

OWATONNA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Online

*Inspiring Excellence.
Every Learner, Every Day.*



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6th Grade

Coursework | 2021-22

English 6

Credit/Length: Full Year

Grade Level: 6

Required Course

This course will provide students with a solid foundation in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will study the characteristics and features of fiction and nonfiction text as well as poetry. Additionally, students will be required to read self-selected texts for personal enjoyment both at school and at home. Students will practice various forms of writing including creative, descriptive, informational, narrative, and persuasive. Grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary will also be an integral part of the course.

Mathematics 6

Credit/Length: Full Year

Grade Level: 6

Required Course

The 6th grade math curriculum is designed around the 6th grade Minnesota standards and focuses on problem solving, fractions-based operations, percentages, decimals, proportions and ratios, algebra concepts, geometry and probability. Students entering 6th grade math are expected to have a prior understanding of basic math operations such as adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Students in this class will learn and apply important mathematical concepts and skills that are critical for future math classes. Students will develop reasoning, problem-solving skills and become confident in the mathematical process.

Earth Science

Credit/Length: Full Year

Grade Level: 6

Required Course

Students enrolled in this dynamic course explore the scope of Earth sciences, covering everything from basic structure and rock formation to the incredible and volatile forces that have shaped and changed our planet. As climate change and energy conservation become increasingly prevalent in the national discourse, it will be important for students to understand the concepts and causes of our changing Earth. Earth Science is a two-semester course that provides a solid foundation for understanding the physical characteristics that make the planet Earth unique and examines how these characteristics differ among the planets of our solar system.

Fitness Basics

Credit/Length: Full Year

Grade Level: 6

Required Course

This course provides students with a basic understanding of fitness and nutrition. Students will learn about exercise safety, team and individual sports, nutrition, and the importance of staying active throughout their lifetime. Students conduct fitness assessments, set goals, develop their own fitness program, and participate in weekly physical activity.

Minnesota Studies

Credit/Length: Full Year

Grade Level: 6

Required Course

This course will focus on the history of Minnesota. Some of the core units of study may include the following:

- The First Minnesotans, which also include three archeological sites
- Native Americans—specifically, but not limited to the Dakota and Ojibway
- Fur Trade, which includes roles and relationships of the fur trade and growth of the Minnesota territory
- Treaties and land acquisitions
- Minnesota's Immigrants
- Minnesotans and their involvement in the Civil War
- Dakota Conflict
- Small town life and Industrial Revolution
- Lumber, Flour, and Iron Ore
- 20th Century Minnesotans/Minnesota today

Music Exploration

Credit/Length: 1 Semester

Grade Level: 6

Required Course

What comes to mind when you hear the word 'music'? Do you think about your favorite band or artist? Do you think about instruments and scales and chords? The word 'music' means something different to everyone. This is why in Exploring Music there is a little bit of something for everyone! You will learn about how we hear music and how music affects our lives. You will explore important elements of music like rhythm, pitch, and harmony, as well as different musical genres. You will discover more about your singing voice and musical instruments and composition while taking in the history and culture of music over the years. Tune up your understanding and appreciation for all things music by signing up for this course!

6th Grade

Coursework | 2021-22

Life Skills

Credit/Length: 1 semester

Grade Level: 6

Required Course

This course allows students to explore their personality type and interests, as well as refine important skills that will benefit them throughout their lives, including personal nutrition and fitness skills, time & stress management, communication & healthy relationships, goal setting, study skills, leadership and service, environmental and consumer health, and personal finances. In addition, students will explore possible colleges and careers that match their needs, interests, and talents.

2D Art Studio

Credit/Length: 1 Semester

Grade Level: 6

Required Course

Close your eyes and imagine you're standing in an art studio—the smell of paint, the heat of the kiln, and the infinite creative possibilities that linger in the air. This is where art is born, and in 2D Studio Art, you'll learn how to bring your art visions to life. Whatever medium you prefer—painting, drawing, photography—this course will teach you the design elements and principles needed to create a work of art, explore your artistic inspirations, travel back in time to look at art in different cultures, and gain insight about the art of critiquing. If you've ever dreamed about making a living as an artist, this course will give you the tools and background that you need to turn those dreams into a reality!

Online Learning Digital Citizenship

Credit/Length: 1 Semester

Grade Level: 6

Required Course

This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to online learning, including how to work independently, stay safe, and develop effective study habits in virtual learning environments. Featuring direct-instruction videos, interactive tasks, authentic projects, and rigorous assessments, the course prepares students for high school by providing in-depth instruction and practice in important study skills such as time management, effective note-taking, test preparation, and collaborating effectively online. By the end of the course, students will understand what it takes to be successful online learners and responsible digital citizens.



7th Grade

Coursework | 2021-22

English 7**Credit/Length:** Full Year**Grade Level:** 7**Required Course**

English 7 aligns with the MN State Language Arts Standards, covering the following areas: Literature, Informational Text, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language. The purpose of this course is to further develop students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Critical thinking skills will also be addressed with an emphasis of moving from literal to abstract thinking. These skills will be developed throughout the year by exploring pieces of literature and non-fiction writing, composing multiple types of writing, conducting research, practicing grammar, and expanding vocabulary. In addition, students will be required to read independently both at school and at home. Assessments will be on the English 7 Enduring Understandings with a focus on the Critical EU's for this grade level.

Mathematics 7**Credit/Length:** Full Year**Grade Level:** 7**Required Course**

This includes both the Pre-Algebra and Advanced Math 7 classes, where students are appropriately placed based on a variety of performance indicators. The math curriculum is designed around the 7th grade Minnesota Standards and primarily focuses on number sense, proportional reasoning and algebraic thinking. Students are graded on practice assignments as well as various assessments. Pre-Algebra spends a majority of time on identified Essential Standards that will support student success in further math courses; proficiency on these Essential Standards is also reflected in students' grades. Advanced Math 7 includes the Essential Standards but at a deeper level of understanding and also extends student learning into more algebra topics to prepare students for the rigors of further advanced math classes.

Life Science**Credit/Length:** Full Year**Grade Level:** 7**Required Course**

This course in Life Science will give you an opportunity to explore the living world around you. Through this class you will learn how to think like a scientist by asking questions, testing hypotheses and reporting conclusions. As a class, we will explore the incredible diversity of life on Earth, discuss the relationships that exist between organisms, examine how information is passed from one generation to the next, and investigate the applications of life science in the modern world.

U.S. History**Credit/Length:** Full Year**Grade Level:** 7**Required Course**

This course runs from the early Federal Era through present day. The core concepts are change, citizenship, conflict, culture movement, power and progress. Also included in the class are an introduction to the concepts of economics, civics, and the structure and function of government.

Fitness Basics 2**Credit/Length:** Full Year**Grade Level:** 7**Required Course**

This course provides students with a basic understanding of fitness and nutrition. Students will learn about exercise safety, team and individual sports, nutrition, and the importance of staying active throughout their lifetime. Students conduct fitness assessments and participate in weekly physical activity.

Digital Art**Credit/Length:** 1 Semester**Grade Level:** 7**Required Course**

Explore the digital side of the arts! This course is for students who wish to explore art through technology. In this course, students will use a variety of technology resources to study and create artworks. We will be using publishing, vector graphics, photo-editing, and video editing software to look at art production through the digital lens. Through the course, students will develop knowledge and skills in media art that they can then apply to other coursework and other projects.

Online Learning Digital Citizenship**Credit/Length:** 1 Semester**Grade Level:** 7**Required Course**

This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to online learning, including how to work independently, stay safe, and develop effective study habits in virtual learning environments. Featuring direct-instruction videos, interactive tasks, authentic projects, and rigorous assessments, the course prepares students for high school by providing in-depth instruction and practice in important study skills such as time management, effective note-taking, test preparation, and collaborating effectively online. By the end of the course, students will understand what it takes to be successful online learners and responsible digital citizens.

7th Grade

Coursework | 2021-22

Coding

Credit/Length: 1 semester

Grade Level: 7, 8

Elective Course

Do you find yourself wondering how your favorite apps, websites, and games were made? Maybe you want to try building your own. Well, now you can! In Middle School Coding 1a, you will learn all about the technology you use in your day-to-day life as well as explore how the internet functions. Get an introduction to the basics of computer science and discover how to create and build your very own website using HTML and CSS. You'll also become familiar with programming languages like JavaScript and Python Programming. You will leave the course with your very own portfolio of work that will showcase your skills and all that you've created.

Photography - Drawing with Light

Credit/Length: 1 semester

Grade Level: 7, 8

Elective Course

Students see photographs every day on television, on the Internet, and in magazines and newspapers. What makes a great photograph? How did the artist capture a story? What makes a great picture? What are careers in photography? In this course, students learn and apply fundamental skills to use a camera and take photographs of animals, people, and landscapes. Students gain an understanding of how photography can be a means of documentation or high art. Students examine photographic careers and explore self-reflection to progress their creative growth as they develop a photographic portfolio. This course helps students select subjects, take a photograph, and print and display memories!

Required materials: Digital camera (a smartphone may be used for most required tasks, however, appropriate applications will need to be installed to allow the student to make the necessary adjustments to the camera mode, shutter.), camera cord to transfer images to computer, image editing software, lighting tools for side, front and back lighting.

Journalism

Credit/Length: 1 semester

Grade Level: 7, 8

Elective Course

Who? What? When? Where? Journalism provides us with the answers to these questions for the events that affect our lives. In this course, students will learn how to gather information, organize ideas, format stories for different forms of news media, and edit their stories for publication. The course will also examine the historical development of journalism and the role of journalism in society.

2-D Studio Art

Credit/Length: 1 semester

Grade Level: 7, 8

Elective Course

Journey inside the art studio and learn to bring your 2D art visions to life. Whatever medium you prefer, painting or drawing, this course will help you hone your 2D art skills. Learn the elements and principles needed to logistically create art; explore your artistic inspirations; view art from different ages and cultures; gain insight about the art of critiquing.



8th Grade

Coursework | 2021-22

English 8

Credit/Length: Full Year

Grade Level: 7

Required Course

English 8 aligns with the MN State Language Arts Standards, covering the following areas: Literature, Informational Text, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language. The purpose of this course is to further develop the reading, writing, speaking, listening and critical-thinking skills in all students. These skills will be developed throughout the year by exploring pieces of literature, developing different styles of writing, holding meaningful collaborative discussions, practicing grammar and expanding vocabulary. Using these key components, each student will become a more active reader, stronger writer, effective speaker, and engaged listener.

Mathematics 8

Credit/Length: Full Year

Grade Level: 8

Required Course

The math curriculum is designed around the 8th grade Minnesota Standards and primarily focuses on algebraic thinking. Students are graded on practice assignments as well as various assessments. Eighth grade Algebra spends a majority of time on identified Essential Standards that will support student success in further math courses; proficiency on these Essential Standards is also reflected in students' grades. Advanced 8th grade Algebra I includes both the Linear Algebra and Intermediate Algebra components and are prepared for the rigors of advanced math classes at the high school and beyond.

Earth Science 8

Credit/Length: Full Year

Grade Level: 8

Required Course

The goal of science is to understand the world around us. This course in Earth Science is an introduction to the Earth, including its land, water and air, as well as its place in the universe. Topics covered include The Nature of Science & Engineering, Matter & Energy, Geology, Meteorology, Astronomy and Environmental Science. Through this class you will also continue the development of skills on how to think like a scientist by asking questions, testing hypotheses and reporting conclusions.

Online Learning Digital Citizenship

Credit/Length: 1 Semester

Grade Level: 7

Required Course

This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to online learning, including how to work independently, stay safe, and develop effective study habits in virtual learning environments. Featuring direct-instruction videos, interactive tasks, authentic projects, and rigorous assessments, the course prepares students for high school by providing in-depth instruction and practice in important study skills such as time management, effective note-taking, test preparation, and collaborating effectively online. By the end of the course, students will

understand what it takes to be successful online learners and responsible digital citizens.

World Geography

Credit/Length: Full Year

Grade Level: 8

Required Course

World Geography is an introduction to the physical and human geography of the world. Units of study include the people, places, and features of the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. The course also includes skills development in the areas of map reading, research, data analysis, critical thinking, writing and presenting. Assessment occurs unit by unit through the use of summative tests, research projects, and other forms of demonstrating knowledge and mastery of standards.

Health

Credit/Length: 1 semester

Grade Level: 8

Required Course

Middle School Health aids students in creating a foundation of personal health. Beginning with properly defining health, this course then builds upon basic health practices to emphasize the importance of balance. Attention is given to each of the six dimensions of wellness; namely, physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, social, and environmental. Students are taught the skills necessary to improve every aspect of health.

Personal Health and Fitness

Credit/Length: 1 semester

Grade Level: 8

Required Course

This combined health and PE course provides students with essential knowledge and decision-making skills for a healthy lifestyle. Students will analyze aspects of emotional, social, and physical health and how these realms of health influence each other. Students will apply principles of health and wellness to their own lives. In addition, they will study behavior change and set goals to work on throughout the course. Other topics of study include substance abuse, safety and injury prevention, environmental health, and consumer health.

Career Explorations I

Credit/Length: 1 semester

Grade Level: 8

Required Course

Career Explorations I is a semester-long course designed to give middle school students an opportunity to explore various CTE subjects. Specifically, students learn about careers involving human-related services. Each of the five units introduce one particular field and explains its past, present, and future. These units include: Career Management, Introduction to Careers in Health Sciences, Hospitality and Tourism Systems, Human Services, and Consumer Services. The goal is to whet students' appetites for these careers. Students can then explore that career in more detail as a high school student.

8th Grade

Coursework | 2021-22

Photography-Drawing with Light

Credit/Length: Full Year

Grade Level: 8

Elective Course

See required materials

Students see photographs every day on television, on the Internet, and in magazines and newspapers. What makes a great photograph? How did the artist capture a story? What makes a great picture? What are careers in photography? In this course, students learn and apply fundamental skills to use a camera and take photographs of animals, people, and landscapes. Students gain an understanding of how photography can be a means of documentation or high art. Students examine photographic careers and explore self-reflection to progress their creative growth as they develop a photographic portfolio. This course helps students select subjects, take a photograph, and print and display memories!

Required materials: Digital camera (a smartphone may be used for most required tasks, however, appropriate applications will need to be installed to allow the student to make the necessary adjustments to the camera mode, shutter.), camera cord to transfer images to computer, image editing software, lighting tools for side, front and back lighting.

Spanish 1A

Credit/Length: 1 semester

Grade Level: 8

Elective Course

Middle school students begin their introduction to Spanish with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major Spanish-speaking areas in Europe and the Americas.

Spanish 1B

Credit/Length: 1 semester

Grade Level: 8

Elective Course

Prerequisite: Spanish 1A

Middle school students begin their introduction to Spanish with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major Spanish-speaking areas in Europe and the Americas.

Coding

Credit/Length: 1 semester

Grade Level: 7, 8

Elective Course

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2-D Studio Art

Credit/Length: 1 Semester

Grade Level: 7, 8

Elective Course

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Credit/Length: 1 Semester

Grade Level: 7, 8

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