

# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

2025-2026



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LEADERSHIP .....	1
OUR MISSION & VISION .....	2
INTRODUCTION	
CURRICULUM REGISTRATION	
DEFINITION OF TERMS	
GRADING SCALE	
ELECTIVES & THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DAY .....	3
ENGLISH LEARNERS	
ACADEMIC HONESTY	
HONOR ROLL	
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION .....	4
FINE ARTS .....	5
HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION .....	6
LANGUAGE ARTS .....	7
MATH .....	9
SCIENCE .....	10
SOCIAL STUDIES .....	11
WORLD LANGUAGES .....	12

## DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

MICHAEL SMITH, EdD	Superintendent of Schools
BRENT RABY, EdD	Associate Superintendent of Teaching & Learning
ANGIE SMITH, EdD	Associate Superintendent of Operations
RON MURPHY	Executive Director of Human Resources
MARTI NEHRING	Executive Director of Student & Family Services
ELIZABETH WENDEL	Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction
TOM DAVIDSON, EdD	Executive Director of Data Research & Accountability
LISA RAUSCH	Executive Director of Student Supports
JENNIFER HERMAN	Director of Special Education
MICHELLE JONES	Director of Instructional Technology
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VALERIE McCALL, EdD	Director of Educational Equity
ANNA GONZALES	Director of Community Affairs
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DAVID RUSSELL	Assistant Director of Assessment
RACHEL NALEWAY	Assistant Director of Middle School Special Education
MIKE S. SMITH, EdD	Assistant Director of School Accountability and Grants

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

JEFF BRYANT	Principal of Jefferson
ELROY PHILLIPS	Assistant Principal of Operations at Jefferson
SHELLEY RAMOS	Assistant Principal of Teaching & Learning at Jefferson
JOE RIGAUD	Dean of Students at Jefferson
MARCHEL ROGERS	Principal of Washington
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CINDY LARRY	Principal of Herget
PHIL ZELMAN	Assistant Principal of Operations at Herget
KARI NICHOLSON-RIGAUD	Assistant Principal of Teaching & Learning at Herget
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PETER LINDEN	Dean of Students at Jewel

## DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATORS

DAVID ALLEN	Science & Social Studies
ELAINE DIVELEY	World Languages
LAURA EDWARDS	Career and Technical Education
JON MCLEAR	Fine Arts
PAM PATER	PE/Health
KYLE POLLASTRINI	Special Education
CHRISSY HOLLMANN	Reading Intervention & MTSS
JEN STORY	Mathematics
LAUREN VACLAVIK	Language Arts & LIS
KIM WICYK	Math Intervention & MTSS

OUR MISSION & VISION

We embrace the curiosity, complexity & joy of learning!

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the School District 129 Middle School Course Catalog. This resource has been thoughtfully developed by our staff to assist parents and students in planning for the upcoming school year and navigating the middle school journey. Middle school courses are designed to provide students with well-rounded opportunities while preparing them for the high school experience. Our dedicated teachers and staff are here to support and guide you every step of the way to ensure a successful and rewarding school year.

CURRICULUM REGISTRATION

All middle schools within West Aurora School District 129 conduct pre-registration in the winter following the completion of the first semester. During this time students select courses for the next year with input from teachers, administrators, and parents. In early April, each middle school will mail a listing of the courses selected by each student to their parents. Parents review the course selections and contact their student’s assistant principal if there are any errors. Building staff will make all corrections and updates prior to the start of the scheduling process. **Final schedules will not be available until early August.**

DEFINITION OF TERMS

- CTE: Career & Technical Education
- ET: Enriched and Talented
- ML: Multilingual Learners
- PLTW: Project Lead the Way
- PRE-REQUISITE: A condition a student must meet in order to enroll in a series of courses

GRADING SCALE

The grading system used on the report card is designed to give parents/guardians an evaluation of students’ achievement and an assessment of their students’ work.

- A – Excellent

B – Above Average

C – Average

D – Low Average

F – Failure

INC – Incomplete
- Quarterly, all parents will be issued a mid-term progress report. These reports are generated in an effort to provide the necessary motivation and assistance to the students prior to issuing final quarterly grades. At the end of each grading period, report cards will be issued. Incomplete grades (INC) are to be made up within two weeks after a student’s absence. Failure to complete work within this time limit will result in the lowering of the grade or in some cases, failure of the course.

ELECTIVES & THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DAY

The middle school day is designed to allow students the opportunity to take a combination of core classes and experience electives. Each year, middle school students are required to take 1 double period Language Arts class, 1 single or double period Math class, 1 Science class, 1 Social Studies class, 1 PE/Health Education class and a Lunch/Study Hall. To complete their schedule, students will also receive 1 or 2 elective classes. Typically students in 6th grade will have room in their schedule to take one elective. 7th and 8th grade students may have the opportunity to take a second elective depending on their other course placements. Example schedules are listed below.

6th Grade Sample Schedule		7th Grade Sample Schedule		8th Grade Sample Schedule	
Period 1	Math	Period 1	Math	Period 1	Math
Period 2	Math	Period 2	Math	Period 2	Language Arts
Period 3	Language Arts	Period 3	Language Arts	Period 3	Language Arts
Period 4	Language Arts	Period 4	Language Arts	Period 4	Lunch/Study Hall
Period 5	Lunch/Study Hall	Period 5	Lunch/Study Hall	Period 5	Science
Period 6	Science	Period 6	Science	Period 6	Social Studies
Period 7	Social Studies	Period 7	Social Studies	Period 7	PE/Health
Period 8	PE/Health	Period 8	PE/Health	Period 8	Elective
Period 9	Elective	Period 9	Elective	Period 9	Elective

MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

Multilingual Learners services are designed to support students’ language acquisition while experiencing general education curriculum and outcomes. Enrollment in ML coursework is subject to placement testing and parental/guardian consent. ML services through English Language Arts are available at each middle school and are aligned to grade level specific outcomes. Pending placement testing, students who qualify for ML services at Washington Middle School may receive support in math, science, and social studies. Please contact the ML Department with additional questions.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Middle school students are expected to maintain an atmosphere that actively fosters academic honesty. This should be a cooperative effort between parents, students, and staff. It is, therefore, the responsibility of each individual to promote academic honesty. Students may face both academic and disciplinary consequences for academic dishonesty. Examples of academic dishonesty are:

1. Plagiarism - Submitting another person’s writing as one’s own.
2. Giving or receiving test questions or answers to a student in a later class.
3. Copying from another student’s test or knowingly permitting another student to copy during a test.
4. Using materials that are not permitted.
5. Copying or permitting someone other than the student to prepare the student’s homework, paper, project, laboratory report, or take-home tests for which credit is given.
6. Any other action intended to obtain credit for work not one’s own.

HONOR ROLL

The middle schools will recognize a quarterly Honor Roll. The following Honor Roll standards will be observed each quarter:

- High Honor Roll: A student must have all A’s in all subject areas to qualify.
- Honor Roll: A student must not have any grade below a B in any subject area to qualify.





6TH GRADE EXPLORATORY ROTATION  
OVERVIEW: EL5602

Open to: 6 Length: 1 year

The 6th Grade Exploratory Rotation offers students an engaging introduction to a variety of fields through hands-on, creative, and collaborative learning experiences. Spanning four unique nine-week courses, students will explore engineering, technology, art, and music, developing foundational skills while discovering new passions.

Information on Art and Music & Podcasting, can be found in Fine Arts IT (Information Technology)

Students will dive into the world of introductory coding and pre-engineering concepts. Through hands-on and experiential learning, they will explore programming, measurement, and problem-solving skills. This course, an entry point into the Information Technology Pathway, equips students with foundational IT knowledge while fostering creativity and critical thinking.

METT (Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology, and Trades)  
In this course, students will solve real-world challenges using the engineering design process. They will identify problems, research solutions, design, build, and test prototypes, and present their projects through video production. By applying concepts from science, technology, engineering, and math, students will gain practical, hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of the trades and innovation. METT serves as the starting point for students interested in these exciting fields.

PLTW: DESIGN AND MODELING/AUTOMATION  
AND ROBOTICS: PLTW57812

Open to: 7, 8 Length: 1 year

In the Fall, students will learn the basic techniques for design drafting, beginning with simple orthographic projections hand drawn on paper and moving up to fully dimensioned and animated assembly drawings using Autodesk Inventor software. Students have the opportunity to be creative using the design process. In the Spring, students will be using VEX robotic kits including basic gears, chain drives, sprockets, rack and pinions, and worm and wheel gears. This course allows for creativity and group collaboration opportunities.

7TH & 8TH GRADE EXPLORATORY ROTATION  
OVERVIEW: EL5782A

Open to: 7, 8 Length: 1 year

The 7th/8th Grade Exploratory Rotation deepens students' exploration of diverse disciplines through hands-on, collaborative, and creative projects. Across four unique nine-week courses, students will engage in health sciences, trades, art, and music production, building practical skills and discovering potential career pathways.

Information on Art and Music & Podcasting, can be found in Fine Arts Health Sciences

Students will step into the role of real-life medical detectives, solving medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs. They will learn to measure and interpret vital signs, investigate how body systems work together to maintain health, and analyze evidence from a mysterious "outbreak." This course also introduces students to various health science careers, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills through immersive activities and labs.

METT (Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology, and Trades)  
Focusing on the "Trades" aspect of METT, this course allows students to safely operate tools and equipment while creating a woodworking project. Building on their 6th-grade experience, students will apply the design process to bring their ideas to life. This hands-on course develops technical skills and provides an exciting introduction to careers in manufacturing and the trades.

BEGINNING BAND: EL6602  
Open to: 6 Length: 1 year

Beginning Band is an entry-level full-year elective that is open to any 6th grader who wishes to learn to play a band instrument. No prior experience or knowledge of music is necessary to join Beginning Band. 5th-grade students who wish to be in Beginning Band must meet with a band director to select an instrument and understand the expectations of the program. This course requires performances and rehearsals that take place outside of regular school hours.

6TH GRADE EXPLORATORY  
ROTATION - ART: EL5782A

Open to: 6 Length: 1 year

In this course, students will explore their creativity through a variety of artistic mediums, including digital tools, clay, pencil, and paint. They will develop essential artistic habits, such as planning and refining their work using sketchbooks. By completing projects in different styles and materials, students will build confidence in their ability to express themselves visually and artistically.

6TH GRADE EXPLORATORY ROTATION -  
MUSIC & PODCASTING: EL5782A

Open to: 6 Length: 1 year

This course blends music performance and media production, offering students the chance to learn the basics of ukulele playing and podcast creation. Students will play ukulele chords, read fretboard diagrams, and collaborate on performances. They will also explore the world of podcasting by learning about its societal impact, creating content, and producing their own podcast episode. This course highlights teamwork and creative expression through music and technology.

7TH GRADE BAND: EL6702  
Open to: 7 PREREQUISITE: 6th grade band Length: 1 year

In 7th Grade Band, students will build upon the skills learned in Beginning Band and have more opportunities to perform publicly (i.e. Fine Arts Festival, Solo & Ensemble Festival, etc). 7th Grade Band is split up into two sections, Woodwind and Brass (Percussion will be grouped with one of these, depending on schedules). This course requires performances and rehearsals that take place outside of regular school hours.

7TH & 8TH GRADE EXPLORATORY  
ROTATION - ART: EL5782A

Open to: 7, 8 Length: 1 year

Students will explore their creativity through a series of dynamic projects. They will begin with expressive portraits using grid techniques, design a campaign of striking posters and buttons, and finish by crafting unique clay sculptures with hand-building techniques. This course encourages students to discover fresh ways to express their artistic voice and refine their skills.

7TH & 8TH GRADE EXPLORATORY  
ROTATION - MUSIC PRODUCTION: EL5782A

Open to: 7, 8 Length: 1 year

Students will dive into the world of digital music creation, starting with the basics of recording, multi-tracking, and adding effects. Using MIDI keyboards, they will create melodies and harmonies, experiment with different song forms, and learn to mix and master their tracks. By the end of the course, students will copyright their original compositions, gaining valuable skills in music production and ownership.

7TH & 8TH GRADE CHOIR: EL57842  
Open to: 7, 8 Length: 1 year

Choir is a performance class open to any 7th or 8th-grade student who likes to sing. This class offers basic practice and support of fundamental singing techniques. Other skills to be learned include music theory, music reading, and both ensemble and solo singing. This course requires performances that take place outside of regular school hours.

8TH GRADE ART AND DESIGN:  
Open to: 8 Length: 1 year

Art and Design is a year-long elective for students who love art and want to develop their technical and creative skills. This course covers a variety of areas, including drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, digital art, and graphic design, with a focus on techniques to enhance artistic ability. Through engaging projects, students will explore self-expression and learn design principles essential for creating impactful visual work. They will also gain experience with both traditional and digital tools, building a strong foundation for advanced art opportunities in high school.

8TH GRADE BAND: EL6802  
Open to: 8 PREREQUISITE: 7th grade band Length: 1 year

Students in 8th Grade Band will work on advanced middle school band concepts as they prepare for the opportunities that await them in high school. 8th Grade Band meets as a full ensemble every day and will have additional performances throughout the year. This course requires rehearsals and performances that take place outside of regular school hours.







## HEALTH EDUCATION

**Open to:** 6, 7, 8

**Length:** 1 quarter each school year

This course is taken by all middle school students one quarter each school year. Content focuses on the skills students need to make healthy decisions to help them lead a healthier lifestyle. Students begin developing skills around decision making and communication, conflict resolution and basic refusal skills. Content will also cover communicable/non-communicable diseases, reproduction and sexual education, and Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs. Outside presentations from Stand for the Silent (Anti-Bullying), Breaking Free (Too Good For Drugs), and Mutual Ground (Sexual Harassment in 6th Grade and Sexual Assault in 8th Grade) will take place throughout the course.

### 6TH GRADE: PE7612

**Unit 1:** Introduction to Health and Decision Making

**Unit 2:** Body Systems

**Unit 3:** Body Care/Hygiene

**Unit 4:** First Aid/Safety

### 7TH GRADE: PE7712

**Unit 1:** Mental and Emotional Health

**Unit 2:** Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drugs

**Unit 3:** Nutrition

**Unit 4:** Disability Awareness

### 8TH GRADE: PE7812

**Unit 1:** Mental and Emotional Health

**Unit 2:** Reproduction and Sexual Education

**Unit 3:** Communicable Diseases and Sexual Transmitted Infections

**Unit 4:** Non-Communicable Diseases

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION: PE7602, PE7702, PE7802

**Open to:** 6, 7, 8

**Length:** 3 quarters each school year

This course emphasizes active participation and skill development through a variety of individual and team sports, games, and physical activities designed to promote lifelong fitness and well-being. Students will engage in structured activities that encourage teamwork, sportsmanship, and a positive attitude towards physical health. This course will also utilize heart rate monitors for fitness-based activities, allowing students to self-assess their fitness levels, learn heart rate concepts, and understand how they relate to overall well-being. Additionally, students will utilize the fitness center for strength and conditioning activities designed to enhance physical fitness. Students will also be assessed periodically using the FitnessGram model as mandated by the State of Illinois.

## 6TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS: LA62B

**Open to:** 6

**Length:** 1 year

This is a year-long course that is divided into multiple units of study that focus on the 6th grade English standards of reading (literature and informational), writing, language (grammar and mechanics), and speaking and listening. During this course, students will read for understanding and analysis, identify evidence from the text, write to answer various prompts (narrative, informative, argumentative), share their ideas through discussion, and learn how to present their ideas/answers through written or spoken mediums.

### Topics:

- Plot
- Author's Purpose
- CER Format
- Vocabulary Practice and Acquisition
- Narrative Writing
- Argumentative Writing
- Novel/Short Story and Nonfiction Analysis
- Language Mechanics and Usage

## 6TH GRADE ET LANGUAGE ARTS: LA63B

**Open to:** 6

**Length:** 1 year

This is a year-long course that is divided into multiple units of study that focus on the 6th grade English standards of reading (literature and informational) and a rigorous study of writing, language (grammar and mechanics), and speaking and listening. During this course, students will read for understanding and analysis, identify evidence from the text, write to answer various prompts (narrative, informative, argumentative), share their ideas through analytical discussion, and present their ideas/answers or synthesis of understanding through written or spoken mediums.

### Topics:

- Plot
- Author's Purpose
- CER Format
- Vocabulary Practice and Acquisition
- Shared Inquiry
- Narrative Writing
- Argumentative Writing
- Novel/Short Story and Nonfiction Analysis
- Language Mechanics and Usage



## 7TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS: LA72B

**Open to:** 7

**Length:** 1 year

This is a year-long course that is divided into multiple units of study that focus on the 7th grade English standards of reading (literature and informational), writing, language (grammar and mechanics), and speaking and listening. During this course, students will read for understanding and analysis, identify and use evidence from the text, write to answer various prompts (creative, informative, argumentative), share their ideas through discussion, and learn how to present their ideas/answers through written or spoken mediums.

### Topics:

- Plot
- Argumentative Writing
- Elements of Research
- Novel/Short Story and Nonfiction Analysis
- Vocabulary Practice and Acquisition
- Thematic Understanding and Synthesis
- Informative Writing CER Format
- Poetry Analysis (Literary Device/Elements)
- Language Mechanics and Usage

## 7TH GRADE ET LANGUAGE ARTS: LA73B

**Open to:** 7

**Length:** 1 year

This is a year-long course that is divided into multiple units of study that focus on the 7th grade English standards of reading (literature and informational) and a rigorous study of writing, language (grammar and mechanics), and speaking and listening. During this course, students will read for understanding and analysis, identify evidence from the text, write to answer various prompts (narrative, informative, argumentative), share their ideas through analytical discussion, and present their ideas/answers or synthesis of understanding through formal written or spoken mediums.

### Topics:

- Plot
- Argumentative Writing
- Elements of Research
- Novel/Short Story and Nonfiction Analysis
- Vocabulary Practice and Acquisition
- Shared Inquiry
- Thematic Understanding and Synthesis
- Informative Writing CER Format
- Poetry Analysis (Literary Device/Elements)
- Language Mechanics and Usage





8TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS: LA82B

Open to: 8 Length: 1 year

This is a year-long course that is divided into multiple units of study that focus on the 8th grade English standards of reading (literature and informational), writing, language (grammar and mechanics), and speaking and listening. During this course, students will read for understanding and analysis, identify, use, and cite evidence from the text to support their ideas and answers, write to answer various prompts (informative and argumentative), share their ideas through discussion, and learn how to present their ideas/answers through written or spoken mediums.

Topics:

- Plot
- Character Development
- Informative Writing
- CER Format
- Poetry Analysis
- Vocabulary Practice and Acquisition
- Thematic Understanding and Synthesis
- Argumentative Writing
- Elements of Research
- Novel/Short Story and Nonfiction Analysis
- Literary Device/Elements
- Language Mechanics and Usage

8TH GRADE ET LANGUAGE ARTS: LA83B

Open to: 8 Length: 1 year

This is a year-long course that is divided into multiple units of study that focus on the 8th grade English standards of reading (literature and informational) and a rigorous study of writing, language (grammar and mechanics), and speaking and listening. During this course, students will read for understanding and analysis, identify evidence from the text, write to answer various prompts (narrative, informative, argumentative), share their ideas through analytical discussion, and present their ideas/answers or synthesis of understanding through formal written or spoken mediums.

Topics:

- Plot
- Character Development
- Informative Writing
- CER Format
- Poetry Analysis
- Vocabulary Practice and Acquisition
- Shared Inquiry
- Thematic Understanding and Synthesis
- Argumentative Writing
- Elements of Research
- Novel/Short Story and Nonfiction Analysis
- Literary Device/Elements
- Language Mechanics and Usage



6TH GRADE MATH (1:1): MA11B

Open to: 6 Length: 1 year Period(s): 2

In the 6th-grade math course, students deepen their understanding of multiplication and division of fractions to apply their knowledge to divide fractions by fractions, with an additional focus on increasing efficiency and fluency. Students gain a foundation in the concepts of ratio and rate as an extension of their work with whole number multiplication and division, and in preparation for work with proportional relationships in Grade 7. Students also make connections among area, volume, and surface area, and continue to lay the groundwork for deep algebraic understanding by interpreting and using expressions and equations.

6TH GRADE ACCELERATED MATH (1:2): MA12B

Open to: 6 Length: 1 year Period(s): 2

This course is for 6th-grade students but covers 6th grade standards as well as a portion of the 7th grade standards. Students will cover the same material found in the 6th-grade course but they will extend to more complex applications of the rational number system, linear equations, and inequalities.

7TH GRADE MATH (2:2): MA22B

Open to: 7 Length: 1 year Period(s): 2

In the 7th-grade math course, students focus on real-world scenarios and mathematical problems involving algebraic expressions and linear equations and begin to apply their understanding of rational numbers with increased complexity. The course lays the foundation for exploring concepts of angle, similarity and congruence and construct and analyze relationships among geometric figures. Students also develop and apply understandings of proportional relationships.

7TH GRADE ACCELERATED MATH (2:3): MA23B

Open to: 6,7 Length: 1 year Period(s): 2

In this course which covers both 7th and 8th grade standards, students will develop and apply understandings of proportional relationships and explore the foundations of similarity and congruence. Students will also work with radical and integer exponents and extend their understanding of linear equations to systems of equations and linear functions. Students who take this course in 6th grade will complete some preliminary course work to bridge the understanding needed to be successful in this course.

PRE ALGEBRA (3): MA3

Open to: 7, 8 Length: 1 year Period(s): 1 or 2

The Pre Algebra course prepares students for more advanced study in algebra as students solve linear equations and systems of equations, work with radical and integer exponents, gain a conceptual understanding of functions, and use functions to model quantitative relationships. To prepare students for more advanced study in geometry, the course emphasizes the Pythagorean theorem and deepening exploration of similarity and congruence.

ALGEBRA 1: MA4

Open to: 7, 8 Length: 1 year Period(s): 1

This is a course for 7th or 8th-grade students who have successfully completed a pathway of study through middle school math standards. This is a full-year Algebra course that will lay the foundation for every subsequent math course that they will take. Students will work with multiple representations of equations, inequalities, and other functions and apply this understanding to problem-solving situations.

GEOMETRY: MA5

Open to: 8 Length: 1 year Period(s): 1

This is for 8th-grade students who have successfully completed Algebra 1. This course is designed to emphasize the study of the properties and applications of common geometric figures in two and three dimensions. It includes the study of transformations and right triangle trigonometry. Inductive and deductive thinking skills are used in problem-solving situations, and applications to the real world are stressed. It also emphasizes writing proofs to solve (prove) properties of geometric figures.





## 6TH GRADE SCIENCE: SC3602

Open to: 6

Length: 1 year

This course focuses on key science concepts and practices that are outlined by the Next Generation Science Standards. Major topics include:

- Structure and Properties of Matter
- Chemical Reactions
- Structure and Functions of Organisms
- History of Planet Earth
- Weather and Climate
- Earth and the Solar System and the Universe and Its Stars

## 6TH GRADE ET SCIENCE: SC3603

Open to: 6

Length: 1 year

This course covers the same topics as 6th Grade Science with a greater emphasis on students utilizing knowledge of the scientific concepts to solve problems and develop their own investigations.

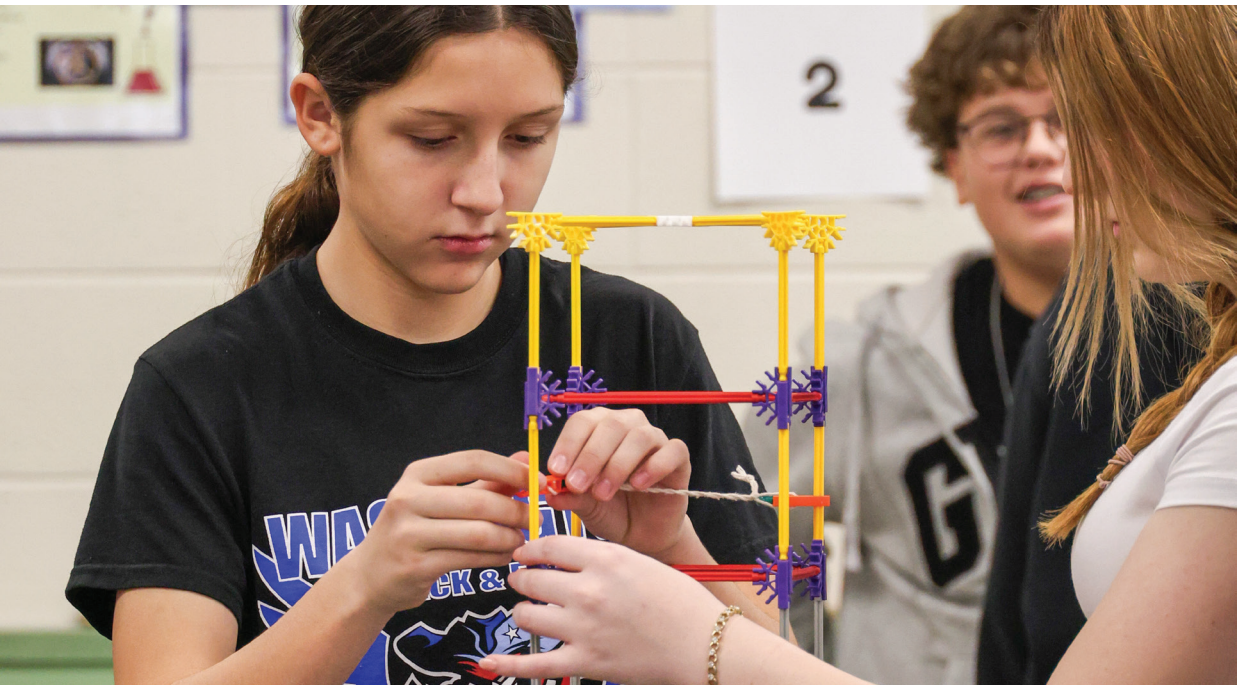
## 7TH GRADE SCIENCE: SC3702

Open to: 7

Length: 1 year

This course focuses on key science concepts and practices that are outlined by the Next Generation Science Standards. Major topics include:

- Energy
- Force and Motion
- Wave Properties
- Electromagnetic Radiation
- Energy in Chemical Processes
- Cycles of Matter and Energy in Ecosystems



## 7TH GRADE ET SCIENCE: SC3703

Open to: 7

Length: 1 year

This course covers the same topics as 7th Grade Science with a greater emphasis on students utilizing knowledge of the scientific concepts to solve problems and develop their own investigations.

## 8TH GRADE SCIENCE: SC3802

Open to: 8

Length: 1 year

This course focuses on key science concepts and practices that are outlined by the Next Generation Science Standards. Major topics include:

- Ecosystems
- Inheritance and Variation of Traits
- Evidence of Common Ancestry and Natural Selection
- Adaptation
- Earth's Systems and Human Impacts

## 8TH GRADE ET SCIENCE: SC3803

Open to: 8

Length: 1 year

This course covers the same topics as 8th Grade Science with a greater emphasis on students utilizing knowledge of the scientific concepts to solve problems and develop their own investigations.

## 6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES: SS4602

Open to: 6

Length: 1 year

Sixth Grade is a year-long course that develops a foundational understanding of the social sciences. Students will engage in inquiry as a means to explore how to think like a social scientist and how the five themes of geography and the seven elements of culture impact people, the relationship that occurs between them, and how civilizations develop. Throughout this course, students will explore the physical geography, governments, cultures, and legacies of a variety of ancient civilizations. This course will foster curiosity and collaboration, as students take an active role in the events that made history through reading, writing, and investigating.

### Topics:

- Thinking Like a Social Scientist
- The Five Themes of Geography
- Media Literacy
- The Seven Elements of Culture
- Geography
- Ancient Civilizations

## 7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES: SS4702

Open to: 7

Length: 1 year

Global Studies is an immersive bridge from Ancient Civilizations to the Modern World. This course fosters a global perspective of modern history and the impact of major world events on today. Students will examine a variety of topics including globalization, culture, human rights, human progress, the impact of technology, and population among other things. Students will collaborate using technology, simulations, and research as they formulate arguments regarding debatable world issues.

### Topics:

- Canada & the US
- Africa
- Latin America
- Southwest & Central Asia
- Europe & Russia
- East & Southeast Asia

## 8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES: SS4802

Open to: 8

Length: 1 year

This year-long course, through inquiry, interpretation, analysis, evaluation and investigation will study American History and Civics. Students will engage with historical topics through the use of primary and secondary sources, while investigating enduring historical questions. Throughout this course of study, students will also explore government institutions, engage in discussion of current and controversial issues, and actively participate in service learning and simulations. They will employ reading strategies such as sourcing, contextualizing, corroborating, and close reading. In addition, students will actively participate in a variety of discussions. These skills will lay the foundation for student success in high school and beyond.

### Topics:

- US and IL Constitutions
- World War I and World War II
- Democratic Principles
- Civil Rights
- American Revolution
- The Cold War
- Early America
- Modern Era
- Civil War



If your child enrolled in a World Language course in 7th grade during the 2024-2025 school year, they will now continue to take the same language through 8th grade to complete the A/B sequence. Current 6th grade students will have the opportunity to begin French or Spanish as 8th graders in the 2026-2027 school year.

## FRENCH B: WL8F

**Open to:** 8

**Length:** 1 year

**Prerequisite:** French A

This course is the second portion of a two-year introduction to the French language and culture in which students learn to read, write, speak, and understand language at a novice level. Themes of study include self, leisure activities, family, teen life, school, personal care, weather, clothing, and shopping. Successful completion of 7th grade French A and 8th grade French B will result in placement in French 2 or French 2 Honors in high school.

## SPANISH B: WL8S

**Open to:** 8

**Length:** 1 year

**Prerequisite:** Spanish A

This is the second portion of a two-year introduction to the Spanish language and culture in which students learn to read, write, speak, and understand language at a novice level. Themes of study include self, leisure activities, family, teen life, school, personal care, weather, clothing, and shopping. Successful completion of 7th grade Spanish A and 8th grade Spanish B will result in placement in French 2 or French 2 Honors in high school.

## HERITAGE SPANISH B: WL8H

**Open to:** 8

**Length:** 1 year

**Prerequisite:** Heritage Spanish A

course is designed for heritage Spanish speakers to develop their reading and writing skills while exploring Hispanic cultures. Students will enhance their communication skills through the study of identity, youth, pastimes, food, nature, families, immigration, and technology. The course is conducted entirely in Spanish. Successful completion of 8th grade Heritage Spanish B will result in placement in Spanish for Heritage Speakers 3 or 3 Honors in high school.

