



2021-22

# St. Louis Park Middle School **Course** Catalog



## CREATE. ENGAGE. IGNITE.



St. Louis Park  
Middle School



## A Note from Your Principals

Welcome to St. Louis Park Middle School!

Whether you are new to our school family or returning for another year, I look forward to living our school motto with you as we “Create. Engage. Ignite.”

The 2021-22 school year is both an exciting and transformative time for all students. We strive to create an environment dedicated to the education and development of each person. The goal is both academic and social in nature.

Over the years our curriculum has been updated to reflect the changing needs of our learners to ensure students move towards being ready for the rigors of high school.

**St. Louis Park Middle School is proud to offer the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme.** This curriculum model promotes inquiry and transdisciplinary learning while creating a system for academic excellence and achievement for all. What does that really mean? Students will learn about the world within and outside of St. Louis Park, they will build connections between academic content areas, and they will become caring and thoughtful young adults as they chart a course for their future.

In addition to the IB-MYP, we offer a variety of elective courses to engage all learners and help them identify their “spark” or interest area that will propel them to future education, college and career success.

**In this Course Catalog, you will find everything you need to chart a course for academic success in the coming year!** Please be thoughtful as you select your courses as the possibilities abound. What interests you? Where would you like to expand your talents? What courses will prepare you for your future?



**Les Bork**  
Principal  
bork.les@slpschools.org



**Jason Boll**  
Assistant Principal  
boll.jason@slpschools.org

St. Louis Park Middle School enrolls approximately 1,000 students annually in Grades 6-8, and much like the city, we are proud of our small town feel with “big city” resources, connections, and experiences. We pride ourselves on being inclusive, welcoming, and respectful to all who enter our school.

To our parents and guardians – the middle school years are an exciting time for you as you watch your children transition from elementary school and prepare for high school. Please know that we are here to support you at every step! We have an active Site Council of parents and staff members who meet monthly to support the learning and social development of our students. We also have an exceptional group of Deans, who are assigned to each grade level to provide academic, emotional, and social support for all students.

St. Louis Park Middle School is an academically “successful school” with an historically high level of community support and a long-standing history of success. I look forward to the 2021-22 school year where we work together to **“Create. Engage. Ignite.”**

# Create. Engage. Ignite.





## St. Louis Park Middle School Vision Statement

**CREATE** a peaceful, caring learning community that promotes intercultural respect

**ENGAGE** students in rigorous academics, relevant inquiry and meaningful action

**IGNITE** individual growth and lifelong learning

### International Baccalaureate (IB) Information

St. Louis Park Middle School has been designated as an IB World School. The authorization report received after confirming our status as a World School says the Middle School shows “commendable practice” throughout the school.

“This commitment will allow us to use the expertise we have acquired to propel us in our quest to improve our practice in future years for the benefit of all students,” Principal Bork said.



The school is committed to offering all students the opportunity to: enroll in eight subjects each year, practice and support in developing the learner profile attributes, opportunities to reflect on various learning skills, as well as many other standards and practices of IB World Schools.

One hallmark feature of an IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) is the community project. This project focuses on community and service, encouraging students to explore their right and responsibility to implement service as action in the community. All eighth grade students at the Middle School will be involved in completing a community project. The project gives students an opportunity to develop awareness of needs in various communities and address those needs through service learning. As a consolidation of learning, the community project engages in a sustained, in depth inquiry leading to service as action in the community.

### IB Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

***Learn more about the IB-MYP program on pages 34-35.***



## 2021-22 Key Telephone Numbers

Main Office .....	952-928-6300	School Nutrition.....	952-928-6348
Fax .....	952-928-6383	Transportation .....	612-437-4719
Attendance Line .....	952-928-6394	Custodial Office .....	952-928-6330
Directions to School .....	952-928-6433	Athletics Hotline.....	952-928-6345
Health Services .....	952-928-6311	Middle School Police Liason.....	952-928-6392

## Connect with Us!



### Facebook:

@stlouisparkpublicschools

### Twitter:

@SLPublicSchools

@283SUP (Superintendent)

### Instagram:

st.louisparkpublicschools

### Web:

www.slpschools.org

www.slpschools.org/ms

www.gopark.org (athletics)







## Greetings!

This guide is designed to assist students and parents in making careful course selections. Please review the sample schedules (pages 6, 8 and 10) for an overview of the grade level course work. You may want to explore all three grades for a “big-picture” view of middle school.

The registration planners (pages 7, 9 and 11) are similar to the registration form you and your student will complete in order to register for classes. This planner sheet will walk you through selecting both required and elective classes. In the following pages you will find descriptions of all classes arranged by department.

If you have specific questions or a special request please email to [MSregistration@slpschools.org](mailto:MSregistration@slpschools.org). **Special requests are due June 1, 2021.**

Classes are scheduled based on student registration. Requests for changes after the signature date are discouraged and made on a space available basis only.

## Dean Assignments for 2021-22 School Year



6th Grade Dean – Delana Brinkman  
952-928-6303  
[brinkman.delana@slpschools.org](mailto:brinkman.delana@slpschools.org)



7th Grade Dean – Gina Magnuson  
952-928-6306  
[magnuson.gina@slpschools.org](mailto:magnuson.gina@slpschools.org)



8th Grade Dean – Randy Zutz  
952-928-6305  
[zutz.randall@slpschools.org](mailto:zutz.randall@slpschools.org)

### New to the District?

Please contact the District Enrollment Center at 952-928-6023 or [enrollment@slpschools.org](mailto:enrollment@slpschools.org) to request an appointment to enroll your child.

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Si usted necesita ayuda con el proceso de registraci3n en Espa3ol, contacte a Carmen Rudin (952-928-6438).

Hadii aad u baahan tahay kaalmo ku saabsan sida Af Soomaali la isugu qoro. La xiriir Tarabi Jama (952-928-6423).

**St. Louis Park Middle School**  
2025 Texas Avenue S., St. Louis Park, MN 55426  
(PHONE) 952-928-6300 • (FAX) 952-928-6383  
[www.slpschools.org/MS](http://www.slpschools.org/MS)



## 6th Grade Sample Daily Schedule

PERIOD	"A" DAY	"B" DAY
1	MATH	
2	LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	
3	SCIENCE <i>or</i> ESP SCIENCE	
4	INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES <i>or</i> ESP INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES	
	ADVISORY	
5	DESIGN	MUSIC
	LUNCH	
6	LANGUAGE ACQUISITION	WRITING
	ESP LANGUAGE ACQUISITION	
7	ELECTIVE	PHYSICAL EDUCATION







**Registration due by January 29, 2021**

## 2021-22 Course Requests

To register, please complete and submit the google form that was sent in an email to each student's school-issued Gmail account. If you would like to make a special request, please send an email to [MSregistration@slpschools.org](mailto:MSregistration@slpschools.org) by June 1, 2021.

Note: All students are pre-registered for: Pre-Algebra 1, Individuals & Societies, Science, Physical Education, Design, and Writing (Non-immersion students only). You will be given an opportunity to request information about accelerating to Pre-Algebra 2 (7th grade math).

Students must make ONE selection from each of the three categories below (Language & Literature, Language Acquisition, and Music).

### Language & Literature

- ☐ Language & Literature 6
- ☐ Advanced Language & Literature 6  
(This course offers a faster-paced version of 6th grade Language & Literature with greater depth.)

### Language Acquisition

Note: This is a three-year commitment.

- ☐ French 6
- ☐ German 6
- ☐ Spanish 6
- ☐ Reading and Writing for Native Spanish Speakers 6, 7, 8

Note: Extended Spanish Program (ESP) students are automatically enrolled in Spanish Language Arts.

### Music

- ☐ Band 6 (previous experience recommended)
- ☐ Beginning Band 6, 7, 8
- ☐ Choir 6
- ☐ Guitar / World Drumming 6
- ☐ Orchestra 6 (previous experience required)

If you have any questions about the registration process please send an email to [MSregistration@slpschools.org](mailto:MSregistration@slpschools.org).

## Elective Courses

Students receive 1 elective class option. Please mark their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice below in order of preference.

### Individuals & Societies

- ☐ Global Classrooms 6, 7, 8
- ☐ Welcome to the Real World 6, 7, 8

### Language Acquisition

This would be in addition to the required Language Acquisition course at left.

- ☐ French 6
- ☐ German 6
- ☐ Spanish 6
- ☐ Reading and Writing for Native Spanish Speakers 6, 7, 8

### Language & Literature

- ☐ Digital Storytelling 6
- ☐ Film Studies 6, 7, 8
- ☐ Writing 6 (ESP Only)

### Math

- ☐ Math Lab 6, 7, 8

### Music

This would be in addition to the required Music choice at left.

- ☐ Band 6 (previous experience required)
- ☐ Beginning Band 6, 7, 8
- ☐ Choir 6
- ☐ Guitar / World Drumming 6
- ☐ Orchestra 6 (previous experience required)
- ☐ Musical Theatre Choir 6, 7, 8

### Physical Education

- ☐ Recreational Sports 6

### Science

- ☐ MN Outdoors 6, 7, 8

### Study

- ☐ Study Hall 6, 7, 8

### Visual Art

- ☐ Exploring Art 6 (meets visual art requirement)

All students are required to take one visual arts course during their middle school years.

**Deadline for submitting registration for the 2021-22 school year is January 29, 2021.**



## 7th Grade Sample Daily Schedule

PERIOD	"A" DAY	"B" DAY
1	MATH	
2	LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	
3	SCIENCE	
4	INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES <i>or</i> ESP INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES	
	ADVISORY	
5	TECH ED	ARTS
	LUNCH	
6	LANGUAGE ACQUISITION	ELECTIVE
	ESP LANGUAGE ACQUISITION	
7	ELECTIVE	PHYSICAL EDUCATION







## 2021-22 Course Requests

To register, please complete and submit the google form that was sent in an email to each student's school-issued Gmail account. If you would like to make a special request, please send an email to [MSregistration@slpschools.org](mailto:MSregistration@slpschools.org) by June 1, 2021.

Note: All students are pre-registered for: Pre-Algebra 2, Individuals & Societies, Science, Physical Education, Design, and Writing (Non-immersion students only). You will be given an opportunity to request information about accelerating to Advanced Math 8.

Students must make ONE selection from the two categories below (Language & Literature and Arts Choice).

### Language & Literature

- ☐ Language & Literature 7
- ☐ Advanced Language & Literature 7  
(This course offers a faster-paced version of 7th grade Language & Literature with greater depth.)

### Arts Choice

- ☐ Band 7 (previous experience recommended)
- ☐ Beginning Band 6, 7, 8
- ☐ Choir 7
- ☐ Guitar / World Drumming 7
- ☐ Orchestra 7 (previous experience required)
- ☐ Ceramics & Sculpture 7, 8
- ☐ Digital Illustration 7, 8
- ☐ Digital Photography 7, 8
- ☐ Painting & Illustration 7, 8

If you have any questions about the registration process please send an email to [MSregistration@slpschools.org](mailto:MSregistration@slpschools.org).

## Elective Courses

Students receive 2 elective class options. Please mark their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice below in order of preference.

### Individuals & Societies

- \_\_\_ Global Classrooms 6, 7, 8
- \_\_\_ I Love Geography! 7, 8
- \_\_\_ Welcome to the Real World 6, 7, 8
- \_\_\_ Keystone 7, 8

### Language Acquisition

This would be in addition to the required Language Acquisition course.

- \_\_\_ French 7
- \_\_\_ German 7
- \_\_\_ Spanish 7
- \_\_\_ Reading and Writing for Native Spanish Speakers 6, 7, 8

### Language & Literature

- \_\_\_ Fantasy Literature 7, 8
- \_\_\_ Film Studies 6, 7, 8

### Math

- \_\_\_ Math Lab 6, 7, 8

### Music

This would be in addition to the required Arts Choice.

- \_\_\_ Band 7 (previous experience required)
- \_\_\_ Beginning Band 6, 7, 8
- \_\_\_ Choir 7
- \_\_\_ Guitar / World Drumming 7
- \_\_\_ Orchestra 7 (previous experience required)
- \_\_\_ Musical Theatre Choir 6, 7, 8

### Physical Education

- \_\_\_ Competitive Sports 7, 8
- \_\_\_ Conditioning & Strength 7, 8

### Science

- \_\_\_ Introduction to Zoology 7, 8
- \_\_\_ MN Outdoors 6, 7, 8

### Study

- \_\_\_ Study Hall 6, 7, 8

### Visual Art

This would be in addition to the required Arts Choice.

- \_\_\_ Ceramics & Sculpture 7, 8
- \_\_\_ Digital Illustration 7, 8
- \_\_\_ Digital Photography 7, 8
- \_\_\_ Painting & Illustration 7, 8

All students are required to take one visual arts course during their middle school years.



## 8th Grade Sample Daily Schedule

PERIOD	"A" DAY	"B" DAY
1	MATH	
2	LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	
3	SCIENCE	
4	INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES <i>or</i> ESP INDIVIDUALS & SOCIETIES	
	ADVISORY	
5	DESIGN	ARTS
	LUNCH	
6	LANGUAGE ACQUISITION	ELECTIVE
	ESP LANGUAGE ACQUISITION	
7	ELECTIVE	PHYSICAL EDUCATION







## 2021-22 Course Requests

To register, please complete and submit the google form that was sent in an email to each student's school-issued Gmail account. If you would like to make a special request, please send an email to [MSregistration@slpschools.org](mailto:MSregistration@slpschools.org) by June 1, 2021.

Note: All students are pre-registered for: Individuals & Societies, Science, Physical Education, Design and their Language Acquisition choice.

Students must make ONE selection from the three categories below (Language & Literature, Math, and Arts Choice).

### Language & Literature

- ☐ Language & Literature 8
- ☐ Advanced Language & Literature 8  
(This course offers a faster-paced version of 8th grade Language & Literature with greater depth.)

### Math Choice

- ☐ Math 8
- ☐ Advanced Math 8  
(This course will explore 8th grade standards at a deeper level and investigate a few high school concepts regarding quadratics.)

### Arts Choice

- ☐ Band 8 (previous experience recommended)
- ☐ Beginning Band 6, 7, 8
- ☐ Choir 8
- ☐ Guitar / World Drumming 8
- ☐ Orchestra 8 (previous experience required)
- ☐ Ceramics & Sculpture 7, 8
- ☐ Digital Illustration 7, 8
- ☐ Digital Photography 7, 8
- ☐ Painting & Illustration 7, 8

If you have any questions about the registration process please send an email to [MSregistration@slpschools.org](mailto:MSregistration@slpschools.org).

## Elective Courses

Students receive 2 elective class options. Please mark their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice below in order of preference.

### Individuals & Societies

- \_\_\_ Global Classrooms 6, 7, 8
- \_\_\_ I Love Geography! 7, 8
- \_\_\_ Welcome to the Real World 6, 7, 8
- \_\_\_ Keystone 7, 8

### Language Acquisition

This would be in addition to the required Language Acquisition course.

- \_\_\_ French 8
- \_\_\_ German 8
- \_\_\_ Spanish 8
- \_\_\_ Reading and Writing for Native Spanish Speakers 6, 7, 8

### Language & Literature

- \_\_\_ Fantasy Literature 7, 8
- \_\_\_ Film Studies 6, 7, 8

### Math

- \_\_\_ Math Lab 6, 7, 8

### Music

This would be in addition to the required Arts Choice.

- \_\_\_ Band 8 (previous experience required)
- \_\_\_ Beginning Band 6, 7, 8
- \_\_\_ Choir 8
- \_\_\_ Guitar / World Drumming 8
- \_\_\_ Orchestra 8 (previous experience required)
- \_\_\_ Musical Theatre Choir 6, 7, 8

### Physical Education

- \_\_\_ Competitive Sports 7, 8
- \_\_\_ Conditioning & Strength 7, 8

### Science

- \_\_\_ Introduction to Zoology 7, 8
- \_\_\_ MN Outdoors 6, 7, 8

### Study

- \_\_\_ Study Hall 6, 7, 8

### Visual Art

This would be in addition to the required Arts Choice.

- \_\_\_ Ceramics & Sculpture 7, 8
- \_\_\_ Digital Illustration 7, 8
- \_\_\_ Digital Photography 7, 8
- \_\_\_ Painting & Illustration 7, 8

All students are required to take one visual arts course during their middle school years.



## Design & Technology Department

*Welcome to the Design department! Design challenges students to apply creative-thinking skills to solve problems through the design cycle; a tool which provides the methodology to structure the investigation, planning, creation and evaluation of solutions. The goal of our department is to utilize the design process, develop knowledge, understanding and skills from different disciplines. Students will design and create solutions through effective use of tools and technology.*

### Design 6

Grade 6

Alternate Day

Through the lens of visual art, students will explore design problems. Design, and the development of new technologies, has led to many changes in society: transforming how we access and process information; how we adapt to our environment; how we communicate with others; how we are able to solve problems; how we work and live.

IB Design challenges all students to apply practical and creative thinking skills to solve design problems. Students become actively involved in and focus on the whole design process rather than on the final product/solution. A variety of art media and techniques will be used to explore these design problems.



### Design 7

Grade 7

Alternate Day

In Design 7, students will build off their previous experience in design 6 by applying their understanding of the design process to create solutions for specific problems. Utilizing technology, students will plan and create a digital expression of a story that is meaningful to them. They will then study what it means to be a digital citizen. Students will use this knowledge to plan and create a commercial that promotes a safe, healthy balance of digital consumption and use.

### Design 8

Grade 8

Alternate Day

Designing requires an individual to be imaginative and creative while having substantial knowledge. Designers must adopt an approach that allows them to think creatively while conforming to the requirements of a design specification. Inquiry and problem solving are at the heart of Technology Design. IB Design requires the use of the design cycle as a tool, which provides the structure of inquiry and analysis of problems, the development of feasible solutions, and the testing and evaluation of the solution. In IB Design, a solution can be defined as a model, prototype, product or system that students have developed and created independently or as a group.



## Individuals & Societies Department

### **Individuals & Societies 6 / ESP Individuals & Societies 6\***

Grade 6  
Every Day

In this yearlong course, students will study the history of Minnesota from early history to Minnesota in the modern world. Students will develop and demonstrate research and map skills. Reading, summarizing and discussing relevant current events will be an ongoing activity throughout the year.

*\*ESP Individuals & Societies 6 is taught in Spanish.*

### **Individuals & Societies 7 / ESP Individuals & Societies 7\***

Grade 7  
Every Day

This course features United States history as the lead discipline with a strong secondary emphasis on citizenship and government. Students will learn about people, issues and events of significance to this nation's history from 1800 to the current era of globalization. Students will review the founding documents of our nation and examine the Bill of Rights, as well as landmark Supreme Court decisions for their lasting impact on the people of the United States, our economy and governance structure. Students study civics and economic principles, drawing connections between these disciplines and history to explain the impact of various policies on how people lived, worked and functioned in society, and the impact on the United States today.

*\*ESP Individuals & Societies 7 is taught in Spanish.*

*ESP = Extended Spanish Program*

### **Individuals & Societies 8 / ESP Individuals & Societies 8\***

Grade 8  
Every Day

Global Studies is the main focus of our 8th grade social studies curriculum. Students in Global Studies explore various regions of the world using geographic information from print and electronic sources. Students 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 and study events over the last half-century that have shaped the contemporary world. They analyze connections between revolutions, independence movements and social transformations, and understand reasons for the creation of modern nation states. Students will learn that governments are based on different political philosophies and serve various purposes. By learning economic principles of trade and the factors that affect economic growth, students understand why there are different standards of living in countries around the world.

*\*ESP Individuals & Societies 8 is taught in Spanish.*

### **Welcome to the Real World**

Grades 6, 7, 8  
Alternate Day

Have you ever been told, "You need an education to prepare you for the 'dun dun dun' REAL WORLD?" What does that even mean?! This class will teach you all about adulting: choosing a career path, applying and interviewing for a job, managing a budget, filing your taxes, trying your luck at investing in the stock market. Where does the school district get the money for my education? Will you make it in the "REAL WORLD?" How hard can adulting even be? In this class, you will learn all about the above and more.





## Individuals & Societies Department

### **I Love Geography!**

Grades 7, 8  
Alternate Day

Do you know which Great Lake is farthest north – Lake Superior or Lake Ontario? Do you know in which South American country Angel Falls, the world's tallest at 3,212 feet, is located? Do you like knowing where things are or want to know more? Then this elective class is for you! In "I Love Geography!", students will participate in a more in-depth look at the world's geographic features. In addition to learning the geography of the world, students will learn the location of world capitals, cities, and territories. Students will use a variety of maps to look at the world, as well as try their hand at map making.

### **Keystone**

Grades 7, 8  
Alternate Day

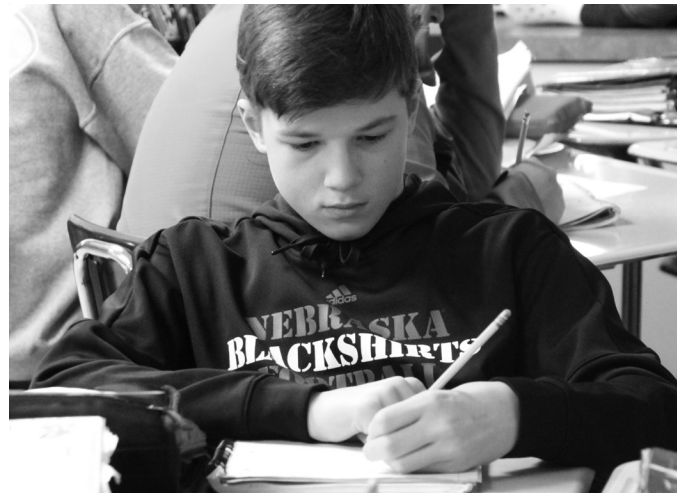
In Keystone, students will explore race, culture and identity. This elective is for students who are open to hearing multiple perspectives and developing leadership skills. Students in this course will use critical thinking and communication to engage in deep conversations about racial injustice in society, and take action to spark change.



### **Global Classrooms**

Grades 6, 7, 8  
Alternate Day

In Global Classrooms, students will study various topics around country development, government, and globalization. Students will learn about the United Nations and engage in simulations involving human rights, peace and security, economic, and sustainable development issues, as well as learn critical life skills such as negotiation, public speaking, research, writing, leadership, conflict resolutions and the responsibilities of global citizenship. Global Classrooms is designed to educate young people about the importance of global cooperation and the role of the United Nations in the world today.





## Language Acquisition Department

**World Languages Note:**  
**IB-MYP requires continuation of a language for three consecutive years. The language that a student chooses in 6th grade will be the language they are in for 7th and 8th grade. Students do not have the option to drop World Language classes.**

### ESP Spanish 6

Grade 6  
Every Day

¡Bienvenidos! This is a continuation of the Park Spanish Immersion (PSI) Extended Spanish Program (ESP). Welcome back to Spanish Immersion Language Arts. This class continues the development of Spanish language skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will read two novels in the class along with many short stories and nonfiction works. Spanish is the only language used for communication between both teacher and students. Students will work on refining their grammar in daily usage and augmenting their considerable vocabulary through various activities. During the school year students are expected to show mastery in IB phase 4.

### German 6

Grade 6  
Alternate Day

Herzlich Willkommen! This class starts students' language acquisition with the foundations of German language and culture. At this level students will learn basic phrases, sentence structures and vocabulary to help communicate in German. Classes are intended to be conducted mostly in German to accelerate proficiency. Learning activities will include music, physical activities, role playing and games. Although speaking and listening are emphasized at this level, there will be a good balance of writing and reading as well.

### French 6

Grade 6  
Alternate Day

This course is an introduction for beginning language students. The course starts from the beginning with French, using a variety of techniques to learn a fun language that is spoken around the world. Students will learn about a variety of French cultures and histories, in addition to learning how to speak and understand in French. Students will enjoy activities that involve physical action to learn the foundations of the French language while working with all four modalities of language acquisition (speaking, reading, writing, listening).

### Spanish 6

Grade 6  
Alternate Day

¡Bienvenidos! Spanish 6 is an introductory course in the Spanish language and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. It is appropriate for students new to Spanish as well as those who have taken elementary Spanish. The goal of Spanish 6 is for students to communicate on a limited range of topics both orally and in writing.





## Language Acquisition Department

### ESP Spanish 7

Grade 7  
Every Day

This is a continuation of the Park Spanish Immersion (PSI) Extended Spanish Program (ESP). These classes are taught exclusively in Spanish and are for students who are enrolled in the ESP program. Students will communicate about familiar topics and basic opinions using paragraphs. They will comprehend main ideas of written and spoken language and use appropriate cultural and idiomatic expressions in the correct contexts. The class also includes advanced study of grammar, as well as spelling and punctuation. The curriculum is set in thematic units: Stories, Poetry, Healthy living, and Drama. Students are expected to read one book per quarter and to write down one summary per week, in class. During the school year students are expected to show mastery in IB phase 5.

### German 7

Grade 7  
Alternate Day

Students will continue to develop language skills by exploring how to talk about daily lives. Communicating primarily in German, teacher and students will ask and answer questions, discuss topics of everyday life and do more comparing and contrasting of different cultures. Students should anticipate expanding their proficiency by working with all four modalities of language acquisition (speaking, listening, reading and writing.)

### Spanish 7

Grade 7  
Alternate Day

¡Aprende más! Language acquisition continues as students use the language in meaningful and authentic ways. Students will communicate about themselves using personal adjectives and verbs, express opinions and share about daily routines. Students will also begin learning the nuances of verb conjugations and sentence building by seeing and using the language in a variety of texts and mediums of communication.

### French 7

Grade 7  
Alternate Day

Students will continue with their French language development by expanding on their ability to communicate with others. Students will continue to learn about a variety of French cultures and practices. Students will communicate about themselves and others using adjectives, verbs, and nouns. They will learn about how our schools are different from those in France, by learning vocabulary and culture. Students will work with all four modalities of language acquisition (speaking, reading, writing, listening) during the class. Successful completion of this course will prepare students for French 8.

### ESP Spanish 8

Grade 8  
Every Day

This is a continuation of the Park Spanish Immersion (PSI) Extended Spanish Program (ESP). These classes are taught exclusively in Spanish and are for students who are enrolled in the ESP program. Students will communicate about familiar topics and basic opinions using paragraphs. They will comprehend main ideas of written and spoken language and use appropriate cultural and idiomatic expressions in the correct contexts. The class also includes advanced study of grammar as well as spelling and punctuation. The curriculum is set in thematic units: Stories, Anatomy, Newscast, and Travel. Students are expected to read one book per quarter and present it in the style of various Hispanic Icons. The ESP-8th grade students will take the National Spanish Exam. During the school year students are expected to show mastery in IB phase 6.







## Language Acquisition Department

### German 8

Grade 8

Alternate Day

Students will build language skills based on what they have learned in the previous grades, demonstrating proficiency and ownership of the language. Students will become more comfortable expressing themselves through text and dialogue using the functions of nouns, verbs, adjectives and prepositions correctly. More complex sentences and word order will give the language a more authentic dimension.

### Spanish 8

Grade 8

Alternate Day

Students will identify messages, facts, opinions, feelings and ideas presented in oral, visual and written language and demonstrate their comprehension in short oral and written form. Students will work towards mastery of basic language skills. The goal at the end of eighth grade is for students to be prepared for Spanish II at the High School.

### French 8

Grade 8

Alternate Day

Students will build upon the materials they learn in French 7 to move from scripted conversations into conversations they create on their own. Understanding will be enhanced by the ability to work with verbs, adjectives and nouns in context in French. Students will work towards comfortably speaking, reading and writing in French. Students will be able to ask and answer a variety of questions about their daily lives and the activities of others.

### Reading & Writing for Native Spanish Speakers

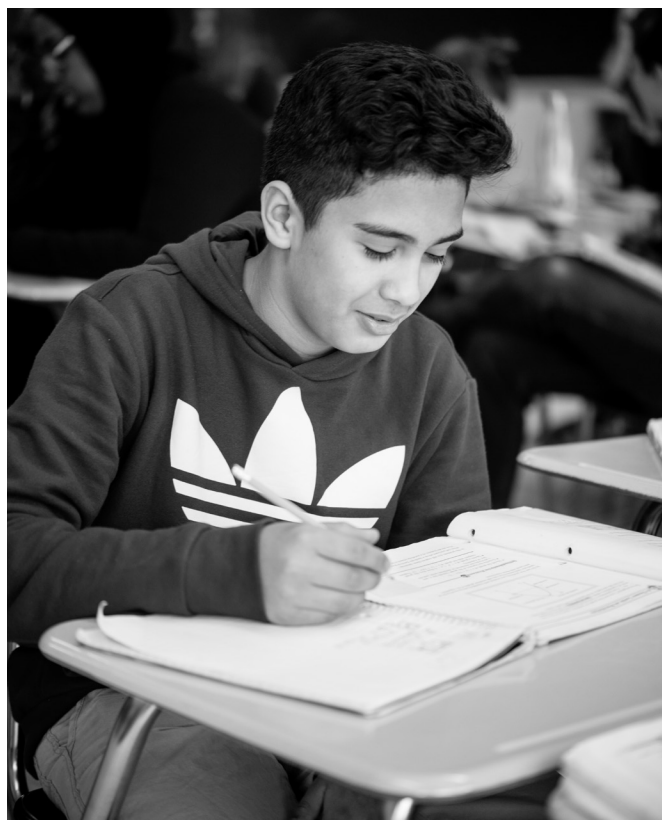
Grades 6, 7, 8

Alternate Day

This class is designed for students who are native speakers of Spanish and would like to improve their reading and writing skills. The class will be conducted entirely in Spanish and will focus on phonetics, spelling, punctuation, academic language, reading and composition. The High School also offers Spanish for Native Speakers

Este curso está diseñado para los estudiantes hispanohablantes que quieran mejorar sus habilidades en lectura y escritura. La clase se enseña completamente en español y se enfoca en fonética, ortografía, puntuación, lenguaje académico, lectura y composición.

La clase de "Spanish for Native Speakers" también está ofrecida en el high school.





## Language & Literature Department

### Language & Literature 6

Grade 6  
Every Day

This course encourages students to appreciate and analyze a wide range of texts. Though this fast paced Language and Literature course has a reading focus, listening, speaking, and writing will also be developed as they serve as a tool to communicate and connect learning. Reading experiences will include, but not be limited to: literature circles, whole-class novel studies, short stories, independent reading and current event articles. Both fiction and informational texts will be used to help students develop and identify relevant details from the text. Skills and knowledge developed in this course include: quoting texts accurately, identifying relevant details that support conclusions, comparing and contrasting ideas based on implicit text, summarizing from a section of text, text as a whole, and across texts and recognizing how author's choice impacts style.



### Advanced Language & Literature 6

Grade 6  
Every Day

*This Advanced course offers a faster-paced version of 6th Grade Language and Literature with greater depth. This class will involve more discussions and assignments that require abstract thinking and independent learning.*

This course assumes advanced reading and writing skills and encourages students to appreciate and deeply analyze a wide range of challenging fiction and informational text and to apply this knowledge in a variety of ways. Although this course has a reading focus, listening, speaking, and writing will also be developed as they serve as a tool to communicate and synthesize learning. This course covers more material and has more homework than Language and Literature 6. Reading experiences will include: literature circles, whole-class novel studies, short stories, independent reading and current event articles. Skills and knowledge developed in this course include: quoting texts accurately and using relevant details to support logical conclusions, using evidence to synthesize interpretations, and evaluating author's purpose(s) within and across text(s).

### Language & Literature 7

Grade 7  
Every Day

This course focuses on reading and writing skills through in-depth, critical analysis of a variety of text. Students consider the multiple perspectives presented in nonfiction, short stories, poetry, drama, class novels and independent reading. Students write in a variety of genres, with a particular focus on paragraph structure and multi-paragraph essay writing. Students also select topics of personal interest to develop additional research and speaking skills. Knowledge and skills developed in this course incorporates word study and using multiple meanings of words to construct meaning. Students will learn how to quote texts accurately, identify relevant details that support conclusions, use evidence to justify interpretations of meaning, analyze symbolism, recall cause/effect relationships, make inferences, and recognize how an author's choice can impact style and tone.



## Language and Literature Department

### Advanced Language & Literature 7

Grade 7  
Every Day

*This Advanced course offers a faster-paced version of 7th Grade Language and Literature with greater depth. This class will involve more discussions and assignments that require abstract thinking and independent learning.*

This course focuses on reading and writing skills through in-depth, critical analysis of a variety of text. Students consider the multiple perspectives presented in non-fiction, short stories, poetry, drama, class novels and independent reading. Students write in a variety of genres, including multi-paragraph writing. This advanced course covers more material, has more homework, and advanced reading and writing skills are assumed. Students select topics of personal interest to develop research and speaking skills. Knowledge and skills developed include word study and using multiple meanings of words to construct meaning, quoting texts accurately, analyzing relevant details to support logical conclusions, using evidence to synthesize interpretations of meaning, and evaluating an author's purpose.

### Language & Literature 8

Grade 8  
Every Day

The main focus of this comprehensive course is making meaning from a wide variety of texts and consideration of multiple perspectives presented in informational text, short stories, poetry, drama, class novels and independent reading. Students will also experience extensive writing including: argumentation, expository, narrative, and creative writing. This course will begin to develop abstract, higher order literacy skills. Vocabulary will be at and above the 8th grade level. Knowledge and skills developed in this course include recognizing multiple meanings of a word or phrase to construct meaning, using relevant details to support conclusions, analysis of similarities and differences among ideas and events within and across texts, recognizing how an author's choice impacts style, and using evidence to justify interpretations of meaning.

### Advanced Language & Literature 8

Grade 8  
Every Day

*This Advanced course offers a faster-paced version of 8th Grade Language and Literature with greater depth. This class will involve more discussions and assignments that require abstract thinking and independent learning.*

The main focus of this comprehensive course is making meaning from a wide variety of texts and consideration of multiple perspectives presented in informational text, short stories, poetry, drama, class novels and independent reading. This advanced course covers more material, has more homework, and advanced reading and writing skills are assumed. This course continues to develop abstract, higher order literacy skills. Vocabulary introduced will include college prep words, going far above the 8th grade level. Knowledge and skills developed in this course include analyzing relevant details from text to support conclusions, effectively paraphrasing complex text, using evidence from text to synthesize interpretations, evaluating author's purpose(s) within and across text(s), and using evidence to analyze author's choices.







## Language & Literature Department

### Digital Storytelling

Grades 6

Alternate Day

Digital stories are multimedia productions that can combine photographs, video, animation, sound, music, text, and a narrative voice. When students are able to participate in the multiple steps of designing, creating, and presenting their own digital stories, they can build several literacy skills. These skills include the following: research skills, writing skills, and organization skills by managing the scope of the project within a time constraint. Technology skills can be gained through learning to use a variety of tools, such as Google, WeVideo, PowToons, QuickTime, etc. Inquiry and thinking are key IB learner profile attributes that will be reinforced through this course.

### Fantasy Literature & Society

Grades 7, 8

Alternate Day

Fantasy literature is set in imaginary universes. These imaginary universes have their own rules and realities, a carefully structured storytelling device that presents opportunities and challenges to the traditional elements of fiction. Often, these imaginary universes are created in order to explore and comment on particular elements of the real world: war, race, gender, religion, environment. In this class, we will explore both the craft of creating a fantasy universe and the social commentary in aspects of the genre, including both classic and modern stories, science fiction, and comic books. The class will explore mature topics and a release will need to be signed for viewing PG-13 movies. Students should expect 50 pages a week of out of class reading.

*Prerequisite: read the first four Harry Potter books; be ready to begin with reading book five, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" in the fall.*

### Film Studies

Grades 6, 7, 8

Alternate Day

Film Studies is a course that explores all aspects of cinema. Topics covered include the vocabulary of cinema, screenwriting, directing, filming, and the messaging behind and within films. Students will view many full-length films and film clips throughout the year and discuss why and how those films were created as well as the techniques used to achieve certain effects. The class may explore some mature topics and a release will need to be signed for viewing PG-13 movies. Alternate titles are provided for assignments related to PG-13 films. The course culminates in students creating their own film, going through the process from creating a storyboard to acting, filming, and editing.

### Writing 6

Grade 6

Alternate Day

The primary focus of this course will be using the writing process to produce quality pieces of writing in a variety of genres with an emphasis on structure and supporting details. This is a required course for non-ESP students. It may be taken as an elective for ESP students.





## Math Department

Structural and mindset changes are being implemented districtwide to increase mathematical academic rigor and student achievement. These changes are being phased in and we are entering year two of a three year process at the middle school.

Most students are best served in the grade level mathematics course. In select circumstances, a student may be better served with a single subject acceleration in math. A student who might be better served by single subject acceleration in math is one who has already mastered the material of the grade above, demonstrates maturity in school settings and is intrinsically motivated to persist with mathematics as they see and value math in the world around them. The testing criteria and timeline to assess if this acceleration is appropriate for a student is outlined below.

### ***Math Acceleration Criteria:***

85% or higher on the Grade Above Summative Exam

### ***Timelines and Communication:***

- January: Registration information shared and students register for classes
- February/March: Communication sent home about selected class option and upcoming testing/file review to determine appropriateness of acceleration
- May: Testing and file review completed by data team
- June: Communication sent home about results of testing/file review and state class for next school year

### **Pre-Algebra I**

Grade 6

Every Day

Students enrolled in this rigorous course will experience a complex instructional approach to learning mathematics. With this approach, students will work in groups to ask questions, explain ideas, justify their work, and consider multiple perspectives. The main topics of study include:

- Number and Operation: Operating with ratios, fractions, decimals, and percentages
- Algebra: Creating tables, graphs, and equations; solving equations
- Geometry: Finding surface area and volume of non-rectangular prisms, angle relationships
- Calculating theoretical and experimental probabilities

### **Pre-Algebra II**

Grade 7

Every Day

Students enrolled in this rigorous course will experience a complex instructional approach to learning mathematics. With this approach, students will work in groups to ask questions, explain ideas, justify their work, and consider multiple perspectives. The main topics of study include:

- Number and Operation: Positive and negative rational number operations, proportional reasoning
- Algebra: Solving equations, direct variation
- Geometry: Surface area and volume of cylinders, circle properties, similarity
- Probability: Interpreting and displaying data, finding proportional probabilities



## Math Department

### Math 8

Grade 8  
Every Day

Students enrolled in this rigorous course will take a problem solving approach to construct their own knowledge of the 8th Grade Minnesota State Standards and Benchmarks.

- Number and Operation: Scientific notation, exponent rules, absolute value
- Algebra: Linear algebra, functions, solving systems of equations and inequalities
- Geometry: Understanding the relationships between lines on the coordinate plane
- Probability: scatterplots and line of best fit



### Advanced Math 8

Grade 8  
Every Day

Students enrolled in advanced math will explore the 8th Grade Minnesota State Standards and Benchmarks from Math 8 at a deeper level and investigate a few high school concepts regarding quadratics.

### Geometry

Grade 8  
Every Day

*Pre-requisite course: Advanced Math 8*

The 8th grade Geometry course covers MN high school standards. It includes an in-depth analysis of plane, solid, and coordinate geometry as they relate to both abstract mathematical concepts as well as real-world problem situations. Topics include logic and proof, polygons, perimeter and area analysis, volume and surface area analysis, similarity and congruence, circles and trigonometry, constructions, and analytic geometry. There is a heavy emphasis on using algebraic skills to solve geometric problems. Students should enter the class with experience solving systems of equations and quadratics. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking skills as they relate to logical reasoning and argument.

### Math Lab Elective Course

Grades 6, 7, 8  
Alternate Day

Do you ever wish you had more time with a math teacher to work on your math homework and get help with current math concepts? Do you wish you could study with a math teacher to prepare for an upcoming test? Then the Math Lab class is for you! This class will have time for math games, math challenges, math projects, and completing math homework.





## Music Department

### Beginning Band

Grade 6, 7, 8

Alternate Day

This multi-grade class is for students who have never played a musical instrument before and would like to learn how to play a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Students will have the opportunity to try out the different band instruments and choose one that they would like to study. Students will learn the fundamentals of music as well as the beginning fundamentals of instrument musicianship. Students will develop note reading and rhythm skills. Throughout the year, there will be performance opportunities for the students and a chance for them to show what they have learned. Participation in band requires a commitment to playing in class and outside of the school day.

### Band 6

Grade 6

Alternate Day

This class is for students who would like to learn to play a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. In this course, a variety of musical literature will be studied and students will have multiple performance experiences throughout the year. The fundamentals of instrumental musicianship will be reviewed and emphasized throughout the course. Students will develop their note reading and rhythmic skills while focusing on tone production and instrument technique. Members of this class often will perform with the other bands in their concerts. Practice at home is required in order to be at performance level. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day.





## Music Department

### Choir 6

Grade 6

Alternate Day

This class is for students who would like to sing and continue to develop vocal skills. No previous experience is necessary. Choir is an upbeat course where students work together as a team to develop their singing skills. Choir members will work on vocal technique, rehearsal skills and be given a well-rounded background in music fundamentals. Each student will develop independent singing and reading skills to attain a high level of musicianship and confidence. There will be opportunities for performances throughout the year. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day.

### Guitar/World Drumming 6

Grade 6

Alternate Day

Guitar Class provides students an opportunity to explore the fundamentals of guitar performance, reading traditional notation, understanding the musical concepts of melody, harmony, rhythm and form and to develop a deeper appreciation for all styles of music and music as art. Students will learn the application of the music alphabet to the entire fret board; learn to read music notation, and memorize basic chord fingerings and chord progressions.

World Drumming is designed to introduce students to a fundamental understanding of elements of music and rhythm while exploring ways to create music on ordinary household items, as well as the roles of music in society and culture through performance on African, Latin and Native American percussion instruments.





## Music Department

### Orchestra 6

Grade 6

Alternate Day

This class is for students who would like to learn or continue to play a string instrument. In this course, a variety of orchestral literature will be studied and students will have multiple performance experiences throughout the year. The fundamentals of instrumental musicianship will be reviewed and emphasized throughout the course. Students will develop their note reading and rhythmic skills while focusing on tone production and bowing technique. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessment. Members of this class often will perform with the other orchestras in their concerts. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day.

### Band 7

Grade 7

Alternate Day

This band consists of students who have previous experience playing a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. In this course, a variety of music literature will be studied and all students will have multiple performance experiences each year. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessments, quarterly music playing exams and some written assessments. This class is part of the combined band in the spring and members can also be in the specialty ensembles, such as jazz band. Practice at home is required in order to be at performance level. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day.

### Choir 7

Grade 7

Alternate Day

This choir consists of students who have previous experience singing in a beginning choir. Students will get the chance to improve their vocal skills while emphasizing the basics of proper techniques. Choir is an ensemble-based course in which students work together as a team to develop their vocal skills. Choir members will work on proper vocal technique, rehearsal skills and will be given a well-rounded background in music fundamentals. Each student will develop independent singing and reading skills to attain a high level of musicianship and confidence. There will be several opportunities for performances each year. Participation requires a commitment to performing in class and outside of the school day.







## Music Department

### Guitar/World Drumming 7

Grade 7

Alternate Day

Guitar Class provides students an opportunity to explore the fundamentals of guitar performance, reading traditional notation, understanding the musical concepts of melody, harmony, rhythm and form. Students will learn the application of the music alphabet to the entire fret board, learn to read music notation, and memorize basic chord fingerings and chord progressions. They will learn several strumming and finger techniques for accompanying songs. World Drumming students will be learning basic percussion techniques including proper playing position, music notation, music theory, and performance skills as they learn excerpts and songs through curriculum such as World Music Drumming and a Drum Circle Handbook.

### Orchestra 7

Grade 7

Alternate Day

This orchestra consists of students with one or more years of instruction on a string instrument. Students will have the opportunity to improve technique while emphasizing basics. Using a variety of musical literature, the fundamentals of instrumental musicianship will be reviewed and emphasized throughout the course. In seventh grade, students will continue to develop their rhythmic skills while focusing on intonation, tone production and bowing techniques. They will also have an introduction to more advanced techniques, such as shifting and vibrato. Practice at home is required in order to be at performance level. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day.

### Band 8

Grade 8

Alternate Day

This band consists of students who have previous experience playing a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. Students will get a chance to sharpen their instrumental skills through challenging music and performances. The Advanced Band may also be selected to represent the St. Louis Park School District at various community events and contests. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance assessments, quarterly music playing exams and some written assessments. This class is part of the combined Festival band in the spring and members can also be in the specialty ensembles, such as jazz band. Practice at home is required in order to be at performance level. Opportunities to perform include festivals, contests, and concerts.





## Music Department

### Choir 8

Grade 8

Alternate Day

This choir consists of students who have previous experience singing in a beginning, intermediate or advanced choir, and advanced choral students who wish to explore singing in select small ensembles formed within the class. Students will get a chance to sharpen their vocal skills through challenging music and performances. Choir members will work on proper vocal technique and rehearsal skills and will be given a well-rounded background in music fundamentals. Each student will develop independent singing and reading skills to attain a high level of musicianship and confidence. Participation requires a commitment to performing both in class and outside of the school day

### Guitar/World Drumming 8

Grade 8

Alternate Day

This class provides students an opportunity to explore the fundamentals of guitar performance, reading traditional notation, understanding the musical concepts of melody, harmony, rhythm, and form. Students will learn the application of the music alphabet to the entire fret board; learn to read music notation, and memorize basic chord fingerings and chord progressions. They will learn several strumming and finger techniques for accompanying songs.

World Drumming is designed to introduce students to an intermediate understanding of elements of music and rhythm while exploring ways to create music on ordinary household items, as well as the roles of music in society and culture through performance on African, Latin and Native American percussion instruments.

### Orchestra 8

Grade 8

Alternate Day

This orchestra is a select ensemble, which features performance at an advanced level with development of all basic skills. This orchestra consists of students with two or more years of instruction on a string instrument. In Orchestra, students will continue developing rhythmic skills while also focusing on and developing more advanced skills like vibrato and shifting. In addition to the large group rehearsal every other day, students may also receive several small-group lessons each quarter. Assessments will include both formative and summative performance skill assessments and some written assessments. Practice at home is required in order to be at performance level. Opportunities to perform include festivals, contests, and concerts, and may include some travel opportunities.

### Musical Theatre Choir

Grades 6, 7, 8

Alternate Day

Within a semester, students will explore music, theatre, and dance as well as the visual arts by participating in the production of a pre-written musical. The musical will be learned, rehearsed, and staged during class and result in public performances during the first semester of the year. Creativity will be stressed and developed while students learn basic techniques common to all of the arts. During the alternate semester, students will assist in selecting choral music to be learned, rehearsed, and performed in a musical that they will write, direct, choreograph, costume, and perform. Students will be expected to attend & perform at concerts and shows outside regular school hours.



## Physical Education Department

### Physical Education 6

Grade 6

Alternate Day

Students will be involved in activities that work on perceptual motor development and movement skills. The major areas covered are individual sports, team sports, indoor/outdoor games, and physical fitness. Basic rules, safety, and etiquette are emphasized in all areas. Two health units will be taught during the school year in this class.

### Physical Education 7

Grade 7

Alternate Day

This course is an exploratory program involving students in the areas of individual sports, dual and team sports. Individual growth and development is encouraged through participation in individual activities such as physical fitness and badminton. Team concepts are provided through activities, such as basketball and flag football. Safety concepts, rules, and etiquette are emphasized in all areas. Two health units (Substance Abuse and Puberty) will be taught during the school year in this class.

### Physical Education 8

Grade 8

Alternate Day

Students will understand and participate in physical activities that develop motor skills and physical fitness. This will be accomplished through instruction in the individual activities of badminton, physical fitness, and weight training. Team concepts are provided through activities such as floor hockey, volleyball, softball, and ultimate. Safety concepts, rules and etiquette are emphasized in all activities. Two health units (Conditioning Your Body and Pregnancy/Birth) will be taught during the school year in this class.

### Recreational Sports

Grade 6

Alternate Day

Students will experience multiple lifetime and recreational activities. Activities will be non-competitive in nature and promote positive sportsmanship. Sports include individual, dual and team, such as badminton, pickle ball, kickball, and snowshoeing.

### Competitive Sports

Grades 7, 8

Alternate Day

This class is designed to enhance students' interest and participation from past or current Physical Education experiences. Activities will be competitive in nature and promote positive sportsmanship. We will use knowledge, strategies, and past-learned skills to compete in competitive sports and activities in greater depth. Examples include: soccer, football, basketball, tennis, golf, volleyball, and badminton.

### Conditioning and Strength

Grades 7, 8

Alternate Day

This class is for the student that wants to take their athletic experience to the next level. Activities are designed to improve physical performance on National Fitness Standards and to give a competitive advantage to athletes. Knowledge of strength training, conditioning, and nutrition will guide the student to improve health and well being. Activities include weight room, cardiovascular training, plyometrics, stretching, and nutrition.







## Science Department

### Science 6/ESP Science 6\*

Grade 6  
Every Day

Science 6 is a yearlong **earth science** course with emphasis on earth and space systems, climate science, environmental awareness, and the engineering design process. This inquiry-based curriculum will provide hands-on investigations for a variety of engaging topics including: geology, weather & climate, resources, human impacts & sustainability, and Earth's place in the universe. Regular attendance is critical for success in science class.

*\*ESP (Extended Spanish Program) Science 6 is taught in Spanish*

### Science 7

Grade 7  
Every Day

Science 7 is a yearlong **life science** course with an emphasis on the structure of living things and the connections they have with their surrounding environment. Students will also explore their own human impact on the environment. This inquiry-based curriculum will provide hands-on experiences for a variety of engaging topics including: scientific method, cells, body systems, diseases, genetics, and ecology. Regular attendance is critical for success in science class.



### Science 8

Grade 8  
Every Day

Science 8 is a yearlong **earth science** course with an emphasis on the structure and transformation of energy on earth, in our solar system, and beyond. This course serves as preparation for success in high school science courses and offers a rigorous curriculum. Inquiry-based learning investigations will provide hands-on experiences for a variety of engaging topics including: scientific method, geology, weather & climate, astronomy, chemistry, and renewable/nonrenewable energy. Regular attendance is critical for success in science class.

### MN Outdoors

Grades 6, 7, 8  
Alternate Day

MN Outdoors is a class that combines MN natural history, ecology, and environmental sciences through projects, activities and outdoor experiences. This will be a very active, hands on class! Students should be ready to move, try new things, be creative, and have fun! Students will also be required to wear clothing appropriate to the weather and activity we are doing - they will get prior notice of any special clothing requirements, but they should be prepared to be outside every day. Topics covered: outdoor recreation, MN natural history/ecology, early American skills, biodiversity, and habitats in our community.

### Introduction to Zoology

Grades 7, 8  
Alternate Day

Introduction to Zoology is an alternate day course designed to introduce students to a variety of basic concepts. This course will focus on topics such as animal behavior, animal classification, comparative anatomy, basic dissection and the zoological world in general. This course is designed so that students explore new topics, develop an understanding of the concepts presented in class and then, apply their knowledge in labs and projects. Basic biological principles will be used to help understand some of the concepts.



## Study

### Study

Grades 6, 7, 8  
Alternate Day

The study class is intended to meet the needs of students who seek a quiet environment in which to individually complete assignments. Students are expected to arrive in class with work to complete, a book to read, or some other appropriate individual activity to do.





## Visual Arts Department

### Exploring Art

Grade 6

Alternate Day

This course encompasses broad visual art experiences. It is designed to build knowledge of art and art history to create an awareness of visual arts within the world. Students will also examine various cultures and artists, and develop techniques for creating and understanding artworks. Students will experience a variety of art mediums which will include drawing, painting, weaving, and more.

### Digital Illustration

Grades 7, 8

Alternate Day

Students will learn three different adobe programs: Photoshop (photos/pixel based), Illustrator (drawing/vector based) and InDesign (layout). Each project/program will build knowledge for their end goal – a series of original story panels. Students will research comic books, graphic novels, children's books and other styles of illustrated works. Students will find the genre that best fits their style and create the story, hand-drawn illustrations, typography, and layout. Students may take this class for one year or both years.

### Digital Photography

Grades 7, 8

Alternate Day

This course teaches students how to use a point-and-shoot camera to produce photographs that move beyond ordinary snapshots. Students will explore photography basics like the rule of thirds, framing, photo editing and how to manage a digital portfolio. Students will experiment with a variety of compositional techniques and types of photography in both an indoor and outdoor classroom setting. Students may take this class for one year or for both years.

### Painting and Illustration

Grades 7, 8

Alternate Day

Explore the world of painting and illustration through the elements and principals of design. Students will explore a variety of subject matter and examine various cultures and artists. They will develop techniques for creating and understanding artworks. This class will be working in a variety of media including pencil, colored pencil, chalk pastel, oil pastel, tempera and acrylic paint on canvas. Students may take this class for one year or for both years.

### Ceramics and Sculpture

Grade 7, 8

Alternate Day

This course provides students the opportunity to explore 3D design through the creation of clay and mixed media sculptures with a focus on aesthetics and art history. Activities include making ceramic bowls, coil pots, and large-scale papier-mâché sculptures. This course will introduce students to core 3D design concepts while allowing them to turn their ideas into hand-built projects they will be able to take home.







## Additional Information

### Library Media Program

The primary purpose of the Library Media Program is to create lifelong learners, readers, and library users. Library media staff work with students and staff to ensure efficient access, effective evaluation, and responsible use of information and ideas. The library media specialist partners with teachers to plan and facilitate instruction that nurtures development of information literacy skills and stimulates reading. In addition to a current collection of print materials, the library media center provides a variety of electronic resources for personal productivity and multi-media production. These services and resources are available throughout the school day as well as before and after school.

### Special Education

Special education services are provided for students based upon their educational needs. Their individual education plan (IEP) provides a framework for meeting those needs. The teachers within the special education program assist the students in the general education classroom as well as in a resource setting. They conference and collaborate with general education staff to accommodate the students to give them the support they need to work towards and attain their individual goals and objectives on their IEP. The goals and objectives in reading, writing, and math are in compliance with all state standards. Some of the classes offered in special education are:

- Reading Support
- Writing Skills
- Social Emotional Learning
- Skills Development
- Other alternative classes in Individuals & Societies, Language & Literature, Math, and Science are offered to students to support their specific needs.

Other Special Education services may include Speech/Language, consultative Occupational Therapy, Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Audiology, Physical Impairment or Visual Impairment support.

### Multilingual Learners

St. Louis Park Middle School values our community of diverse learners. The goal of the Multilingual Learners program is to develop students' academic English language proficiency so they can access the content and fully participate in their grade level classes. Service and support decisions are made based on the individual student's strengths and needs. Students in the EL Program:

- Speak languages other than English at home
- Are born in the U.S. or have come to the U.S. at some point during their schooling
- Participate in the ACCESS test each year to measure their academic English language development
- Are in co-taught core content classes, reading classes, and English Language Development classes, depending on proficiency level

### Gifted & Talented

Aligned with our District's mission, we have a core belief in developing students' brilliance and strengths through a multitude of balanced opportunities. We also believe in the power of investing in the design, implementation, and growth of our instructional programs in order to meet the needs of all learners. Research and suggested practices support that programming that develops students is best done through enrichment-based and integrated learning opportunities.

From early learning throughout high school, St. Louis Park Schools offers programming that gives learners challenges and opportunities, in and outside of the classroom, that energize and enhance the spirit. We are in the midst of a three year review of our entire E-12 gifted, talented, and enrichment programming in the district which will further develop a coherent direction and vision for serving all of our students with rigorous and relevant instruction at all grade levels.



## Additional Information

### Activities, Clubs & Athletics

It is our belief that students should have the opportunity to participate in activities outside of the academic program. Sports are offered after school until 5:30 p.m. Bus transportation is available. Activities may be dropped or added depending on student request/involvement and available adult leadership. Athletics are coordinated through the Middle School Athletic Coordinator, Derek Wennerberg, [wennerberg.derek@slpschools.org](mailto:wennerberg.derek@slpschools.org).

The following clubs, activities, and athletics are offered at St. Louis Park Middle School:

#### Clubs and Activities

- Musical
- Honors Band
- Student Action Team
- Yearbook Club
- Select Choir
- Math Team
- Bowling Club
- Quiz Bowl Teams

#### Athletics

##### Fall

- Football (7/8)
- Soccer
- Girls' Tennis
- Girls' Swimming
- Girls' Volleyball
- Cross-Country Running\*

##### Winter

- Basketball
- Girls' Hockey\*
- Girls' Gymnastics\*
- Boys' Swimming\*
- Nordic Skiing\*

##### Spring

- Track and Field
- Boys' Tennis
- Girls' Lacrosse 7/8
- Girls' Softball\*
- Boys' Baseball\*
- Girls' Synchronized Swimming\*

\* High school sport opportunity offered to 7-12 graders. Athletes interested in sports not offered at the Middle School may tryout for high school teams.

**All students who plan on participating in St. Louis Park athletics must have a current physical on file in the health office before participation in chosen sport.**



### Student Services

The Student Services Department exists to support students and to facilitate learning. Your primary contact in the Student Services Office is your child's grade-level Dean of Students. A dean is available to assist students in a variety of areas including general counseling, academic advising, attendance issues, discipline and conflict mediation. Deans also act as a bridge to your child's teachers and can facilitate problem-solving conferences with parents, staff and students. The Student Services Department is comprised of deans, school counselors, a social worker, a police liaison officer and grade-level coordinators.





## About the IB Middle Years Programme (IB-MYP)

The IB continuum of international education, for students aged 3 to 19, is unique because of its academic and personal rigour, challenging students to excel in their studies and personal growth.

The IB aims to inspire a quest for learning throughout life that is marked by enthusiasm and empathy.

The IB aspires to help schools develop well-rounded students, who respond to challenges with optimism and an open mind, are confident in their own identities, make ethical decisions, join with others in celebrating our common humanity and are prepared to apply what they learn in real-world, complex and unpredictable situations.

The IB offers high-quality programmes of international education that share a powerful vision. An IB education:

- **focuses on learners** – the IB's student-centred programmes promote healthy relationships, ethical responsibility and personal challenge
- **develops effective approaches to teaching and learning** – IB Programmes help students to develop the attitudes and skills they need for both academic and personal success
- **works within global contexts** – IB programmes increase understanding of languages and cultures, and explore globally significant ideas and issues
- **explores significant content** – IB programmes offer a curriculum that is broad and balanced, conceptual and connected.

Informed by values described in the learner profile, IB learners strive to become inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective. These attributes represent a broad range of human capacities and responsibilities that go beyond intellectual development and academic success.

### What is the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP)?

The MYP is designed for students aged 11 to 16. It provides a framework of learning that encourages students to become creative, critical and reflective thinkers. The MYP emphasizes intellectual challenge, encouraging students to make connections between their studies in traditional subjects and the real world. It fosters the development of skills for communication, intercultural understanding and global engagement—essential qualities for young people who are becoming global leaders.

The MYP is flexible enough to accommodate most national or local curriculum requirements. It builds upon the knowledge, skills and attitudes developed in the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) and prepares students to meet the academic challenges of the IB Diploma Programme (DP) and the IB Career-related Certificate (IBCC).

### The IB Middle Years Programme:

- addresses holistically students' intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being
- provides students opportunities to develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need in order to manage complexity and take responsible action for the future
- ensures breadth and depth of understanding through study in eight subject groups
- requires the study of at least two languages (language of instruction and additional language of choice) to support students in understanding their own cultures and those of others
- empowers students to participate in service within the community
- helps to prepare students for further education, the workplace and a lifetime of learning.



### The Curriculum

The MYP consists of eight subject groups: language acquisition, language and literature, individuals and societies, sciences, mathematics, arts, physical and health education, and design.

Student study is supported by a minimum of 50 hours of instruction per subject group in each academic year. In years 4 and 5, students have the option to take courses from six of the eight subject groups, which provides greater flexibility.

### The MYP: a Unique Approach, Relevant for a Global Society

The MYP aims to help students develop their personal understanding, their emerging sense of self and responsibility in their community.

MYP teachers organize the curriculum with appropriate attention to:

- **Teaching and learning in context.**  
Students learn best when their learning experiences have context and are connected to their lives and the world that they have experienced. Using global contexts, MYP students explore human identity, global challenges and what it means to be internationally minded.
- **Conceptual understanding.**  
Concepts are big ideas that have relevance within specific disciplines and across subject areas. MYP students use concepts as a vehicle to inquire into issues and ideas of personal, local and global significance and examine knowledge holistically.





## MYP Projects

MYP projects provide students the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned in the MYP. In schools that include MYP years 5, all students must complete the personal project. In programmes that include MYP years 4 or 5, schools may offer students the opportunity to do both the community project and the personal project. In schools that include MYP year 3 or 4, students must complete the community project.

- The **community project** encourages students to explore their right and responsibility to implement service as action in the community. Students may complete the community project individually or in small groups.
- Each student develops a **personal project** independently, producing a truly personal and creative piece of work that stands as a summative review of their ability to conduct independent work.

## IB Quality Assurance

Any school, or group of schools, wishing to offer one or more IB programme must first be authorized to do so by the IB organization.

The requirements are the same for all schools, and the procedure is designed to ensure that schools are well-prepared to implement the programme(s) successfully. All IB World Schools are required to participate in an ongoing process of review and development, using the same programme standards and practices.

## Services and Support for Schools

As part of its ongoing commitment to the development of a highly skilled global learning community, the IB provides a wide range of high-quality professional development opportunities to help new and experienced school leaders and educators understand, support and successfully deliver IB Programmes. To further support

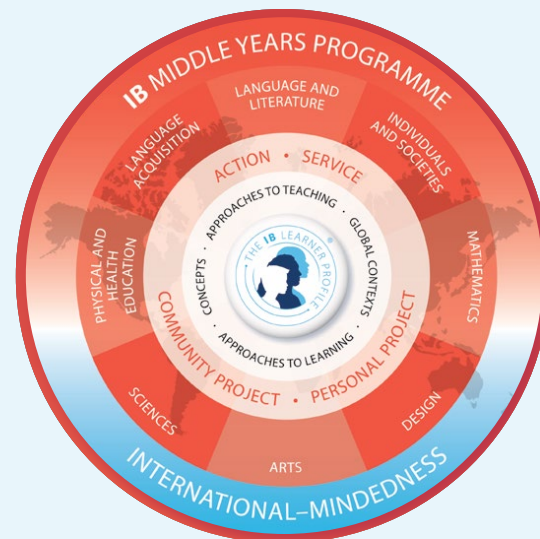
professional development, IB educator certificates and IB leadership certificates are offered for completing an IB recognized course of study offered by a network of higher education institutions.

School leaders and educators can also serve as IB workshop leaders, school visitors, consultants, examiners, moderators or curriculum developers. Other ways to participate in the IB community include sharing good practices in the online IB Journal of Teaching Practice and through blogs and other social media networks. Other IB services include: access to curriculum materials and related publications, marketing support, networking opportunities, and assistance with university and government recognition.

## Assessment in the MYP: Rigorous Criteria, Applied Consistently Worldwide

MYP assessment standards are consistent around the world. In order to maintain the rigour for which the IB is renowned, the MYP assessment model is criterion-related. Teachers structure varied and valid assessment tasks so that students can demonstrate achievement according to objectives defined by the IB. Tasks are assessed against established criteria, not against the work of other students.

A good curriculum develops a range of student skills. The MYP encourages teachers to assess this acquired skill set, including how to succeed in written examinations. Typical MYP assessment tasks include open-ended, problem-solving activities and investigations, organized debates, tests and examinations, hands-on experimentation, analysis and reflection. MYP assessment is carried out by teachers, according to the criteria defined by the IB.



## MYP Assessment from 2016

Along with the introduction of mandatory moderation of the personal project, 2016 saw a change in the optional external assessment for the MYP. The new optional MYP eAssessment provides external evaluation for students in MYP year 5 (15–16 years old) that leads to the internationally recognized IB MYP certificate and IB MYP course results.

MYP eAssessment represents a balanced, appropriately-challenging model that comprises examinations and coursework.

Two-hour examinations in four subject groups (language and literature, sciences, mathematics, individuals and societies) and in interdisciplinary learning are individually marked by IB examiners. Portfolios of student work for four subject groups (language acquisition, physical and health education, arts, and design) are moderated by IB examiners to international standards.

These innovative assessments focus on conceptual understanding and the ability to apply knowledge in complex, unfamiliar situations. They offer robust and reliable assessment of student achievement in the MYP.



St. Louis Park  
Middle School

# 2021-22 St. Louis Park Middle School Course Catalog



Challenging Science Curriculum

# 1,030

Number of students  
in grades 6-8



# 547

Number of  
student athletes

## Student Demographics

White: 51.8%

Black/African American: 19.8%

Hispanic/Latino: 14.0%

Two or more races: 9.6%

Asian: 3.5%

American Indian/Alaska Native: 1.1%

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.2%



Numerous Fine Arts Opportunities

# 7

Number of periods  
in a school day

# 1959

Year school was built



# 29.5

Average class  
size



Exploratory Field Trips

# 53

Teachers  
with  
advanced  
degrees

# 2016

Year school received  
IB World School  
Designation

# 30

Number of  
countries  
represented  
by student  
body



# 26

Number of After School  
Clubs, Activities &  
Athletic Teams

# 24

Different home  
languages spoken  
by students



# 40+

Elective classes offered

# 94

Number of  
Multilingual learners



St. Louis Park  
Middle School

Grades 6-8

2025 Texas Avenue South  
St. Louis Park, MN 55426  
Office: 952-928-6300

[www.slpschools.org/ms](http://www.slpschools.org/ms)

School Start/End Times

Start: 9:10 a.m.

End: 3:52 p.m.

Note: School hours listed  
reflect changes in school  
start-end times that will  
go in effect at the start of  
the 2021-22 school year.