

**Boyd W. Arthurs  
Middle School**

# **Curriculum Guide**

**2023-2024**



**Trenton Public Schools**

***Our Mission: Inspire Students Today for Their Success Tomorrow***

## **STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW**

It is the policy of Trenton Public Schools that no discriminatory practices based on sex, race, religion, color, national origin, disability, height, weight, or any other status covered by federal, state, or local law be allowed in providing instructional opportunities, programs, services, job placement assistance, employment, or in policies governing student conduct and attendance. Any person suspecting a discriminatory practice should contact: The Director of Curriculum, Trenton Public Schools, 2603 Charlton Road, Trenton, MI 48183  
Phone: (734) 692-4510.

## **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

Any student who believes that he or she has suffered discrimination shall immediately report the incident(s) to his/her school Principal, or an Assistant Principal, or the Curriculum Director, or to the following person:

The Superintendent of Schools  
Trenton Public Schools  
2603 Charlton Road  
Trenton, Michigan 48183  
Phone: (734) 676-8600

Should the complaint be against the Superintendent, the incident shall be reported to:

Vice-President of the Board of Education  
Trenton Public Schools  
2603 Charlton Road  
Trenton, Michigan 48183  
Phone: (734) 676-8600

The School District guarantees that a student reporting an incident(s) of discriminatory harassment will not suffer any form of reprisal.

In determining whether the alleged conduct constitutes discrimination or harassment, the totality of the circumstances, the nature of the harassment and the context in which the alleged incident(s) occurred will be investigated. The building Civil Rights Coordinator, or his/her designee, has the responsibility of investigating the complaints of discriminatory harassment of students. In cases where the alleged harassment involves a member of the Board of Education, the School District will appoint outside legal counsel to investigate the complaint. The results of an investigation and any action taken thereon will be communicated to the complaining person.

The School District considers discriminatory harassment based on religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, handicap, or disability to be a major offense, which will result in disciplinary action of the offender. Disciplinary action against a School District employee may include termination of employment. Disciplinary action against a student may include expulsion. Disciplinary action against a Board of Education member

may range from Board of Education public censure to removal of the Board Member from an officer position he/she may hold.

# Arthurs Middle School Program

## Grade 6

### Core Courses – Required For ALL Students

- ✓ Language Arts or Read 180
- ✓ Math
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Social Studies

### BAND STUDENTS

#### Focus Course

- ✓ Band

#### Exploratory Courses Required

- ✓ Educational Technology 6 #
- ✓ Physical Education
- ✓ Exploratory Art 1
- ✓ Language and Beyond

### NON-BAND STUDENTS

#### Focus Courses

- ✓ Physical Education
- ✓ Exploratory Art I
- ✓ World Language Exploration
- ✓ Educational Tech. 6 #
- ✓ Core Skills 6

#### Exploratory Courses Required

- ✓ Language and Beyond

## TEACHER RECOMMENDED AND REQUIRED ELECTIVES

- ✓ ELA Enrichment
- ✓ Individualized Learning Hour (ILH)
- ✓ Jazz Band
- ✓ Leap Into Language 6
- ✓ Math Power 6

# Arthurs Middle School Program

## Grade 6

### Elective Courses – Available To ALL 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

- ✓ Adventure Based Physical Education
- ✓ Art From Many Hands
- ✓ Book Club
- ✓ Brain Games
- ✓ Bridge Building #
- ✓ Calligraphy
- ✓ Children’s Books
- ✓ Choir
- ✓ Clue Crew
- ✓ Community Service And Leadership
- ✓ Computer Graphic Design
- ✓ Countries Around The World
- ✓ Creative Expressions
- ✓ Current Events
- ✓ Debate
- ✓ Family History
- ✓ Forensic Science #
- ✓ Get Into The Green Scene #
- ✓ Get Into the Groove

- ✓ History Detectives
- ✓ History of Baseball

*Please review course descriptions for teacher recommendations, requirements, and other criteria.*

STEM course offerings are noted with a '#' above.  
"STEM" is the acronym of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.  
*STEM education is an interdisciplinary approach to learning real-world lessons as students apply science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to make connections between school, community, work, and the world (National Science Teachers Association)*

- ✓ I Hate To Read Club
- ✓ Jeopardy Jammers
- ✓ Journalism
- ✓ Life In A Jar & Other Balancing Acts#
- ✓ Math-terpieces #
- ✓ Mathematical Adventures #
- ✓ Mind, Body, And Spirit
- ✓ Music Time
- ✓ Outdoor Backyard Games

- ✓ Poetry And Songwriting
- ✓ Public Speaking
- ✓ Reel To Real
- ✓ Score! #
- ✓ Scrapbooking
- ✓ Sketch It Out
- ✓ Sports History
- ✓ Stories From My Life
- ✓ String Theory
- ✓ The Hunger Games and Roman Influence
- ✓ Theatre Arts
- ✓ World Music Drumming



# Arthurs Middle School Program Grade 7

## Core Courses – Required For ALL Students

- ✓ Language Arts or Read 180
- ✓ Math or Algebra I
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Social Studies

## BAND or SPANISH STUDENTS

### Focus Course

- ✓ Band
- ✓ Spanish 1A &1B

### Exploratory Courses Required

- ✓ Core Skills 7
- ✓ Physical Education

## NON-BAND/NON-SPANISH STUDENTS

### Focus Courses

- ✓ Core Skills 7 #
- ✓ Exploratory Art II
- ✓ Educational Technology 7 #
- ✓ Physical Education

### Exploratory Courses Required

- ✓ No Classes Required

## TEACHER RECOMMENDED AND REQUIRED ELECTIVES

- ✓ Individualized Learning Hour (ILH)
- ✓ Jazz Band
- ✓ Leap Into Language 7
- ✓ Math Power 7
  
- ✓ Science Project Based Learning  
(Enrichment)

# Arthurs Middle School Program

## Grade 7

### Elective Courses – Available To ALL 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

- ✓ Advanced Art Studio
- ✓ Advanced Team Sports
- ✓ Animation
- ✓ App Inventor #
- ✓ Art From Many Hands
- ✓ Book Club
- ✓ Brain Games
- ✓ Bridge Building #
- ✓ Calligraphy
- ✓ Children’s Books
- ✓ Choir
- ✓ Clue Crew
- ✓ Community Service And Leadership
- ✓ Computer Graphic Design
- ✓ Countries Around The World
- ✓ Creative Expressions
- ✓ CSI: Numb3rs #
- ✓ Current Events
- ✓ Debate
- ✓ Family History
- ✓ Financial Fitness For Life #
- ✓ Forensic Science #
- ✓ Get Into the Green Scene #
- ✓ Get Into the Groove
- ✓ Great Books
- ✓ History of Baseball
- ✓ I Hate To Read Club
- ✓ Jeopardy Jammers
- ✓ Journalism
- ✓ Life In A Jar & Other Balancing Acts #
- ✓ Mad Money #
- ✓ Math-terpieces #
- ✓ Mind, Body, And Spirit

*Please review course descriptions for possible teacher recommendations, requirements, and/or other criteria.*

STEM course offerings are noted with a '#' above.  
"STEM" is the acronym of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.  
*STEM education is an interdisciplinary approach to learning real-world lessons as students apply science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to solve problems, make connections between school, community, work, and life (National Science Teachers Association)*

- ✓ Music Time
- ✓ Outdoor Backyard Games
- ✓ Paper Roller Coasters #
- ✓ Poetry And Songwriting
- ✓ Public Speaking
- ✓ Score! #
- ✓ Scrapbooking
- ✓ Sketch It Out
- ✓ Sports History
- ✓ Stories From My Life
- ✓ String Theory
- ✓ T.E.A.M Rule
- ✓ Theatre Arts
- ✓ The Hunger Games and Roman Influence
- ✓ World Music Drumming

# Arthurs Middle School Program Grade 8

## Core Courses – Required For ALL Students

- ✓ Language Arts or Read 180
- ✓ Math or Algebra I or Geometry
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Social Studies

## BAND or SPANISH STUDENTS

### Focus Course

- ✓ Band
- ✓ Spanish 1A & 1B

### Exploratory Courses Required

- ✓ Physical Education

## NON-BAND/NON-SPANISH STUDENTS

### Focus Courses

- ✓ Educational Technology 8 #
- ✓ Exploratory Art III
- ✓ Physical Education
- ✓ Core Skills 8

## TEACHER RECOMMENDED AND REQUIRED ELECTIVES

- ✓ Individualized Learning Hour (ILH)

- ✓ Jazz Band
- ✓ Leap Into Language 8
- ✓ Math Power 8
- ✓ Science Project Based Learning  
(Enrichment)

# Arthurs Middle School Program

## Grade 8

### Elective Courses – Available To ALL 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

- ✓ Advanced Art Studio
- ✓ Advanced Team Sports
- ✓ Animation #
- ✓ App Inventor #
- ✓ Art From Many Hands
- ✓ Book Club
- ✓ Brain Games
- ✓ Bridge Building #
- ✓ Calligraphy
- ✓ Children’s Books
- ✓ Choir
- ✓ Clue Crew
- ✓ Community Service And Leadership
- ✓ Countries Around The World
- ✓ Creative Expressions
- ✓ CSI: Numb3rs #
- ✓ Current Events
- ✓ Debate
- ✓ Family History
- ✓ Financial Fitness For Life #
- ✓ Forensic Science #
- ✓ Get Into the Green Scene #
- ✓ Get Into the Groove
- ✓ Great Books
- ✓ History Detectives
- ✓ History of Baseball
- ✓ I Hate To Read Club
- ✓ Jeopardy Jammers
- ✓ Journalism
- ✓ Life In A Jar & Other Balancing Acts #
- ✓ Mad Money #
- ✓ Math-terpieces #
- ✓ Mind, Body, And Spirit
- ✓ Music Time
- ✓ Outdoor Backyard Games
- ✓ Paper Roller Coasters #
- ✓ Poetry And Songwriting
- ✓ Public Speaking
- ✓ Reel To Real: Take 2
- ✓ Remember The Holocaust

*Please review course descriptions, teacher recommendations, and other criteria.*

- ✓ Score! #
- ✓ Scrapbooking
- ✓ Sketch It Out
- ✓ Spanish 1A
- ✓ Spanish 2A
- ✓ Sports History
- ✓ Stories From My Life
- ✓ String Theory
- ✓ T.E.A.M Rule
- ✓ Theatre Arts
- ✓ WEB
- ✓ World Music Drumming

STEM course offerings are noted with a '#' above.

"STEM" is the acronym of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

*STEM education is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where academic concepts are coupled with real-world lessons as students apply science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in contexts that make connections between school, community, work, and the global enterprise. (National Science Teachers Association)*



# Special Education Courses

## All Grade Levels

### **\*\*\*Based on Student IEP Team Meeting**

- ✓ Language Arts
- ✓ Math
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Social Studies
- ✓ Individual Learning Hour (ILH)
- ✓ Co-Taught
- ✓ See Elective Courses that are available to your Grade Level

## **Grade 6 Core Courses (Required For All Students)**

### **Language Arts 6**

**Full year**

Our Sixth Grade Language Arts units provide students with a critical foundation in reading and writing narratives, informational, and argument texts. Through analysis and production of texts in these three modes, students become more adept readers, thinkers, and writers. Across the year, they come to understand the distinctions between narrative, informational, and argument texts by studying fiction and nonfiction in a variety of formats and developing a more thorough understanding of audience and purpose when both reading and writing.

### **Read 180 (Language Arts) *Staff Assigned Only***

**Full year**

Read 180 is a comprehensive, researched-based intervention program designed to accelerate the reading levels of struggling students who are reading below grade level. This course provides individualized instruction through teacher-directed lessons, software, and age appropriate fiction and non-fiction texts.

### **Science 6**

**Full year**

As with all middle school science courses the 6<sup>th</sup> grade program is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The middle school performance expectations blend the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge to explain real world phenomena in the physical, biological, and earth and space sciences. Performance expectations at the middle school level focus on students developing understanding of several scientific practices. These include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanation; and to use these practices to demonstrate

understanding of the core ideas. Students are also expected to demonstrate understanding of several of engineering practices including design and evaluation.

# **Grade 6**

## **Core Courses**

### **(Required For All Students)**

#### **Social Studies 6**

**Full year**

Sixth Grade Social Studies explores foundations of World Geography. Throughout the year, the Five Themes of Geography will be integrated into discussion of various aspects of the world in spatial terms, population and migration, culture, world trade, government, and global politics. The framework for all students to become emerging global citizens will be established by engagement in hands-on experience through project-based learning that incorporates content specific vocabulary.

#### **Math 6**

**Full year**

Sixth Grade Math provides students with the opportunity to enhance their problem-solving skills. Students will increase their knowledge of whole numbers and fractions. The course will introduce students to integers, rational numbers, exponents, and percentages. These topics lay a foundation for the exploration of algebraic concepts, which include variables, writing simple equations and expressions, and graphing linear relationships. In geometry, students continue to expand their repertoire of knowledge about shapes and their properties.

# **Grade 6 Focus Course (Band Students)**

## **Band 6**

**Full year**

Sixth Grade Concert Band is a yearlong, graded course of study that offers instruction on flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, baritone, French horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion. Generally made up of 2nd year band students, but new students are welcome to join! Sixth graders will perform at the Winter Concert and Spring Concert. Sixth graders are encouraged to audition for Jazz Band in the fall.

# **Grade 6**

## **Exploratory Courses**

### **(Required For Band Students)**

#### **Educational Technology 6**

**10 weeks**

Problem Solving and Computing is a highly interactive and collaborative introduction to the field of computer science. Students will practice using a problem solving process to address a series of puzzles, challenges, and real world scenarios. Next, students learn how computers input, output, store, and process information to help humans solve problems. Students will learn how to create and share content on web pages. Students will learn how to structure and style pages using HTML and CSS. Students will also practice valuable programming skills such as debugging and commenting. By the end of the course, students will have published a website.

#### **Exploratory Art 1**

**10 weeks**

In Exploratory Art I, students will get an overview of art technique and media. To better understand the arts, students will continue to study the building blocks of art creation called the Elements of Art. Students will express individual ideas while increasing skills in many areas. They will use a variety of materials such as clay, markers, pen and ink, watercolors, tempera paints, charcoal, chalks, and pencils to construct, draw, and paint original artwork.

#### **Physical Education 6**

**10 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skill in this area.

# **Grade 6**

## **Exploratory Courses**

### **(Required For Band Students)**

#### **Language and Beyond**

**10 weeks**

The course is required for all 6th graders. Language and Beyond will enhance the 6th Grade Language Arts curriculum by offering further instruction on reading comprehension strategies and writing skills. In addition, the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program will be introduced through direct instruction. The instruction will focus on behaviors that are appropriate in different places throughout the school.

# Grade 6

## Focus Courses (Non-Band Students)

### **Core Skills 6**

**5 weeks**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Skills is a Language Arts enrichment class. Students will explore bullying and empathy through discussions, writing, reading, and blog interaction using the books Wonder and Crash. Students will explore creative writing styles as they are exposed to the colorful characters of Wonder and Crash.

### **Exploratory Art I**

**5 weeks**

In Exploratory Art I, students will get an overview of art technique and media. To better understand the arts, students will continue to study the building blocks of art creation called the Elements of Art. Students will express individual ideas while increasing skills in many areas. They will use a variety of materials such as clay, markers, pen and ink, watercolors, tempera paints, charcoal, chalks, and pencils to construct, draw, and paint original artwork.

### **World Language Exploration**

**5 weeks**

World Language Exploration is a passport to exploring the language and culture of various world regions and making connections and comparisons with the English-speaking world. Students will experience several languages to better decide which language to study in order to meet the high school graduation requirements.



# **Grade 6**

## **Focus Courses**

### **(Non-Band Students)**

#### **Educational Technology 6**

**5 weeks**

Problem Solving and Computing is a highly interactive and collaborative introduction to the field of computer science. Students will practice using a problem solving process to address a series of puzzles, challenges, and real world scenarios. Next, students learn how computers input, output, store, and process information to help humans solve problems. Students will learn how to create and share content on web pages. Students will learn how to structure and style pages using HTML and CSS. Students will also practice valuable programming skills such as debugging and commenting. By the end of the course, students will have published a website.

#### **Physical Education 6**

**20 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skill in this area.

# **Grade 6**

## **Exploratory Courses**

### **(Required For Non-Band Students)**

#### **Language and Beyond**

**10 weeks**

The course is required for all 6th graders. Language and Beyond will enhance the 6th Grade Language Arts curriculum by offering further instruction on reading comprehension strategies and writing skills. In addition, the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program will be introduced through direct instruction. The instruction will focus on behaviors that are appropriate in different locations throughout the school.

# **Grade 6**

## **Elective Courses**

### **(Teacher Recommended or Required)**

**Accelerated Language & Beyond 6**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks**

Accelerated Language & Beyond 6 allows high achieving and highly motivated 6<sup>th</sup> grade learners to select topics to research and explore. Students will express themselves creatively, explore topics of interest, and integrate cross-curriculum subject matter. Learners will be selected by their ELA teacher after Quarter 1.

**Individual Learning Hour (ILH)**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks or longer**

ILH assists students with organization and work completion. Students will use this period to finish homework and organize materials. A teacher will guide this small group to promote student success.

**Jazz Band**  
***Audition Required***

**20 weeks**

The Arthurs Jazz Band is open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students who are currently enrolled in a concert band class. All members of the Arthurs Jazz Band are selected by audition. Arthurs Jazz Band gives various performances throughout the year. Students must be able to commit to before and after school rehearsals approximately twice a week. The Arthurs Jazz Band is inclusive with regard to instrumentation. Generally, Jazz Band is comprised of saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, electric bass, drum set, and guitar, but we also include flute, clarinet, baritone horn, French horn, violin, oboe, and vocalist. Jazz improvisation is a featured aspect of our performances and all members of the Jazz Band are instructed and encouraged to improvise. A detailed approach to jazz music interpretation will be emphasized as well as focusing on individual and group performance.

**Leap Into Language 6**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks**

Students having difficulty achieving grade level expectations for Reading, Writing, Spelling, and Grammar may be required to take this class. Formal and informal assessments will be used to place students in this class. Students will be given

additional help so they may attempt to attain grade level expectations by filling in the gaps and work completion.

**Math Power 6**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks**

Math Power is designed to help and encourage students to improve core math skills. The focus of this course will be to fill gaps in learning based on students' standardized test results. This course will center on games, manipulative activities, drills, and extra practice. The teacher will also assist students with math homework. The goal is to help students gain the required skills necessary to be successful in mathematics and to encourage them to enjoy math in a relaxed setting.

## **Grade 6 Elective Courses (Available to All Students)**

### **Adventure Based Physical Education**

**10 weeks**

***Only Offered in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade***

***Curriculum Focus: Physical Education***

Students will engage in a variety of activities designed to challenge students' cooperation, critical thinking, communication, and teamwork skills. Students will utilize these skills and behaviors to successfully complete activities.

### **Art From Many Hands**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

This class is for art students who want to gain confidence in their own abilities while expanding their knowledge of art from many cultures. Just like today, people of ancient times were using every conceivable material to bring beauty and interest into their lives. Students will try a variety of their techniques to solve design problems. This will increase the students' technical skills as well as help them value the skills of artisans from around the world.

### **Book Club**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Students will participate in a novel study and participate in a student-led Book Club regarding the novel(s) available to the class. Novels can include but are not limited to:

Counting By Sevens, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone, The Breadwinner, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Freak the Mighty, Making Bombs for Hitler, and Hatchet.

### **Brain Games**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Life Skills***

This course allows students to play games while improving their mathematical and critical thinking skills. Students learn gaming strategies in a fun, competitive, and friendly environment. Games include chess, Blokus, Rush Hour, Sequence, Sudoku puzzles, Othello, and a chance to solve the Rubic’s cube. No prior experience is necessary. All grade levels are welcome.

### **Bridge Building**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies***

Bridge Building introduces the students to different types of bridges around the world and the history of bridge development. We explore architecture strengths and geometric features that are found in bridges. Students form construction companies of 3-4 students and build various types of bridges in different styles.

### **Calligraphy**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Calligraphy will give students an introduction to types of cursive writing and the history of handwriting. Students will learn the formation of letters in cursive and use of a calligraphy pen. Students will translate calligraphy to print and print to calligraphy. A culminating activity will be a formal calligraphy letter that is sent to a person. This class would also be a great assistance for students who want to improve their handwriting and fine motor skills.

### **Children’s Books**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Do you enjoy reading children’s books? In this course, you will create your very own children’s book. You will learn how to make a book, write, and illustrate a picture book.

### **Choir**

**10 weeks**

### **Course May Be Repeated**

**Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts**

Choir is a performing ensemble open to all students. It is designed for students at a beginning to intermediate level of singing skill and musicianship. Students will develop their skills through the quality choral literature and musicianship activities (reading music and vocal anatomy) studied.

### **Clue Crew**

**10 weeks**

**Do NOT Repeat**

**Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts**

Love a good mystery? Interested in figuring out how or why something happened? Clue Crew sets students on a course to solve short mysteries through a series of matrix puzzles and short stories. Students will look for clues and use deductive reasoning to draw conclusion and find answers. Students will even have the opportunity to create their own mystery.

### **Community Service and Leadership (CSL)**

**10 weeks**

**Do NOT Repeat**

**Curriculum Focus: Leadership, Social Studies**

Interested in making a difference and gaining leadership skills? Then take this class! Students will be asked to plan and participate in special activities such as athletic pre-game activities, spirit week activities, and school and community service projects. **Students will be required to perform 10 hours of community service outside the regular school day.**

### **Computer Graphic Design**

**10 weeks**

**Do NOT Repeat**

**Curriculum Focus: Technology**

In this course, students are introduced to the basics of computer graphic design. They will study the history of graphics and computer graphics. Students develop their understanding of computer graphic design by using the software package Canvas™. They learn a variety of tools in Canvas to create their own graphics using different shapes, textures, and styles. As a final project, they can transfer their computer graphics onto a T-shirt. They also examine career opportunities in the area of computer graphic design.

### **Countries Around the World**

**10 weeks**

**Do NOT Repeat**

**Curriculum Focus: Social Studies**

Students will learn continents and countries of the world. Geography skills will be highlighted. Map game tournaments will be conducted. Countries in the news will be highlighted.

**Creative Expressions**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

This class engages students in both creating and understanding expressive works of art. The course represents a variety of arts disciplines, including: visual art, music, drama, creative writing, etc. In addition, students will explore their creativity while exploring magazine poetry, book poetry, mysteries, fairy tale remixes, and more.

**Current Events**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts***

In this class, students will explore the current news events around the world. We will discuss news topics that include world news, science, history, sports, and entertainment among other topics.

**Debate**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Here in debate, students will learn the difference between arguing and debating. Students will utilize evidence to support the reasoning behind the stance that they have chosen (or has been chosen for them) to represent.

Students will learn to educate themselves on the topics of today and yesterday to help present a well-rounded idea in the future.

**Family History**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts***

Students will examine their family history, create a family tree, and explore possible lineage based on surnames in their family. Students will discuss traditions and important events, or talk about significant people within their family through presentations and other class activities. They will also have an opportunity to study their probable country of origin and share in the heritage of different countries



presented by classmates. This is a great class where students can learn more about themselves and the world!

### **Forensic Science**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Science***

Students will be introduced to Forensic Science, which is a branch of science that focuses on criminal investigation to provide physical evidence to solve criminal cases. Students will learn a brief history of the subject, discuss the many occupations related to this study, practice the system of identifying criminals, and experience the exactness of fingerprinting.

### **Get Into the Green Scene**

**10 Weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Science***

Get ready to hug a tree and play in the dirt! “Get into the Green Scene” is an environmental science class that will introduce students to a variety of issues and topics. Students will study topics of plants and trees, sustainable development, recycling, hybrid cars, water/wetlands, pollution, climate change, and Earth Day.

### **Get Into the Groove**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Physical Education***

Dance-based class featuring Zumba, line dances, movement to music, and Just Dance with Wii. Students will be given the opportunity to create dances and learn the latest dance moves by searching the internet.

### **History Detectives**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts***

Who killed JFK? Was King Tut murdered? Who invented the Alphabet? What happened to Roanoke's lost colony? Who really discovered the Americas? Were there witches in Salem? History Detectives examines some of World History's most intriguing and thought provoking unsolved mysteries. Students will be engaged in

higher order thinking through independent and group projects while exploring primary source materials, diary entries, newspaper articles, and photographs in an attempt to solve some of History's greatest mysteries.

### **History of Baseball**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies***

This history elective class will examine the development of baseball in America. The historical study will focus on helping students gain a better understanding of the inner relationship the sport has on social, economic, and cultural forces that are at work in the United States as well as the world.

Students will examine the historical context as well as significance of gender, race, ethnicity and social class. Topics will include the origins of the game, early influences, The Negro Leagues, All American Girls Professional Team, icons of the game, dynasties and rivalries and so much more.

### **I Hate to Read Club**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

This course is for the student who claims they hate to read. This class is guaranteed to change their mind. Students will be introduced to fun, high interest books in a teacher led, relaxed environment. Earn some Accelerated Reader points, or finish your book reports early with the help of this course.

### **Jeopardy Jammers**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies***

Can't remember what you ate for breakfast this morning, but somehow remember every word to the hit song of 2009? Do you LOVE trivia questions – right or wrong – and learning the answers? Then sign up for Jeopardy Jammers! Watch famous trivia shows and participate in classroom based trivia games such as Kahoot, Quizzizz, Internet Jeopardy, Live Jeopardy, Pictionary and more!

### **Journalism**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

**Curriculum Focus: Language Arts**

This class explores practices and concepts presented in preparing a school newspaper. You will learn about being a reporter as you brainstorm your ideas and interview students and staff. You will use computers to write, revise, and edit stories, which will be published in our school newspaper.

**Life in a Jar & Other Balancing Acts**

**10 weeks**

**Do NOT Repeat**

**Curriculum Focus: Science**

Students will discover that the living and non-living parts of an ecosystem change until it becomes stable. One of the main projects is designing and conducting a scientific investigation. Students will set up a fresh water aquarium. Their goal is to set up a balanced ecosystem. The plants and animals in the container will be studied during the course. Students will be responsible for monitoring and maintaining their aquariums. Additional microscopic and hand lens activities will enhance this experience.

**Math-terpieces**

**10 weeks**

**Do NOT Repeat**

**Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Math**

“Math”-terpieces is a class where math, art, and fun come together. This course will explore the many connections between mathematics and art. Students will explore polygons and other geometric shapes to create tessellations, string art, and more. Each student will walk away with “math”-terpieces of his or her own to take home.

**Mathematical Adventures**

**10 weeks**

**Only Offered in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Curriculum Focus: Math**

Join in on the fun exploring math through scavenger hunts, a road trip, and other adventures. Put on your thinking caps and take math to a deeper level that moves beyond worksheets into projects, games, and hands-on activities.

**Mind, Body, and Spirit**

**10 weeks**

**Do NOT Repeat**

**Curriculum Focus: Life Skills**

Students will be able to manage stress through exercise, self reflection, journaling, and nutrition. Students will learn how stress can affect their bodies and will be given

strategies to overcome stressful situations. Students will take part in yoga, meditation, stretching, de-stressing crafts, and nutrition lessons. Students will leave the classroom feeling healthy and refreshed!

### **Music Time**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

Music Time is the opportunity for students to play musical instruments. If the student has never played an instrument before, this is their chance to start. If the student is already in band and wants to try something new, this is their chance to add another instrument to their skill set. If the student is in band and wants more time to practice and develop on their current instrument, this class is for taking skills to the next level. Whether the student is a complete beginner or has years of experience, students in Music Time will receive private lessons and group instruction in instrumental musicianship.

### **Outdoor Backyard Games**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Physical Education***

This course is appropriate for students who want to expand their knowledge and skills of backyard sports/games. Students will be introduced to new and ongoing backyard sports/games. The focus of the class will be on developing and mastering different sport specific skills in relation to multiple outdoor sports/games. As always, sportsmanship, teamwork and fair play will be a top priority. Some of the sports/games involved will be cornhole, ladder golf, paddle ball, bottle smash, kan jam, spikeball, washers, bocce ball, and cross net.

### **Poetry & Songwriting**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Use rhythm and rhyme to create your own poems. Look at famous poetry and learn about poets. Be creative! Remember – You may be a poet and you just don't know it!

### **Public Speaking**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Are you daring? Do you have what it takes to step up? Public speaking is the number one fear for many people. This course will help you give speeches and presentations with confidence. Have fun while getting over your fear to speak in front of the class.

### **Reel to Real**

**10 weeks**

***Only Offered in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Enjoy getting “real” about the latest movie? This class is for interested students who enjoy watching movies. “Reel to Real” is designed to challenge students to become thoughtful, active viewers and provide them an opportunity to talk and write about films in new and exciting ways. Students will examine movies that portray real life stories that will inspire them to “Dream it, Believe it, Achieve it”. The movies selected focus on young adult themes of families, belonging, moral dilemmas, and fulfilling dreams.

### **Score!**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Math***

Love Sports? Interested in players’ stats and each season’s wins and losses? Take this class! Students will choose real-life football/basketball/baseball players, follow their statistics, calculate their team’s total points, and compete with one another in class. Each week students will review and practice middle school math concepts with a heavy focus on fractions and decimals. Boys and girls are welcome!

### **Scrapbooking**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Scrapbooking will focus on self-discovery. The students will make a scrapbook of themselves at the end of this 10-week course. Students will make connections between personal experiences and books read in class. Students must be able to bring in several photographs from home for this class.

### **Sketch It Out**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

For students who love to draw and oftentimes find themselves drawing or doodling throughout the day-- this class is for you! Students will explore Anime, portrait drawing, and additional sketch art forms in this 10-week course. In addition, students will support school-wide projects. At the end of the course, students will have created a portfolio of their best work.

## **Sports History**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts***

This history course will examine the development of sports in the United States. The historical study will focus on helping students gain a better understanding of the inner relationship that sports have on social, economic, cultural, and political forces that are at work in the United States as well as the world. Students will explore the historical context as well as the significance of gender, race, ethnicity, and social class. The historical investigation will consist of readings, primary sources, and visual materials as well as class discussions.

## **Stories From My Life**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

This elective class will help the students write and appreciate stories of their life. The student will write about life events and create their own personal story. Possible topics could include: What I like Best About My Family, Traditions, A Time I Will Never Forget, The Best Vacation and What is Special to Me. Along with the personal stories, the student will use pictures to assist them with their storytelling. By the end of the course, students will create a “lifebook” to take home and appreciate throughout the years.

## **String Theory**

**10 weeks**

### ***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

String Theory is the opportunity for students to learn to play guitar or bass. Students will start with the fundamentals – string names, tuning, strumming, picking and hand placement. This course will take the students as far as they can go in learning instrument technique through learning songs. The focus of this class will be acoustic guitar, electric guitar, acoustic bass and electric bass. Instrument is **NOT** provided.

## **The Hunger Games and Roman Influence**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Students will read the novel “The Hunger Games”. Students will take notes on the study of the tributes and the country of Panem. As they read, students will be introduced to the allusions of Roman Culture and Mythology that are implemented by the author with the novel.

**Theatre Arts****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Theatre Arts introduces the students to the art of physical and vocal expression through pantomime, acting, and improvisation. Students will explore character movement, voice, attitude, and motivation as they develop improvisational skills and learn the techniques of acting. Students will create, participate in, and reflect on small and large group performances. Class participation is a must.

**World Music Drumming****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Social Studies***

This class will focus on hand and stick rhythms of African and Afro-Cuban drumming. Basic drumming techniques will be taught in the various styles. Using various world percussion instruments, our drum circle will explore music of Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America. An assortment of instruments will be provided and students may also bring in their own instruments that are appropriate to the ensemble.

# **Grade 7**

## **Core Courses**

### **(Required For All Students)**

#### **Language Arts 7**

**Full year**

This course provides Seventh Grade students with a critical foundation in reading and writing narrative, informational, and argument texts. Through analysis and production of texts in these three modes, students become more adept readers, thinkers, and writers. Across the year, they come to understand the distinctions between narrative, informational, and argument texts by studying fiction and nonfiction in a variety of formats and developing a more thorough understanding of audience and purpose when both reading and writing. The use of a reader or writer's notebook for each unit encourages students to be independent, engaged, and empowered learners who value close reading, idea generation, drafting, and revision.

#### **Read 180 (Language Arts)** ***Staff Assigned Only***

**Full year**

Read 180 is comprehensive, researched-based intervention program designed to accelerate the reading levels of struggling students who are reading below grade level. This course provides individualized instruction through teacher-directed lessons, software, and age appropriate fiction and non-fiction texts.

#### **Science 7**

**Full year**

Seventh Grade students will develop their science problem-solving skills and explore scientific argumentation. Course content includes: Geology on Mars, Plate Motion, Rock Formations, Phase Changes, Chemical Reactions, Populations & Resources, and Matter & Energy in Ecosystems.

#### **Social Studies 7**

**Full year**

Seventh Grade World History is an introductory course to global human history from the origins of humankind to approximately the year 1450 CE. Throughout the year, students will become familiar with the development of and interactions between people, states, civilizations, and empires. Among the topics we will examine are the rise of cities, the evolution of technology and navigation, the development of communication methods, the importance of agriculture, the rise and fall of empires, the evolving conduct of warfare, and the emergence of intellectual thought and local and world religions.





# Grade 7

## Core Courses

### (Required For All Students)

#### **Math 7**

**Full year**

In Math 7, students will enhance their number and operation skills including fractions and integers. These topics build a foundation for the study of the other concepts, such as ratio, proportion, statistics, measurement, and rational numbers. This sets the foundation for algebraic concepts including writing and solving equations, and graphing of linear relationships. In geometry, students will explore the properties of similar figures and perform basic geometric constructions.

#### **Algebra I**

***Staff Assigned Only***

**Full year**

Students must qualify for this course. Eligibility is determined by grades, State Assessment proficiency, and percentile rank on the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test. Students enrolled in this course receive high school credit. Course topics include family of functions (linear, power, polynomial, exponential, and quadratic), expressions, equations, inequalities, and the study of bivariate data.

# Grade 7

## Focus Courses

### (Band OR Spanish Students)

#### **Band 7**

**Full year**

Seventh Grade Concert Band is a year-long, graded course of study that offers instruction on flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, baritone, French horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion. Generally made up of 3rd year band students, new students are welcome to join! Seventh graders will perform at THS Marching Band Invitational, Trenton Christmas Parade, Winter Concert, Band & Orchestra Festival, and Spring Concert. Seventh graders have their first opportunity to perform at the MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festival (strongly encouraged!).

**-OR-**

#### **Spanish 1A & 1B (Pre-selection sheet required)**

**Full year**

Spanish 1A & 1B is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Primary objectives of this course are to develop strong foundations in the area of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and culture. There is an emphasis on vocabulary building and the grammar necessary for language use in the classroom and through online resources.

**Successful completion of this course will earn 1.0 high school credit. *Seventh graders electing Spanish 1A & 1B will automatically be placed in year-long Spanish 2A in eighth grade. Spanish 2A will be offered during Electives and will equal four choices.***

# **Grade 7**

## **Exploratory Courses**

### **(Required For Band/Spanish Students)**

#### **Core Skills 7**

**10 weeks**

Students will learn Document, Spreadsheet, and Presentation (Google versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) via relevant assignments pertaining to Language Arts, Math, and Science. With the computer skills under their belt, students will work on project-based assignments. They will incorporate skills from the computer portion of the class and skills from all core classes to explore and solve real-world scenarios (i.e. surveying a population, interpreting results, and creating a report or presentation based on the data collected).

#### **Physical Education 7**

**10 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skill in this area.

# **Grade 7**

## **Focus Courses**

### **(Non-Band/Non-Spanish Students)**

#### **Core Skills 7**

**6 2/3 weeks**

Students will learn Document, Spreadsheet, and Presentation (Google versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) via relevant assignments pertaining to Language Arts, Math, and Science. With the computer skills under their belt, students will work on project-based assignments. They will incorporate skills from the computer portion of the class and skills from all core classes to explore and solve real-world scenarios (i.e. surveying a population, interpreting results, and creating a report or presentation based on the data collected).

#### **Educational Technology 7**

**6 2/3 weeks**

Students will learn about computer science and coding as you program animations, interactive art, and games in Game Lab. Students will start with simple shapes and build up to more sophisticated sprite-based games using the programming concepts and design process computer scientists use daily. Students will work through a series of design challenges to better understand the needs of others while developing a solution to a problem.

#### **Exploratory Art II**

**6 2/3 weeks**

In Exploratory Art II, students will refine perceptual and technical skills by creating art. Students will explore and plan for better composition. They will incorporate a more sophisticated theory of the elements of art while working on projects, which may include drawing, painting, cartooning, clay, charcoal, or pastels.

#### **Physical Education 7**

**20 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skill in this area.

**Grade 7**  
**Exploratory Courses**  
**(Required For Non-Band/Non-Spanish Students)**

**No Classes Required**

# Grade 7

## Elective Courses

### (Teacher Recommended or Required)

**Individual Learning Hour (ILH)**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks or longer**

ILH assists students with organization and work completion. Students will use this period to finish homework and organize materials. A teacher will guide this small group to promote student success.

**Jazz Band**  
***Audition Required***

**20 weeks**

The Arthurs Jazz Band is open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students who are currently enrolled in a concert band class. All members of the Arthurs Jazz Band are selected by audition. Arthurs Jazz Band gives various performances throughout the year. Students must be able to commit to before and after school rehearsals approximately twice a week. The Arthurs Jazz Band is inclusive with regard to instrumentation. Generally, Jazz Band is comprised of saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, electric bass, drum set, and guitar, but we also include flute, clarinet, baritone horn, French horn, violin, oboe, and vocalist. Jazz improvisation is a featured aspect of our performances and all members of the Jazz Band are instructed and encouraged to improvise. A detailed approach to jazz music interpretation will be emphasized as well as focusing on individual and group performance.

**Leap Into Language 7**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks**

Students having difficulty achieving grade level expectations for Reading, Writing, Spelling, and Grammar may be required to take this class. Formal and informal assessments will be used to place students in this class. Students will be given additional help so they may attempt to attain grade level expectations by filling in the gaps and work completion.

**Math Power 7**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks**

Math Power is designed to help and encourage students to improve core math skills. The focus of this course will be to fill gaps in learning based on students' standardized test results. This course will center on games, manipulative activities, drills, and extra practice. The teacher will also assist students with math homework. The goal is to

help students gain the required skills necessary to be successful in mathematics and to encourage them to enjoy math in a relaxed setting.

**Science Project Based Learning**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks**

Science Project Based Learning will allow the higher achieving learners to self-select the science topics they would most like to learn. This class is offered to the students with advanced iReady scores and high grades in Science classes. Students will engage in a research project for the entire card-marking based on driving questions and a culminating product to present to the group at the end of the term.



# Grade 7

## Elective Courses

### (Available to All Students)

#### **Advanced Studio Art**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

This elective art course is for students that have an interest in improving their art skills in painting, drawing, sculpture, and printmaking. Students will develop their own ideas to create projects using a variety of drawing materials, paint, ink, metal, plaster gauze, and clay. Students will learn how to analyze artwork and write self-critiques on each project to create an electronic portfolio of their work.

#### **Advanced Team Sports**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Physical Education***

This course is appropriate for students who want to take their knowledge and skills of team sports to the next level. Students will work on offensive/defensive strategies, advanced drills to accelerate skill levels, game situations, and tournament play. The importance of being a good team member will also be emphasized. Depending on the season, the following sports will be covered: Basketball, Volleyball, Football, Tennis, Soccer, Pickleball, Hockey, as well as non-traditional sports/activities.

#### **Animation**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Technology***

In this course, students will be introduced to the process of creating animation through the use of computers. Animation is the process or result of creating a motion picture from a series of still drawings.

Students begin by studying the history of animation. They will then understand how useful the computer has been in alleviating some of the more cumbersome stages of creating animation by hand. Students will study the basics of creating computer-generated animation. They will learn the necessary tools in the ***Toon Boom Studio*** program to create their own animations.

**App Inventor****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Technology***

Students will learn how to build mobile apps and test them using the web-based program *MIT APP Inventor*. Important programming concepts and terminology will be discussed. Apps created will be able to be tested on an Android device and iOS (Apple) devices. Students will have access to Kindle Fires as well as the Emulator on the computer to test their apps.

**Art From Many Hands****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

This class is for art students who want to gain confidence in their own abilities while expanding their knowledge of art from many cultures. Just like today, people of ancient times were using every conceivable material to bring beauty and interest into their lives. Students will try a variety of their techniques to solve design problems. This will increase the students' technical skills as well as help them value the skills of artisans from around the world.

**Book Club****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Students will participate in a novel study and participate in a student-led Book Club regarding the novel(s) available to the class. Novels can include but are not limited to: *Counting By Sevens*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, *The Breadwinner*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Freak the Mighty*, *Making Bombs for Hitler*, and *Hatchet*.

**Brain Games****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Life Skills***

This course allows students to play games while improving their mathematical and critical thinking skills. Students learn gaming strategies in a fun, competitive, and friendly environment. Games include Chess, Blokus, Rush Hour, Sequence, Sudoku puzzles, Othello, and a chance to solve the Rubic's cube. No prior experience is necessary. All grade levels are welcome.

**Bridge Building****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies***

Bridge Building introduces the students to different types of bridges around the world and the history of bridge development. We explore architecture strengths and geometric features that are found in bridges. Students form construction companies of 3-4 students and build various types of bridges in different styles.

### **Calligraphy**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Calligraphy will give students an introduction to types of cursive writing and the history of handwriting. Students will learn the formation of letters in cursive and use of a calligraphy pen. Students will translate calligraphy to print and print to calligraphy. A culminating activity will be a formal calligraphy letter that is sent to a person. This class would also be a great assistance for students who want to improve their handwriting and fine motor skills.

### **Children's Books**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Do you enjoy reading children's books? In this course, you will create your very own children's book. You will learn how to make a book, write, and illustrate a picture book.

### **Choir**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

Choir is a performing ensemble open to all students. It is designed for students at a beginning to intermediate level of singing skill and musicianship. Students will develop their skills through the quality choral literature and musicianship activities (reading music and vocal anatomy) studied.

### **Clue Crew**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts***

Love a good mystery? Interested in figuring out how or why something happened? Clue Crew sets students on a course to solve short mysteries through a series of matrix puzzles and short stories. Students will look for clues and use deductive reasoning to draw conclusion and find answers. Students will even have the opportunity to create their own mystery.

### **Community Service and Leadership (CSL)**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Leadership, Social Studies***

Interested in making a difference and gaining leadership skills? Then take this class! Students will be asked to plan and participate in special activities such as athletic pre-game activities, spirit week activities, and school and community service projects. **Students will be required to perform 10 hours of community service outside the regular school day.**

**Computer Graphic Design**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Technology***

In this course, students are introduced to the basics of computer graphic design. They will study the history of graphics and computer graphics. Students develop their understanding of computer graphic design by using the software package Canvas™. They learn a variety of tools in Canvas to create their own graphics using different shapes, textures, and styles. As a final project, they can transfer their computer graphics onto a T-shirt. They also examine career opportunities in the area of computer graphic design.

**Countries Around the World**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies***

Students will learn continents and countries of the world. Geography skills will be highlighted. Map Game tournaments will be conducted. Countries in the news will be highlighted.

**Creative Expressions**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

This class engages students in both creating and understanding expressive works of art. The course represents a variety of arts disciplines, including: visual art, music, drama, creative writing, etc. In addition, students will explore their creativity while exploring magazine poetry, book poetry, mysteries, fairy tale remixes, and more.

**C.S.I.: “Numb3rs”**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Math, Technology***

Students will be learning how to solve crimes using mathematics integrated with technology. This course offers students an opportunity to explore career paths in crime investigation as well as learn how math and math theory plays a critical role. The program is based on the popular television series titled, “Numb3rs”. Students will watch episodes as they relate to math to solving crimes. Students will be involved in collecting and analyzing data, graphing, and predicting trends.

**Current Events**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts, Technology***

In this class, students will explore the current news events around the world. We will discuss news topics that include world news, science, history, sports, and entertainment among other topics.

**Debate**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Here in debate, students will learn the difference between arguing and debating. Students will utilize evidence to support the reasoning behind the stance that they have chosen (or has been chosen for them) to represent.

Students will learn to educate themselves on the topics of today and yesterday to help present a well-rounded idea in the future.

**Family History**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts***

Students will examine their family history, create a family tree, and explore possible lineage based on surnames in their family. Students will discuss traditions and important events, or talk about significant people within their family through presentations and other class activities. They will also have an opportunity to study their probable country of origin and share in the heritage of different countries presented by classmates. This is a great class where students can learn more about themselves and the world!

**Financial Fitness for Life**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Math, Social Studies***

Financial Fitness for Life will introduce students to the consumer world. Students will be involved in a real life simulation where they apply the basic principles of economics, will create a budget, “open” a checking account, and will explore saving, spending, and credit.

### **Forensic Science**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Science***

Students will be introduced to Forensic Science, which is a branch of science that focuses on criminal investigation to provide physical evidence to solve criminal cases. Students will learn a brief history of the subject, discuss the many occupations related to this study, practice the system of identifying criminals, and experience the exactness of fingerprinting.

### **Get Into the Green Scene**

**10 Weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Science***

Get ready to hug a tree and play in the dirt! “Get into the Green Scene” is an environmental science class that will introduce students to a variety of issues and topics. Students will study topics of plants and trees, sustainable development, recycling, hybrid cars, water/wetlands, pollution, climate change, and Earth Day.

### **Get Into the Groove**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Physical Education***

Dance-based class featuring Zumba, line dances, movement to music, and Just Dance with Wii. Students will be given the opportunity to create dances and learn the latest dance moves by searching the internet.

### **Great Books**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts (Advanced)***

This course is for the student who loves to read and is looking for exciting and challenging book choices. Class members will also have some voice in book selections. Discussions and book talks will be student led. Students should expect daily reading in and out of class time.

### **History of Baseball**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies***

This history elective class will examine the development of baseball in America. The historical study will focus on helping students gain a better understanding of the inner relationship the sport has on social, economic, and cultural forces that are at work in the United States as well as the world.

Students will examine the historical context as well as significance of gender, race, ethnicity and social class. Topics will include the origins of the game, early influences, The Negro Leagues, All American Girls Professional Team, icons of the game, dynasties and rivalries and so much more.

### **I Hate to Read Club**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

This course is for the student who claims they hate to read. This class is guaranteed to change their mind. Students will be introduced to fun, high interest books in a teacher led, relaxed environment. Earn some Accelerated Reader points, or finish your book reports early with the help of this course.

### **Jeopardy Jammers**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science***

Can't remember what you ate for breakfast this morning, but somehow remember every word to the hit song of 2009? Do you LOVE trivia questions – right or wrong – and learning the answers? Then sign up for Jeopardy Jammers! Watch famous trivia shows and participate in classroom based trivia games such as Kahoot, Quizzizz, Internet Jeopardy, Live Jeopardy, Pictionary and more!

### **Journalism**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

This class explores practices and concepts presented in preparing a school newspaper. You will learn about being a reporter as you brainstorm your ideas and interview students and staff. You will use computers to write, revise, and edit stories, which will be published in our school newspaper.

### **Life in a Jar & Other Balancing Acts**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Science***

Students will discover that the living and non-living parts of an ecosystem change until it becomes stable. One of the main projects is designing and conducting a scientific investigation. Students will set up a fresh water aquarium. Their goal is to set up a balanced ecosystem. The plants and animals in the container will be studied during

the course. Students will be responsible for monitoring and maintaining their aquariums. Additional microscopic and hand lens activities will enhance this experience.

### **Mad Money**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Math, Social Studies***

Mad Money introduces students to the investment power of the Stock Market. Students will develop an understanding of market history, how to research companies, select and follow stocks of interest, and assess team portfolios. The students will utilize online resources, including the national Stock Market Game.

### **Math-terpieces**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Math***

“Math”-terpieces is a class where math, art, and fun come together. This course will explore the many connections between mathematics and art. Students will explore polygons and other geometric shapes to create tessellations, string art, and more. Each student will walk away with “math”-terpieces of his or her own to take home.

### **Mind, Body, and Spirit**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Life Skills***

Students will be able to manage stress through exercise, self reflection, journaling, and nutrition. Students will learn how stress can affect their bodies and will be given strategies to overcome stressful situations. Students will take part in yoga, meditation, stretching, de-stressing crafts, and nutrition lessons. Students will leave the classroom feeling healthy and refreshed!

### **Music Time**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

Music Time is the opportunity for students to play musical instruments. If the student has never played an instrument before, this is their chance to start. If the student is already in band and wants to try something new, this is their chance to add another instrument to their skill set. If the student is in band and wants more time to practice and develop on their current instrument, this class is for taking skills to the next level. Whether the student is a complete beginner or has years of experience, students in Music Time will receive private lessons and group instruction in instrumental musicianship.



## **Outdoor Backyard Games**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Physical Education***

This course is appropriate for students who want to expand their knowledge and skills of backyard sports/games. Students will be introduced to new and ongoing backyard sports/games. The focus of the class will be on developing and mastering different sport specific skills in relation to multiple outdoor sports/games. As always, sportsmanship, teamwork and fair play will be a top priority. Some of the sports/games involved will be cornhole, ladder golf, paddle ball, bottle smash, kan jam, spikeball, washers, bocce ball, and cross net.

## **Paper Roller Coasters**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Science, Math***

Students will work in small groups to design and construct paper roller coasters. Completed coasters will be used to collect data, design investigations, and complete labs. Students will also research roller coaster designs.

## **Poetry & Songwriting**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Use rhythm and rhyme to create your own poems. Look at famous poetry and learn about poets. Be creative! Remember – You may be a poet and you just don't know it!

## **Public Speaking**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Are you daring? Do you have what it takes to step up? Public speaking is the number one fear for many people. This course will help students give speeches and presentations with confidence. Have fun while getting over your fear to speak in front of the class.

## **Score!**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Math***

Love Sports? Interested in players' stats and each season's wins and losses? Take this class! Students will choose real-life football/basketball/baseball players, follow their statistics, calculate their team's total points, and compete with one another in

class. Each week students will review and practice middle school math concepts with a heavy focus on fractions and decimals. Boys and girls are welcome!

### **Scrapbooking**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Scrapbooking will focus on self-discovery. The students will make a scrapbook of themselves at the end of this 10-week course. Students will make connections between personal experiences and books read in class. Students must be able to bring in several photographs from home for this class.

### **Sketch It Out**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

For students who love to draw and often times find themselves drawing or doodling throughout the day-- this class is for you! Students will explore Anime, portrait drawing, and additional sketch art forms in this 10-week course. In addition, students will support school-wide projects. At the end of the course, students will have created a portfolio of their best work.

### **Sports History**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts, Math***

This history course will examine the development of sports in the United States. The historical study will focus on helping students gain a better understanding of the inner relationship that sports have on social, economic, cultural, and political forces that are at work in the United States as well as the world. Students will explore the historical context as well as the significance of gender, race, ethnicity, and social class. The historical investigation will consist of readings, primary sources, and visual materials as well as class discussions.

### **Stories From My Life**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

This elective class will help the students write and appreciate stories of their life. The student will write about life events and create their own personal story. Possible topics could include: What I like Best About My Family, Traditions, A Time I Will Never Forget, The Best Vacation and What is Special to Me. Along with the personal stories, the student will use pictures to assist them with their storytelling. By the end of the course, students will create a “lifebook” to take home and appreciate throughout the years.

### **String Theory**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

String Theory is the opportunity for students to learn to play guitar or bass. Students will start with the fundamentals – string names, tuning, strumming, picking and hand placement. This course will take the students as far as they can go in learning instrument technique through learning songs. The focus of this class will be acoustic guitar, electric guitar, acoustic bass and electric bass. Instrument is **NOT** provided.

### **T.E.A.M. Rule**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Leadership***

The T.E.A.M. Rule stands for, “Together everyone achieves more if there is Total Effort from All Members”. This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn the ways in which they can become successful leaders at Arthurs and THS. The goal of the leadership course is to have each student develop the specific skills required to be a leader of positive character who understands his/her responsibility as a citizen and member of the community. Topics and projects on bravery, toughness, commitment, and loyalty will be covered throughout the 10-week course.

### **The Hunger Games and Roman Influence**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Students will read the novel “The Hunger Games”. Students will take notes on the study of the tributes and the country of Panem. As they read, students will be introduced to the allusions of Roman Culture and Mythology that are implemented by the author with the novel.

**Theatre Arts****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Theatre Arts introduces the students to the art of physical and vocal expression through pantomime, acting, and improvisation. Students will explore character movement, voice, attitude, and motivation as they develop improvisational skills and learn the techniques of acting. Students will create, participate in, and reflect on small and large group performances. Class participation is a must.

**World Music Drumming****10 weeks*****Do Not Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Social Studies***

This class will focus on hand and stick rhythms of African and Afro-Cuban drumming. Basic drumming techniques will be taught in the various styles. Using various world percussion instruments, our drum circle will explore music of Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America. An assortment of instruments will be provided and students may also bring in their own instruments that are appropriate to the ensemble.

# Grade 8

## Core Courses

### (Required For All Students)

#### Language Arts 8

**Full year**

8th Grade ELA uses materials from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: *Into Literature*. At each grade level, *Into Literature* is presented in six units that center on an Essential Question that links reading selections, frames the unit's theme, and connects to students' experiences. Lessons are organized around age-appropriate authentic texts that support reading instruction and serve as mentor texts for student writing. Reading selections include a variety of genres and representations of diverse cultures and characters. The interconnected tasks build student knowledge and provide opportunities for increased independence. These tasks are supported by spiraling and scaffolded practice. Students will also read the following novels: *Coraline*, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, *Singularity*, and *The Outsiders*.

#### Read 180 (Language Arts) *Staff Assigned Only*

**Full year**

Read 180 is a comprehensive, researched-based intervention program designed to accelerate the reading levels of struggling students who are reading below grade level. This course provides individualized instruction through teacher-directed lessons, software, and age appropriate fiction and non-fiction texts.

#### Science 8

**Full year**

As with all middle school science courses, the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade program is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The middle school performance expectations blend the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge to explain real world phenomena in the physical, biological, and earth and space sciences. Performance expectations at the middle school level focus on students developing understanding of several scientific practices. These include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanations; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. Students are also expected to demonstrate understanding of several engineering practices including design and evaluation. These practices will be applied through Amplify Units that include

Harnessing Human Energy, Force and Motion, Magnetic Fields, Light Waves, Earth/Moon/Sun, Natural Selection, and Evolutionary History.

## **Social Studies 8**

**Full year**

The purpose of this course is to develop the student's understanding of the heritage that shaped the United States as a democratic nation. United States history is surveyed from the early colonial period through the development of an industrial, urban, and global United States. The political, economic, and social changes of our nation will be explored. Native Americans, exploration, colonization, and the Revolutionary War will be reviewed. The formation of our national government, Westward Movement, and the Civil War, and Reconstruction will be studied in detail. The course will periodically include the study of Michigan history and U.S. foreign affairs through 1931. The study of American history will prepare students to become responsible citizens.

## **Math 8**

**Full year**

This course is for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students who are preparing to take Algebra 1 as a freshman at the high school. Instruction will place major emphasis on families of functions, algebra skills, probability, and geometry. The graphing calculator will be utilized as a problem-solving tool to enhance student learning.

## **Algebra I**

**Full year**

***Staff Assigned Only***

Students must qualify for this course. Eligibility is determined by grades, State Assessment proficiency, and percentile rank on the Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test. Students enrolled in this course receive high school credit. Course topics include family of functions (linear, power, polynomial, exponential, and quadratic), expressions, equations, inequalities, and the study of bivariate data.

## **Geometry**

**Full Year**

***Staff Assigned Only***

This course is for advanced students who successfully completed algebra in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. This is a high school geometry course and begins by establishing definitions and familiarizing students with the language of geometry. Postulates and theorems are introduced, and students learn to write formal proofs. Included in the course are triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, areas of plane figures, volumes of solid figures, coordinate geometry, and transformations. Students attend class at Trenton High School (1<sup>st</sup> hour) then are bused back to AMS in time for 2<sup>nd</sup> hour.



# **Grade 8**

## **Focus Courses**

### **(Band OR Spanish Students)**

#### **Band 8**

**Full year**

Eighth Grade Concert Band is a year-long, graded course of study that offers instruction on flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, baritone, French horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion. Generally made up of 4th year band students, new students are welcome to join! Eighth graders will perform at THS Marching Band Invitational, Trenton Christmas Parade, Winter Concert, Band & Orchestra Festival, and Spring Concert. Eighth graders have the opportunity to perform at the MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festival (strongly encouraged!).

**OR**

#### **Spanish 1A & 1B** (Pre-selection sheet required)

**Full year**

Spanish 1A & 1B is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Primary objectives of this course are to develop strong foundations in the area of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and culture. There is an emphasis on vocabulary-building and the grammar necessary for language use in the classroom and through online resources.

**Successful completion of this course will earn 1.0 high school credit.**



**Grade 8  
Exploratory Courses  
(Required for Band/Spanish Students)**

**Physical Education 8**

**10 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skill in this area.

# Grade 8

## Focus Courses

### (Non-Band/Non-Spanish Students)

#### **Core Skills 8**

**6 2/3 weeks**

Students will review Document, Spreadsheet, and Presentation (Google versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) via relevant assignments pertaining to Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. With the computer skills under their belt, students will work on project-based assignments. They will incorporate skills from the computer portion of the class and skills from all core classes to explore and solve real-world scenarios.

#### **Educational Technology 8**

**6 2/3 weeks**

Educational Technology 8 has a focus on computer programming. Students will be using *Scratch* to learn some basic computer animation programming and game design. *Scratch* is a free online program used to create stories, games, and animations. Students will continue their study of computer programming with the LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 kits. LEGO MINDSTORMS is a programmable robotics construction series that gives you the power to build and program your own LEGO robots.

#### **Exploratory Art III**

**6 2/3 weeks**

In Exploratory Art III, students will refine perceptual and technical skills by creating art. Students will explore and plan for better composition. They will incorporate a more sophisticated theory of the elements of art while working on projects which may include drawing, painting, cartooning, clay, charcoal, or pastels.

#### **Physical Education 8**

**20 weeks**

Students will experience a variety of aquatic, recreational, sport, and fitness activities. Students will learn the skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to enjoy an active lifestyle. Attention will be paid to the components of physical fitness and the development of students' knowledge and skill in this area.

# **Grade 8**

## **Elective Courses**

### **(Teacher Recommended or Required)**

**Individual Learning Hour (ILH)**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks or longer**

ILH assists students with organization and work completion. Students will use this period to finish homework and organize materials. A teacher will guide this small group to promote student success.

**Jazz Band**  
***Audition Required***

**20 weeks**

The Arthurs Jazz Band is open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students who are currently enrolled in a concert band class. All members of the Arthurs Jazz Band are selected by audition. Arthurs Jazz Band gives various performances throughout the year. Students must be able to commit to before and after school rehearsals approximately twice a week. The Arthurs Jazz Band is inclusive with regard to instrumentation. Generally, Jazz Band is comprised of saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, electric bass, drum set and guitar, but we also include flute, clarinet, baritone horn, French horn, violin, oboe, and vocalist. Jazz improvisation is a featured aspect of our performances and all members of the Jazz Band are instructed and encouraged to improvise. A detailed approach to jazz music interpretation will be emphasized as well as focusing on individual and group performance.

**Leap into Language 8**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks**

Students having difficulty achieving grade level expectations for Reading, Writing, Spelling, and Grammar may be required to take this class. Formal and informal assessments will be used to place students in this class. Students will be given additional help so they may attempt to attain grade level expectations by filling in the gaps and work completion.

**Math Power 8**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks**

Math Power is designed to help and encourage students to improve core math skills. The focus of this course will be to fill gaps in learning based on students' standardized test results. This course will center on games, manipulative activities, drills, and extra practice. The teacher will also assist students with math homework. The goal is to

help students gain the required skills necessary to be successful in mathematics and to encourage them to enjoy math in a relaxed setting.

**Science Project Based Learning**  
***Staff Assigned Only***

**10 weeks**

Science Project Based Learning will allow the higher achieving learners to self-select the science topics they would most like to learn. This class is offered to the students with advanced iReady scores and high grades in Science classes. Students will engage in a research project for the entire card-marking based on driving questions and a culminating product to present to the group at the end of the term.

# Grade 8

## Elective Courses

### (Available to All Students)

#### **Advanced Studio Art**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

This elective art course is for students that have an interest improving their art skills in painting, drawing, sculpture, and printmaking. Students will develop their own ideas to create projects using a variety drawing materials, paint, ink, metal, plaster gauze, and clay. Students will learn how to analyze artwork and write self-critiques on each project to create an electronic portfolio of their work.

#### **Advanced Team Sports**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Physical Education***

This course is appropriate for students who want to take their knowledge and skills of team sports to the next level. Students will work on offensive/defensive strategies, advanced drills to accelerate skill levels, game situations, and tournament play. The importance of being a good team member will also be emphasized. Depending on the season, the following sports will be covered: Basketball, Volleyball, Football, Tennis, Soccer, Pickleball, Hockey, as well as non-traditional sports/activities.

#### **Animation**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Technology***

In this course, students will be introduced to the process of creating animation through the use of computers. Animation is the process or result of creating a motion picture from a series of still drawings.

Students begin by studying the history of animation. They will then understand how useful the computer has been in alleviating some of the more cumbersome stages of creating animation by hand. Students will study the basics of creating computer-generated animation. They will learn the necessary tools in the ***Toon Boom Studio*** program to create their own animations.

**App Inventor****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Technology***

Students will learn how to build mobile apps and test them using the web-based program *MIT APP Inventor*. Important programming concepts and terminology will be discussed. Apps created will be able to be tested on an Android device and iOS (Apple) devices. Students will have access to Kindle Fires as well as the Emulator on the computer to test their apps.

**Art From Many Hands****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

This class is for art students who want to gain confidence in their own abilities while expanding their knowledge of art from many cultures. Just like today, people of ancient times were using every conceivable material to bring beauty and interest into their lives. Students will try a variety of their techniques to solve design problems. This will increase the students' technical skills as well as help them value the skills of artisans from around the world.

**Book Club****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Students will participate in a novel study and participate in a student-led Book Club regarding the novel(s) available to the class. Novels can include but are not limited to: *Counting By Sevens*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, *The Breadwinner*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Freak the Mighty*, *Making Bombs for Hitler*, and *Hatchet*.

**Brain Games****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Life Skills***

This course allows students to play games while improving their mathematical and critical thinking skills. Students learn gaming strategies in a fun, competitive, and friendly environment. Games include Chess, Blokus, Rush Hour, Sequence, Sudoku puzzles, Othello, and a chance to solve the Rubic's cube. No prior experience is necessary. All grade levels are welcome.

**Bridge Building****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat***

**Curriculum Focus: Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies**

Bridge Building introduces the students to different types of bridges around the world and the history of bridge development. We explore architecture strengths and geometric features that are found in bridges. Students form construction companies of 3-4 students and build various types of bridges in different styles.

**Calligraphy**

**10 weeks**

**Do NOT Repeat**

**Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts**

Calligraphy will give students an introduction to types of cursive writing and the history of handwriting. Students will learn the formation of letters in cursive and use of a calligraphy pen. Students will translate calligraphy to print and print to calligraphy. A culminating activity will be a formal calligraphy letter that is sent to a person. This class would also be a great assistance for students who want to improve their handwriting and fine motor skills.

**Children's Books**

**10 weeks**

**Do NOT Repeat**

**Curriculum Focus: Language Arts**

Do you enjoy reading children's books? In this course, you will create your very own children's book. You will learn how to make a book, write, and illustrate a picture book.

**Choir**

**10 weeks**

**Course May Be Repeated**

**Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts**

Choir is a performing ensemble open to all students. It is designed for students at a beginning to intermediate level of singing skill and musicianship. Students will develop their skills through the quality choral literature and musicianship activities (reading music and vocal anatomy) studied.

**Clue Crew**

**10 weeks**

**Do NOT Repeat**

**Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts**

Love a good mystery? Interested in figuring out how or why something happened? Clue Crew sets students on a course to solve short mysteries through a series of matrix puzzles and short stories. Students will look for clues and use deductive reasoning to draw conclusion and find answers. Students will even have the opportunity to create their own mystery.

**Community Service and Leadership (CSL)**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Leadership, Social Studies***

Interested in making a difference and gaining leadership skills? Then take this class! Students will be asked to plan and participate in special activities such as athletic pre-game activities, spirit week activities, and school and community service projects. **Students will be required to perform 10 hours of community service outside the regular school day.**

**Countries Around the World**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies***

Students will learn continents and countries of the world. Geography skills will be highlighted. Map Game tournaments will be conducted. Countries in the news will be highlighted.

**Creative Expressions**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

This class engages students in both creating and understanding expressive works of art. The course represents a variety of arts disciplines, including: visual art, music, drama, creative writing, etc. In addition, students will explore their creativity while exploring magazine poetry, book poetry, mysteries, fairy tale remixes, and more.

**C.S.I.: “Numb3rs”**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Math, Technology***

Students will be learning how to solve crimes using mathematics integrated with technology. This course offers students an opportunity to explore career paths in crime investigation as well as learn how math and math theory plays a critical role. The program is based on the popular television series titled, “Numb3rs”. Students will watch episodes as they relate to math to solving crimes. Students will be involved in collecting and analyzing data, graphing, and predicting trends.

**Current Events**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts, Technology***



In this class, students will explore the current news events around the world. We will discuss news topics that include world news, science, history, sports, and entertainment among other topics.

## **Debate**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Here in debate, students will learn the difference between arguing and debating. Students will utilize evidence to support the reasoning behind the stance that they have chosen (or has been chosen for them) to represent.

Students will learn to educate themselves on the topics of today and yesterday to help present a well-rounded idea in the future.

## **Family History**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts***

Students will examine their family history, create a family tree, and explore possible lineage based on surnames in their family. Students will discuss traditions and important events, or talk about significant people within their family through presentations and other class activities. They will also have an opportunity to study their probable country of origin and share in the heritage of different countries presented by classmates. This is a great class where students can learn more about themselves and the world!

## **Financial Fitness for Life**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Math, Social Studies***

Financial Fitness for Life will introduce students to the consumer world. Students will be involved in a real life simulation where they apply the basic principles of economics, will create a budget, “open” a checking account, and will explore saving, spending, and credit.

## **Forensic Science**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Science***

Students will be introduced to Forensic Science, which is a branch of science that focuses on criminal investigation to provide physical evidence to solve criminal cases.

Students will learn a brief history of the subject, discuss the many occupations related to this study, practice the system of identifying criminals, and experience the exactness of fingerprinting.

### **Get Into the Green Scene**

**10 Weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Science***

Get ready to hug a tree and play in the dirt! “Get into the Green Scene” is an environmental science class that will introduce students to a variety of issues and topics. Students will study topics of plants and trees, sustainable development, recycling, hybrid cars, water/wetlands, pollution, climate change, and Earth Day.

### **Get Into the Groove**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Physical Education***

Dance based class featuring Zumba, line dances, movement to music, and Just Dance with Wii. Students will be given the opportunity to create dances and learn the latest dance moves by searching the internet.

### **Great Books**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts (Advanced)***

This course is for the student who loves to read and is looking for exciting and challenging book choices. Class members will also have some voice in book selections. Discussions and book talks will be student led. Students should expect daily reading in and out of class time.

### **History of Baseball**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies***

This history elective class will examine the development of baseball in America. The historical study will focus on helping students gain a better understanding of the inner relationship the sport has on social, economic, and cultural forces that are at work in the United States as well as the world.

Students will examine the historical context as well as significance of gender, race, ethnicity and social class. Topics will include the origins of the game, early influences,

The Negro Leagues, All American Girls Professional Team, icons of the game, dynasties and rivalries and so much more.

### **I Hate to Read Club**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

This course is for the student who claims they hate to read. This class is guaranteed to change their mind. Students will be introduced to fun, high interest books in a teacher led, relaxed environment. Earn some Accelerated Reader points, or finish your book reports early with the help of this course.

### **Jeopardy Jammers**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science***

Can't remember what you ate for breakfast this morning, but somehow remember every word to the hit song of 2009? Do you LOVE trivia questions – right or wrong – and learning the answers? Then sign up for Jeopardy Jammers! Watch famous trivia shows and participate in classroom based trivia games such as Kahoot, Quizzizz, Internet Jeopardy, Live Jeopardy, Pictionary and more!

### **Journalism**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

This class explores practices and concepts presented in preparing a school newspaper. You will learn about being a reporter as you brainstorm your ideas and interview students and staff. You will use computers to write, revise, and edit stories, which will be published in our school newspaper.

### **Life in a Jar & Other Balancing Acts**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Science***

Students will discover that the living and non-living parts of an ecosystem change until it becomes stable. One of the main projects is designing and conducting a scientific investigation. Students will set up a fresh water aquarium. Their goal is to set up a balanced ecosystem. The plants and animals in the container will be studied during the course. Students will be responsible for monitoring and maintaining their aquariums. Additional microscopic and hand lens activities will enhance this experience.

### **Mad Money**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Math, Social Studies***

Mad Money introduces students to the investment power of the Stock Market. Students will develop an understanding of market history, how to research companies, select and follow stocks of interest, and assess team portfolios. The students will utilize online resources, including the national Stock Market Game.

**Math-terpieces**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Math***

“Math”-terpieces is a class where math, art, and fun come together. This course will explore the many connections between mathematics and art. Students will explore polygons and other geometric shapes to create tessellations, string art, and more. Each student will walk away with “math”-terpieces of his or her own to take home.

**Mind, Body, and Spirit**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Life Skills***

Students will be able to manage stress through exercise, self reflection, journaling, and nutrition. Students will learn how stress can affect their bodies and will be given strategies to overcome stressful situations. Students will take part in yoga, meditation, stretching, de-stressing crafts, and nutrition lessons. Students will leave the classroom feeling healthy and refreshed!

**Music Time**

**10 weeks**

***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

Music Time is the opportunity for students to play musical instruments. If the student has never played an instrument before, this is their chance to start. If the student is already in band and wants to try something new, this is their chance to add another instrument to their skill set. If the student is in band and wants more time to practice and develop on their current instrument, this class is for taking skills to the next level. Whether the student is a complete beginner or has years of experience, students in

Music Time will receive private lessons and group instruction in instrumental musicianship.

### **Outdoor Backyard Games**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Physical Education***

This course is appropriate for students who want to expand their knowledge and skills of backyard sports/games. Students will be introduced to new and ongoing backyard sports/games. The focus of the class will be on developing and mastering different sport specific skills in relation to multiple outdoor sports/games. As always, sportsmanship, teamwork and fair play will be a top priority. Some of the sports/games involved will be cornhole, ladder golf, paddle ball, bottle smash, kan jam, spikeball, washers, bocce ball, and cross net.

### **Paper Roller Coasters**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Science, Math***

Students will work in small groups to design and construct paper roller coasters. Completed coasters will be used to collect data, design investigations, and complete labs. Students will also research roller coaster designs.

### **Poetry & Songwriting**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Use rhythm and rhyme to create your own poems. Look at famous poetry and learn about poets. Be creative! Remember – You may be a poet and you just don't know it!

### **Public Speaking**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Are you daring? Do you have what it takes to step up? Public speaking is the number one fear for many people. This course will help you give speeches and presentations with confidence. Have fun while getting over your fear to speak in front of the class.

### **Reel to Real: Take 2**

**10 weeks**

***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Language Arts***

Enjoy getting “real” about the latest movie? This class is for interested students who enjoy watching movies. “Reel to Real” is designed to challenge students to become thoughtful, active viewers and provide them an opportunity to talk and write about films in new and exciting ways. Students will examine movies that portray real life stories that will inspire them to “Dream it, Believe it, Achieve it”. The movies selected focus on young adult themes of families, belonging, moral dilemmas, and fulfilling dreams.

### **Remember the Holocaust**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Language Arts***

Transport yourself to the time of the Holocaust through the use of novels; Night by Elie Wiesel, The Devil’s Arithmetic by Jane Yolen, and One Survivor Remembers by Gerda Weissmann Klein. Videos will accompany the hands-on lessons presented. The course will culminate with a field trip to the Holocaust Memorial. (Fee required for Museum visit.)

### **Score!**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Course May Be Repeated***

***Curriculum Focus: Math***

Love Sports? Interested in players’ stats and each season’s wins and losses? Take this class! Students will choose real-life football/basketball/baseball players, follow their statistics, calculate their team’s total points, and compete with one another in class. Each week students will review and practice middle school math concepts with a heavy focus on fractions and decimals. Boys and girls are welcome!

### **Scrapbooking**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Scrapbooking will focus on self-discovery. The students will make a scrapbook of themselves at the end of this 10-week course. Students will make connections between personal experiences and books read in class. Students must be able to bring in several photographs from home for this class.

### **Sketch It Out**

**10 weeks**

#### ***Do NOT Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

For students who love to draw and oftentimes find themselves drawing or doodling throughout the day-- this class is for you! Students will explore Anime, portrait drawing, and additional sketch art forms in this 10-week course. In addition, students will support school-wide projects. At the end of the course, students will have created a portfolio of their best work.

**Spanish 1A (Pre-selection sheet required)****Full Year****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: World Language**

Spanish 1A is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Primary objectives of this course are to develop strong foundations in the area of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and culture. There is an emphasis on vocabulary building and the grammar necessary for language use in the classroom and through online resources.

**Successful completion of this course will earn .5 high school credit.**

**Spanish 2A****Full Year****REQUIRED for and open only to students who successfully completed****Spanish 1A & 1B in seventh grade****Curriculum Focus: World Language**

Spanish 2A places a continued emphasis on vocabulary building and concurrent grammar instruction, helping students to function in more complex language situations. Speaking, writing, listening, and reading are at a more advanced level. Culture will include modern-day events which broaden students' understanding of the practices and concern of native speakers.

**Successful completion of this course will earn .5 high school credit.**

**Sports History****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Language Arts, Math**

This history course will examine the development of sports in the United States. The historical study will focus on helping students gain a better understanding of the inner relationship that sports have on social, economic, cultural, and political forces that are at work in the United States as well as the world. Students will explore the historical context as well as the significance of gender, race, ethnicity, and social class. The historical investigation will consist of readings, primary sources, and visual materials as well as class discussions.

**Stories From My Life****10 weeks****Do NOT Repeat****Curriculum Focus: Language Arts**

This elective class will help the students write and appreciate stories of their life. The student will write about life events and create their own personal story. Possible topics could include: What I like Best About My Family, Traditions, A Time I Will Never Forget, The Best Vacation and What is Special to Me. Along with the personal stories, the student will use pictures to assist them with their storytelling. By the end of the course, students will create a "lifebook" to take home and appreciate throughout the years.

**String Theory****10 weeks*****Course May Be Repeated******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts***

String Theory is the opportunity for students to learn to play guitar or bass. Students will start with the fundamentals – string names, tuning, strumming, picking and hand placement. This course will take the students as far as they can go in learning instrument technique through learning songs. The focus of this class will be acoustic guitar, electric guitar, acoustic bass and electric bass. Instrument is **NOT** provided.

**T.E.A.M. Rule****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Leadership***

The T.E.A.M. Rule stands for, “Together everyone achieves more if there is Total Effort from All Members.” This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn the ways in which they can become successful leaders at Arthurs and THS. The goal of the leadership course is to have each student develop the specific skills required to be a leader of positive character who understands his/her responsibility as a citizen and member of the community. Topics and projects on bravery, toughness, commitment, and loyalty will be covered throughout the 10-week course.

**Theatre Arts****10 weeks*****Do NOT Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Language Arts***

Theatre Arts introduces the students to the art of physical and vocal expression through pantomime, acting, and improvisation. Students will explore character movement, voice, attitude, and motivation as they develop improvisational skills and learn the techniques of acting. Students will create, participate in, and reflect on small and large group performances. Class participation is a must.

**WEB****10 weeks*****Do Not Repeat******Curriculum Focus: Leadership***

WEB class is exclusively for 8th grade students who applied and were accepted to be a WEB Leader. WEB, which stands for "Where Everybody Belongs" is a middle school orientation and transition program that welcomes 6th/7th graders and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their middle school experience. Built on the



belief that students can help students succeed, the program trains mentors from your 8th grade class to be WEB Leaders. Students will explore leadership, communication, public involvement, and community interaction. This course requires students to adhere to the WEB Leader code of conduct.

## **World Music Drumming**

**10 weeks**

### ***Do Not Repeat***

***Curriculum Focus: Fine Arts, Social Studies***

This class will focus on hand and stick rhythms of African and Afro-Cuban drumming. Basic drumming techniques will be taught in the various styles. Using various world percussion instruments, our drum circle will explore music of Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America. An assortment of instruments will be provided and students may also bring in their own instruments that are appropriate to the ensemble.

# Special Education Courses

## All Grade Levels

### **Language Arts**

This course continues to build Language Arts skills begun at the elementary level. The curriculum includes proper sentence structure, grammar, a variety of writing activities, study skills, and spelling. Practical application of these skills will be used whenever possible. The reading program contains practice in both vocabulary and comprehension skills. Both fiction and non-fiction materials are used for learning enjoyment.

### **Math**

This course is designed to reinforce and expand mathematical concepts including computation and understanding of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and measurement. Special emphasis is placed on applying knowledge of these concepts to problem solving, using calculators when necessary.

### **Science**

This course parallels that of general education science with its focus on Life, Physical, and Earth Sciences. Hands-on experiences are provided whenever possible along with modifications for individual needs.

### **Social Studies**

This course is designed for students who need basic knowledge of self, their community, their state and nation, and the world.

### **Individual Learning Hour (ILH)**

The purpose of this course is to offer services to students who need academic support in their general education classes. Students will be pulled as needed from their Exploratory/Elective (E<sup>2</sup>) times.

### **Co-Taught**

Students will be in general education core classes with the support of a special education teacher.

# **Section 21f – Online Courses**

## **All Grade Levels**

### **Online Courses**

In accordance with Section 21f of the State School Aid Act, students in grades 6-12 may take up to two online courses during an academic term, semester, or trimester in place of a currently scheduled course.

### **Eligibility includes all of the following requirements:**

1. The student is enrolled in Trenton Public Schools in grades 6-12, and
2. The student has not previously earned credit for the requested course, and
3. The online course generates academic credit, and
4. The online course is consistent with the remaining graduation requirements or career interest of the student, and
5. The student possesses the prerequisite knowledge and skills to be successful in the online course, and
6. The cost of the online course does not exceed the amount authorized by law unless the parent/guardian agrees to pay the difference in cost, and
7. The online course is of sufficient quality or rigor. Course options are limited to classes that are listed in the Michigan’s Online Course Catalog (<https://micourses.org>), and
8. The student adheres to the established school-district procedures and timelines for requesting an online course.

### **Timelines and Procedures:**

1. Online Course Enrollment Request Forms are available in the counseling office.
2. Completed request forms must be submitted to the student’s counselor by the following dates:
  - May 1 for online courses to be taken the first semester of the following school year.
  - November 1 for online courses to be taken during the second semester of the current school year.
3. Upon approval of the online course by the building principal, both the student and parent/guardian must agree to the 21f Online Learning Course Student Contract.

4. The enrollment process for the online course is conducted by the district – the student or parent may not enroll the student directly in the course.
5. The district will assign a mentor for the student. The role of the mentor is to serve as a liaison, monitor student weekly progress, and proctor online assessment as needed. The online teacher is the teacher of record.
6. A student’s school record and transcript shall identify the online course title as it appears in the online course syllabus.
7. The score for the course submitted by the online instructor will be converted to a letter grade which will be posted on the student’s transcript. Percentage grades will follow the common grading scale for Arthurs Middle School. The mentor is responsible for submitting the final grade to the counseling office.
8. Failure to complete an online class will show on the student’s transcript as a “W” or an “E” if the teacher of record reports a failing final grade.