

Grade 6 SELECTIONS	All students are already enrolled in the following courses:		MUSIC CHOICE	WORLD LANGUAGE CHOICE
	CORE Classes:	ENCORE Classes/DURATION:	Circle one selection:	Circle one selection:
Grade 6 SELECTIONS	Language Arts	Physical Education - 3 times/week	Band	Spanish
	Math	Art - 2 times/week	Orchestra	French
	Science	Health - 1 time/week	Chorus	Mandarin
	Social Studies	Theatre - 1 time/week	Music & Technology	
		Engineer & Design - 1 time/week		
		DURATION: Once Every day	DURATION: 2 times/week	DURATION: Once Every day *NOTE* Multi-year Commitment

Grade 7 SELECTIONS	All students are already enrolled in the following courses:		MUSIC CHOICE	WORLD LANGUAGE CHOICE
	CORE Classes:	ENCORE Classes/DURATION:	Circle one selection:	Circle one selection:
Grade 7 SELECTIONS	Language Arts	Physical Education - 3 times/week	Band	Spanish
	Math	Art - 2 times/week	Orchestra	French
	Science	Health - 1 time/week	Chorus	Mandarin
	Social Studies	Theatre - 1 time/week	Music & Technology	
		Engineer & Design - 1 time/week		
		DURATION: Once Every day	DURATION: 2 times/week	DURATION: Once Every day *NOTE* Multi-year Commitment

Grade 8 SELECTIONS	All students are already enrolled in the following courses:		MUSIC CHOICE	WORLD LANGUAGE CHOICE
	CORE Classes:	ENCORE Classes/DURATION:	Circle one selection:	Circle one selection:
Grade 8 SELECTIONS	Language Arts	Physical Education - 3 times/week	Band	Spanish
	Math	Art - 2 times/week	Orchestra	French
	Science	Health - 1 time/week	Chorus	Mandarin
	Social Studies	Engineer & Design - 2 times/week	Music & Technology	
		DURATION: Once Every day	DURATION: 2 times/week	DURATION: Once Every day

COURSE OVERVIEW

WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES

French

Students who begin their study of French in the middle school will be immersed in the beauty of the French language and French culture. They will learn conversational French in theme-based units utilizing dialogues, books, and studies of people living in French-speaking countries around the world. In sixth grade, students will learn the basic skills necessary to communicate with each other and discuss their everyday lives. They will learn speaking skills needed to enjoy getting acquainted with other people, talking about school subjects, shopping for school, and having fun in Québec. Participation in skits, songs, games and other readings, as well as listening to music and watching movie clips from authentic French sources also enhance students' learning in the middle school. As students' progress in their study of French people, language, and culture, they will also improve their listening, speaking and writing skills. French students in 7th and 8th grade learn to communicate in speech and writing on topics such as ordering in a café, describing family members, shopping for clothing and going on vacation. All French students will work in a positive and nurturing environment that encourages them to learn this new language, becoming real-life speakers of French, well-equipped with language skills needed for success in the future.

Mandarin Chinese

Mandarin Chinese at the middle school level is a unique opportunity for Westport students to receive an early introduction to this world language in a nurturing and supportive environment. At the 6th grade level, students will gain familiarity with the distinctive tones of Chinese as well as the correct stroke order for writing Chinese characters. Through games, in-class recitations and skits, students will begin to demystify this ancient language, becoming adept at expressing themselves with simple greetings, counting, naming colors, and introducing family members. Within thematic units students develop a level of comfort in reading, writing and speaking simple Chinese. As the pace of the program accelerates in the 7th and 8th grade, students will be introduced to basic grammatical concepts as the focus evolves to a communicative approach with the target language being spoken more often in the classroom. Throughout the three-year sequence, students will gain an appreciation of the vital connections between the Chinese language and Chinese culture as simple poems from the Tang Dynasty, ancient stories with moral lessons and the intricacies of calligraphy appear in the curriculum. With an abundance of cultural opportunities presenting themselves in local venues, there will be opportunities for field trips as well as speakers to visit the middle school classrooms. The middle school Mandarin curriculum will help students develop confidence in their ability to make them understood through verbal and written communication in Mandarin Chinese.

Spanish

Spanish in the Westport middle schools is a vibrant language experience which transitions incoming sixth graders to a more formal path of study while maintaining an advanced conversational and aural component. In sixth grade students will utilize the substantial foundation of knowledge they have acquired in elementary school to expand their vocabulary and speak in whole sentences with greater ease. Theme based topics studied include school subjects, the family, the home, and leisure/sports activities. Students engage the Spanish language through a mixture of games, songs, books, grammar practice, cultural experiences and most importantly, realistic and consistent employment of the concepts they learn in class. The emphasis at all times is on meaningful communication in Spanish, and students speak in the target language every day in class. In seventh and eighth grades, students move toward a more rigorous study of grammar in preparation for their entrance into the language program at Staples High School. At the middle school level, students studying

Spanish will have fun and learn in a safe environment that encourages them to take risks as real-life speakers of the Spanish language, as they develop the language skills necessary for success in the future.

MUSIC COURSES

Band

Students in the Band enjoy studying a wide variety of styles and genres of grade-appropriate pieces and perform at fall and spring concerts. Band instruments may include flute, oboe, trumpet, clarinet, as well as other percussion and wind instruments. Students further develop their musical knowledge and skills, as well as enjoy the aesthetic experience through the musical art in small group lessons and collaborative settings.

- Small group lessons occur during regularly scheduled class times; small group lessons occur weekly and on a rotating basis so students do not continually miss the same course.
- Students are expected to alert their teacher that they will be attending a music lesson and also follow-up with their classroom teachers regarding missed class work after attending each small group lesson.

Orchestra

Students in the Orchestra enjoy studying a wide variety of styles and genres of grade-appropriate pieces and perform at fall and spring concerts. Orchestra instruments may include violin, viola, cello, as well as other string instruments. Students further develop their musical knowledge and skills, as well as enjoy the aesthetic experience through the musical art in small group lessons and collaborative settings.

- Small group lessons occur during regularly scheduled class times; small group lessons occur weekly and on a rotating basis so students do not continually miss the same course.
- Students are expected to alert their teacher that they will be attending a music lesson and also follow-up with their classroom teachers regarding missed class work after attending each small group lesson.

Chorus

Students in Chorus enjoy studying and singing a wide variety of styles and genres of grade-appropriate songs and perform at fall and spring concerts. Students further develop their musical knowledge and skills, as well as enjoy the aesthetic experience through the musical art in a mostly collaborative setting.

Music Technology

Students in Music Technology explore the “how” and “why” music sounds the way it does. This is done through further development of musical knowledge and skills, the study of musical history and styles, and applying these to compositional elements and projects through the use of music software. Music Technology is a mostly project-based learning class.