-in and social engagement. Students will be assigned an Advisor. During this time students will participate in college and career readiness activities, set and monitor academic goals, engage in team building activities and receive support to navigate social and emotional situations.

# Pathways Electives

As students explore their interests in middle school, we encourage them to think about how those interests may grow in high school and eventually relate to their future college and career choices.

Next to many of the Pathway Electives courses, you'll see a color that represent the Career Fields shown below. These courses dovetail into the high school Pathways courses.

## CAREER FIELDS

Arts, Global Communications & Informations Systems

Engineering, Manufacturing & Natural Resources

Business & Entrepreneurship

Health Sciences & Human Services



Learn more about One91 Pathways at [www.isd191.org/pathways](http://www.isd191.org/pathways)

## ART

### ART 6

**Course Number:** 5650

**Notes:** Required Exploratory

Focuses on the foundations of art (elements, principles, aesthetics, and art history) by creating 2-D and 3-D media possibly including, but not limited to: drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, multimedia, crafts, and sculpture. This studio class will provide hands-on experiences that will allow you to develop your production skills as you express your own ideas, thoughts, and feelings. Students will work to revise, evaluate, critique, discuss and present their work and the work of others.

### ART AROUND THE WORLD

**Course Number:** 5750

**Grade Level:** 7

**Notes:** Elective

This semester exploratory art class will allow students to look at and learn about the many different styles of art from all around the world. In this course students will identify a variety of visual arts media and then use the creative process to make sense of the world around them. Perhaps they will take a closer look at the jade carvings from China or the hand stitched molas of Mexico. Wherever their art travels take them to, students are bound to enjoy this fun hands on look at the vast world of art.

### ART EXTRAVAGANZA

**Course Number:** 5850

**Grade Level:** 8

**Notes:** Semester Elective

Do you love to draw or wish you could? Do you like working with clay? If you've said yes to either question, this is the class for you! Using the art elements of line, shape, form, value, and texture and following the principles of emphasis, proportion, repetition, rhythm, variety, unity, movement, balance, and contrast, you will discover your inner creativity. Gain confidence in your abilities each day as you see that realistic drawing is a skill to develop and that you can learn to "see" with the eyes of an artist. You'll explore the basics of drawing as you work from both real objects and photos. Later, learn to express yourself with clay by using the pinch, coil, and slab methods. See your 2-D renderings become fantastic 3-D forms! Painting and glazing with be included.

### EXPLORING THE WORLD OF CLAY

**Course Number:** 5860

**Grade Level:** 8

**Notes:** Semester Elective

Students who love creating with their hands will find this class full of opportunities to "think outside the box" while they study the art elements of texture, form, and space. Clay pottery and sculpture projects will evolve from such cultural influences as Native American pottery and from themes such as the human figure. Weaving with yarn, creating with wire and wood, plaster and papier mache may also be explored. Students will be expected to think, discuss, and write about art and design throughout the process of producing and creating it.



## AVID

### AVID ELECTIVE

**Course Number:** 6001/02, 7001/02, 8001/02

**Grade Level:** 6-8

**Notes:** Full-Year Elective

AVID is a college preparatory program designed to help those students in the academic middle succeed in rigorous higher level courses. It is a full-year elective class taken during the school day as part of a student's regular course load during Blaze Time (BT). AVID is in grades 6-12 focusing on writing, reading, organizational and study skills, learning styles, test taking strategies, career and college investigation, ACT/SAT preparation and community involvement. The focus of the AVID program is to help students not only get into college but succeed once they are there. It is a program that focuses students on their commitment to bettering themselves and the greater community; thus, creating a more global perspective.

## DRAMA

### DRAMA 6

**Course Number:** 5680

**Grade Level:** 6

**Notes:** Elective

An introductory performance-based class for students interested in learning dramatic arts and literature through theater. We will learn performance skills and use this knowledge to perform improvisation, monologues and short scenes. Other units of study may include pantomimes, Native American Storytelling, and live theater analysis. Memorization and in-class performances are required.

### DRAMA 7

**Course Number:** 5780

**Grade Level:** 7

**Notes:** Elective

A performance-based class for students looking to expand their dramatic literature knowledge both in class and on the stage. We will continue to build upon theatrical terms and skills and use this knowledge by performing improvisation, analyzing Shakespeare, and Reader's Theater. Other units will include script writing and cultural myths. Memorization and in-class performances are required. No prerequisite required.

## MUSIC

### CHOIR 6

**Course Number:** 5611/5612

**Grade Level:** 6

**Notes:** Elective

6th Grade Choir is an ensemble for students who love to sing or want to learn about singing. This fun elective will teach proper concert etiquette and rehearsal techniques. 6th Grade Choir helps build teamwork skills as students learn the techniques of vocal music and perform a wide variety of repertoire in required concerts. Attendance at performances outside of the school day is required of all members. 6th Grade Choir is a full year course.

### CHOIR 7

**Course Number:** 5711/5712

**Grade Level:** 7

**Notes:** Elective

7th Grade Choir is an ensemble for students who have no choral experience and for those who want to build upon the skills they've learned in 6th grade choir. This fun elective will reinforce proper concert etiquette and rehearsal techniques, and will also incorporate choral skills including proper breath support, tone production, posture, movement and diction. 7th Grade Choir helps to build teamwork skills as students learn the techniques of vocal music and perform a wide variety of repertoire in required concerts. Attendance at performances outside of the school day is required of all members. 7th Grade Choir is a full year course.



### CHOIR 8

**Course Number:** 5811/5812

**Grade Level:** 8

**Notes:** Elective

8th Grade Choir is an ensemble for students who have no choral experience and for those who want to build upon the skills they've learned in 7th grade choir. We cover a wide variety of choral repertoire, and perform at several concerts during the year. The ultimate goal is to acquire enough musical knowledge to read and interpret music on sight with precision and expression, which can be accomplished given time, patience and practice. Learn correct breath support, tone production, music theory, posture, movement, diction, and performance etiquette. Attendance at performances outside of the school day is required of all members. 8th Grade Choir is a full year course.

### BAND 6

**Course Number:** 5601/5602

**Grade Level:** 6

**Notes:** Elective

In 6th Grade Band, students will study a variety of musical literature. Beginning fundamentals of instrumental musicianship will be introduced and built upon, including instrument technique, posture, rhythmic skills, note reading, tone production and rehearsal techniques. Students will present two required evening concerts during the school year. Attendance at performances outside of the school day is required of all members, and some outside practice is required. This fun elective will help build teamwork skills as well as develop individual musicianship. Band is a full year course.

### BAND 7

**Course Number:** 5701/5702

**Grade Level:** 7

**Notes:** Elective

In 7th Grade Concert Band, students will study a variety of musical literature. Reinforced fundamentals of instrumental musicianship will be emphasized, and students will be introduced to new musical concepts. Students will continue developing their note reading and rhythmic skills as well as focusing on tone production, instrumental and rehearsal technique. This fun elective will help build teamwork skills as well as develop individual musicianship. Attendance at performances outside of the school day is required of all members, and some outside practice is required. Band is a full year course.

### BAND 8

**Course Number:** 5801/5802

**Grade Level:** 8

**Notes:** Full-Year Elective

8th grade band is a performance based course that offers students an opportunity to develop individual musical skills through performance in a large ensemble setting. Collaborating with other musicians, students will master more technical pieces, build confidence for performing on stage, and develop concentration and focus. The goal of the 8th Grade Band is to provide high quality opportunities for each individual student in performing, listening, and creating music. Through the development of an appreciation of music in the context of aesthetic education, it is the intent of the program to instill a lifelong love of music in each individual student. Attendance at performances outside of the school day is required of all members, and some outside practice is required. Band is a year-long elective. 8th Grade Band is a full year course.

### ORCHESTRA 6

**Course Number:** 5641/5642

**Grade Level:** 6

**Notes:** Elective

In 6th Grade Orchestra, students will continue using the Sound Innovations book series in addition to learning new orchestral literature. Students will have multiple performance experiences throughout the year, and will focus more on ensemble musicianship to enhance the level of their performances. Note reading, rhythmic skills, tone production and bowing techniques will be refined and enhanced. Formative and summative assessments will be done to track yearly progress in 6th grade orchestra. If a student has not participated in orchestra prior to coming to middle school please contact the orchestra director so we can share suggestions for a successful experience in orchestra.

### ORCHESTRA 7

**Course Number:** 5741/5742

**Grade Level:** 7

**Notes:** Elective; must have completed Orchestra 6

In 7th Grade Orchestra, students will continue using the Sound Innovations book series or Essential Techniques for Strings in addition to learning more challenging orchestral literature. Students will have multiple performance experiences throughout the year, and will have an introduction to more advanced techniques such as vibrato, spiccato and shifting. Tone production, bowing techniques and musical fluency will continue to be refined and enhanced. Formative and summative assessments will be done to track yearly progress in 7th grade orchestra. Prerequisite is 6th Grade Orchestra.



### ORCHESTRA 8

**Course Number:** 5841/5842

**Grade Level:** 8

**Notes:** Full-Year Elective; must have completed Orchestra 7  
In 8th Grade Orchestra, students will continue to refine individual and ensemble skills through a variety of musical literature, while developing more advanced techniques such as shifting and vibrato. Students will have multiple performance experiences each year. 8th grade string students will perform a solo or as part of an ensemble for added small group experience. Advanced techniques and musical fluency will continue to be refined and enhanced. Students will learn the historical and theoretical background of the music they are performing while developing critical listening skills. Formative and summative assessments will be done to track yearly progress in 8th grade orchestra. Prerequisite is 7th grade orchestra.

### EXPLORING MUSIC

**Course Number:** 5621/5622

**Grade Level:** 6

**Notes:** Elective

If you like music, but do not want to perform, this class is for you! We will learn about instruments of the orchestra, music history, and how your favorite music came to be so popular. Students will experience a wide variety of music, including music of their choice, through exploration and film. Students will develop music appreciation by analyzing music elements of sound, harmony, melody, rhythm, form, and expression.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ HEALTH

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6

**Course Number:** 4601/4602

**Grade Level:** 6

**Notes:** Required

In this course the students will enhance their own physical skills through regular physical activity. They will gain knowledge of their own personal fitness level, while developing positive personal and social behaviors in the physical activity settings. They will also learn the value of physical activity for a lifetime.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7

**Course Number:** 4701/4702

**Grade Level:** 7

**Notes:** Required

In this course the students continue to enhance their own physical skills through regular physical activity. They will grow their knowledge of their own personal fitness levels, while continuing to develop positive personal and social behaviors in the physical activity settings. They will also learn the value of physical activity for a lifetime.

### PERSONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**Course Number:** 4750

**Grade Level:** 7

**Notes:** Required Exploratory

In this health class, students learn about personal health and wellness. They explore topics such as the nine life skills, the five components of health and wellness, self awareness, the five components of fitness, communicable disease, drugs, alcohol and tobacco, refusal skills and sexuality.

### FALL/WINTER SPORTS AND FITNESS

**Course Number:** 4800

**Grade Level:** 8

**Notes:** Semester Elective

Choose this course if you want to play fall and winter sports. This course could include but will not be limited to the following activities: badminton, tennis, soccer, touch football, weight training, and volleyball.

### SPRING/WINTER SPORTS AND FITNESS

**Course Number:** 4810

**Grade Level:** 8

**Notes:** Semester Elective

Choose this course if you want to play spring and winter sports. This course could include but will not be limited to the following activities: badminton, tennis, soccer, softball, weight training, and baseball.

## FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

### FACS 6

**Course Number:** 8650

**Grade Level:** 6

**Notes:** Required Exploratory

This course is designed to provide students with essential life skills, using classroom instruction as well as practical experiences in labs. Students will be introduced to topics in areas such as Foods and Nutrition, Consumerism and Career Readiness, Personal Development and Relationships, Family/Child Development, Clothing Care/Sewing, and Housing and Interior Design.

### FACS 7

**Course Number:** 8750

**Grade Level:** 7

**Notes:** Required Exploratory

This course is designed to build upon prior learning through a deeper exploration into the nutrition and science behind the five food groups. It will provide students with essential life skills through classroom instruction as well as practical experiences in labs. Learning will include topics in areas such as Foods and Nutrition, Consumerism and Career Readiness, Personal Development and Relationships, Family/Child Development, Clothing Care/Sewing, and Housing and Interior Design.

### STYLE: INTERIOR AND FASHION DESIGN

**Course Number:** 8800

**Grade Level:** 8

**Notes:** Semester Elective

If you like to design and be creative, this class is for you. Students will complete hands-on projects related to interior design and fashion. Interior Design will include designing, decorating, and organizing spaces. Fashion Design includes clothing selection, wardrobe planning, personal grooming, and accessories. Develop your own style!

### TEEN CUISINE (FOODS)

**Course Number:** 8810

**Grade Level:** 8

**Notes:** Semester Elective

This semester-long foods course is for students who like hands-on learning. Through lab experiences students will select, prepare and sample a variety of foods. Topics include: desserts, grains, fruits, vegetables, protein, dairy, snacks, and meal options. Emphasis will be on healthy eating and the appreciation for different types of food.

## BUSINESS ED./COMPUTER

### EXPLORATORY: INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL LEARNING

**Course Number:** 7600

**Grade Level:** 6

**Notes:** Required Exploratory

The Introduction to Digital Learning class is committed to helping students learn keyboarding skills, become safe digital citizens, and explore a wide variety of digital resources while using critical thinking skills to creatively solve problems in all classes. Students will enhance their keyboarding skills, learn copyright rules, internet search protocols, computer ethics, how to utilize their school Google account and tools, and how to transfer back and forth between Microsoft Office products and Google productivity tools. Students will also explore the electronic resources available to them in District 191 (Schoology, Synergy, document storage, etc.)

### EXPLORATORY: DIGITAL DESIGN & APPLICATION

**Course Number:** 7700

**Grade Level:** 7

**Notes:** Required Exploratory

The Digital Design & Application course is designed to provide students with practical hands-on computer technology experience using a variety of hardware, software programs and peripheral devices that you can use throughout the coming years. Students will improve keyboarding skills, learn to embed items into other work, make videos, study copyright laws, learn web design, computer animation, and programming, and investigate careers in these areas.



### MUSIC IN OUR WORLD

**Course Number:** 5721/5722

**Grade Level:** 7

**Notes:** Elective

This is a general music course for non-performing students. Students will explore a diverse range of musical topics, exposing them to musical styles and instruments from all over the world. Students will learn about music and its functions throughout history and its role in many of the world's cultures.

### ADVENTURES IN AMERICAN MUSIC

**Course Number:** 5821/5822

**Grade Level:** 8

**Notes:** Elective

The fusing of many world cultures in the United States has a unique and rich musical heritage. American phenomena such as jazz, marching bands, gospel, and blues will be studied in addition to the folk music and protest songs unique to U.S. history. Students will once again evaluate their own musical choices and gain an appreciation for the importance of respectful tolerance of the musical tastes of others.



## CURRENT TRENDS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

**Course Number:** 7800

**Grade Level:** 8

**Notes:** Semester Elective

Students will explore trends in the digital world, learn to use technology in a variety of ways and choose projects to explore in depth. Specific topics of choice will include music production, coding and app development, game development, podcasting and digital production, and graphic design and digital art. Computer programming, digital citizenship, and technology professions will be showcased within projects.

## FILM & ANIMATION

**Course Number:** 7810

**Grade Level:** 8

**Notes:** Semester Elective

This course will take students through the steps of creating a film or animated film. Students will take an idea to finished short film. Learn to use the equipment, software, and edit clips. Topics of study include: Production processes, Copyright, Equipment, Music, Flash animation, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premier, and Career Investigation.

## TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

### PLTW: DESIGN AND MODELING

**Course Number:** 7650

**Grade Level:** 6

**Notes:** Required Exploratory

Design and Modeling (DM) provides students opportunities to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. Students learn and utilize methods for communicating design ideas through sketches, drawings and 3D printed solid models. Students will understand how these models can be used to generate data for further analysis and observations. Students work in teams to identify design requirements, research the topic, and engage stakeholders. Teams design a toy or game for a child with cerebral palsy, fabricate and test it, and make necessary modifications to optimize the design solution.

### PLTW: MAGIC OF ELECTRONICS

**Course Number:** 7760

**Grade Level:** 7

**Notes:** Required Exploratory

Through hands-on take home projects, students explore electricity, the behavior and parts of atoms, and sensing devices in the Magic of Electronics (ME) unit. They learn knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design and examine the impact of electricity on the world around them.

### PLTW: AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS

**Course Number:** 7870

**Grade Level:** 8

**Notes:** Semester Elective

Automation and Robotics (AR) allows students to trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

## PLTW: FLIGHT AND SPACE

**Course Number:** 7880

**Grade Level:** 8

**Notes:** Required Exploratory

The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through the Flight and Space (FS) unit. Students become engineers as they design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to travel and live in space. They solve real-world aviation and space challenges and plan a mission to Mars.

### PLTW: GREEN ARCHITECTURE/ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**Course Number:** 7850

**Grade Level:** 8

**Notes:** Semester Elective

In the Green Architecture (GA) unit, students learn how to apply this concept to the fields of architecture and construction by exploring dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability as they design affordable housing units using Autodesk's® 3D Revit Design software.

In the Energy & the Environment Unit (EE), students are challenged to think big and look toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.

## WORLD LANGUAGE

Students have multiple options for World Language study.

**Eighth Grade option:** Students begin Spanish 1 as an elective and can continue study in high school to a terminal course: College in the Schools (CIS) Spanish 5.

**Ninth Grade Options:** Students begin French 1 in ninth grade and can continue French study to a terminal course of French 2 or students begin Spanish 1 in ninth grade and can continue Spanish study to a terminal course of Spanish 4.

See your counselor for more information.

### SPANISH I A/B

**Course Number:** 6401/6412

**Grade Level:** 8

**Notes:** Semester Elective

Learning a new language is fun! The focus of the curriculum is communication, culture, and grammar. Material is reinforced through meaningful reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities in the Spanish language. Concepts are introduced and practiced by role playing, group projects, partner activities, and independent work.

*Students who do not plan to take five years of a world language, are below grade level in reading and writing, and/or have struggled academically in seventh grade are encouraged to wait and begin their language study in 9th grade.*

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Each Student.



Future Ready.



Community Strong.