

GRADE 8

CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ADVISORY

All students meet for this brief course once a week. In this program students will learn and build positive character traits including: leadership, respect, responsibility, perseverance, team work, and fair play. They will develop deep relationships with a small group of peers and an adult advisor which will form a support structure for them as they undertake their studies. Additionally, students will develop skills to help them interact in a positive and polite manner with others, discuss issues important to the development of pre-teens and teenagers, as well as learn how to become productive global citizens who impact the world in a positive manner.

INTERVENTION

Intervention is 25 minutes of time set aside each Tuesday and Thursday morning during advisory. This is dedicated time for students to get help from teachers if they do not understand an assignment, to make up work from an absence, or to retake a test if they have a completed Success Ticket. It is also during this time that students are able to take part in silent sustained reading which promotes completion of literacy goals.

LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Using reading units for *The Outsiders*, *Anthem*, *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*, and a literature circle Holocaust unit as well as various short stories and poems, students will gain experience in reading comprehension, reading strategies, and the writing process. The students will write one informational essay, one persuasive (argumentative) essay, one narrative essay, and poetry. Grammar skills will be embedded in lessons throughout the year. Students will be encouraged to increase their vocabularies through course literature, outside reading, and usage of new words. Research and oral communication skills will be applied and practiced.

UPWARD BOUND LA 8

Co-Taught LA 8 follows the same curriculum as Language Arts 8. The instructional pace is slower and students are given more time to process and complete assignments. A small ratio of students to two teachers will be used along with teaching techniques and accommodations to try to bring students skills closer to grade level. Lexia Power Up program is used 140 minutes per week to enhance word study, grammar, and reading comprehension skills. The pace of the class will be adjusted to ensure student understanding. This class includes a co-teacher and placement is determined by Individualized Educational Plan and teacher recommendations.

ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS 8

This course will consist of a deeper study of the objectives listed above. The assignments will be more difficult and expectations will be higher. These students will be selected based on a strict set of criteria: reading level, state assessment score from previous year, and grade in language arts.

MATH 8

This course will teach the students the 8th grade Common Core Standards. Topics covered include solving equations, graphing linear equations, solving systems of equations and transformations.

UPWARD BOUND MATH 8

This course will follow the same curriculum as the Math 8 course. Students in this class are significantly below grade level. This class will be a co-taught class. A small ratio of students to two teachers will be used along with teaching techniques and accommodations to try to bring students skills closer to grade level. Students will be selected for this class based on assessment scores and teacher recommendation. Parents will be notified of this placement. A contract must be signed to be part of this class. The pace of the class will be adjusted to ensure student understanding. This class includes a co-teacher and placement is determined by Individualized Educational Plan and teacher recommendations.

ADAPTED MATH 8

This course will follow the same curriculum as the Math 8 course. Teaching techniques will be used to help accommodate for skills that are lacking and students' learning needs. The pace will be adjusted to ensure understanding. Students will be selected for this class based on assessment scores and teacher recommendation. Parents will be notified of this placement. A contract must be signed to be a part of this class.

RESOURCE ROOM MATH 8

This course will follow the same curriculum as the Math 8 course. Students in this class are significantly below grade level. This class will be taught by a Special Education Teacher and a Para-pro. A small ratio of students to two adults will be used along with teaching techniques and accommodations to try to bring students skills closer to grade level. Students will be selected for this class based on IEP recommendations.

ALGEBRA 1 8

This course meets the Common Core State Standards for High School Algebra1. Students will have the opportunity to earn High School credit for Algebra 1 upon successful completion of this course. It is designed for advanced math students. It will expand upon and enrich the algebra topics. The pace will be more rigorous. Students will be selected for this class based on assessment scores. Parents will be notified of selection. A contract must be signed to be part of this class.

SCIENCE 8

All eighth grade students are expected to master scientific equipment, lab safety, making and interpreting charts and graphs. Students will review all areas of science to prepare for the M-Step test. They will study an integrated science consisting of high school concepts in chemistry, physics and earth science. These concepts will include the basic prerequisites to high school science such as waves, electricity, magnetism, and chemical elements.

ADAPTED SCIENCE 8

This course covers the same science standards set by the State as the Science 8 course. Teaching techniques will be used to help accommodate for skills that are lacking and individual student learning needs. The pace will be adjusted to ensure all students have understanding of the concepts taught. Students will be selected for these classes based on assessment scores and teacher recommendations.

UPWARD BOUND SCIENCE 8

Co-Taught Science 8 follows the same curriculum as Science 8. The instructional pace is slower and students are given more time to process and complete assignments. A small ratio of students to two teachers will be used along with teaching techniques and accommodations to try to bring students skills closer to grade level. The pace of the class will be adjusted to ensure student understanding. This class includes a co-teacher and placement is determined by Individualized Educational Plan and teacher recommendations.

U.S. HISTORY 8

American History provides the framework for this social studies course. The course examines the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the United States beginning with the Revolutionary War/Confederation Period and traces it through the Reconstruction Period.

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UPWARD BOUND U.S.HISTORY 8

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GRADE 8 EXPLORATORY CLASSES

SYMPHONIC BAND

This band provides 8th graders with an opportunity to study and perform a wide variety of music. The focus is the continued development on a student's chosen instrument, emphasizing extended range, increased rhythmic complexity, and technical skills. Members are expected to show dedication to the group and to practice regularly. Private lessons are highly recommended. Members are required to attend all performances, festivals and extra rehearsals that may be necessary. Students are expected to have had at least two years of band instruction and be highly skilled for their age on their instrument. Admission to this class is based on completing the pre-requisites of Beginning Band and Concert Band.

CHOIR 8

Eighth Grade Choir is for the person who would like to continue growing in their singing skills. This choir will perform a variety of musical styles in 3-5 part music. They will also learn how to sight-read 3 part music at an intermediate to advanced levels. During the course of each term the choir will take a field trip to perform a concert. These performances are required to receive credit for the class. Eighth graders are eligible to participate in private voice lessons and perform at Solo and Ensemble Festival. They are also able to audition for one of many choir scholarships to summer music camps like Interlochen and Blue Lake. Singers in choir also have the option of attending our field trips to see a Broadway Musical and go on an 'end-of-the-year' trip to Cedar Point.

ESCHOIR (7th and 8th grade bass clef singers)

ESCHOIR stands for Eighth—Seventh—CHOIR. It is the chorus comprised of 7th and 8th grade singers whose vocal range is in the bass clef or will transition to bass clef. One of the first things we will learn is how to tie a proper knot for our black tie uniform. This choir will perform a variety of musical styles in unison to 4-part music. They will also learn how to sight-read 3 part music at an intermediate level. During the course of each term the choir will take a field trip to perform a concert. These performances are required to receive credit for the class. ESCHOIR singers are eligible to participate in private voice lessons and perform at Solo and Ensemble Festival. They are also able to audition for one of many choir scholarships to summer music camps like Interlochen and Blue Lake. Singers in choir also have the option of attending our field trips to see a Broadway Musical and go on an 'end-of-the-year' trip to Cedar Point.

NOTE – Singers in ANY choir may also audition for the Northwest Middle School Honors Choir—an extra-curricular choir for highly motivated and talented students. This choir meets one day a week after school. 6-10 Singers from Honors Choir will be selected to audition for State Honors Choir.

SPANISH I

This 8th grade class, for high school credit, corresponds to high school Spanish I A&B. This year-long class emphasizes the development of fluency in the language especially in the understanding, speaking, reading, and writing using the Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling. Cultural topics are presented and reviewed. Criteria for success includes: positive attitude, active participation in classroom activities, and a sincere effort made to use the target language in the classroom.)

FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE 8

This course allows students to further develop essential skills and knowledge learned previously as well as exploring other subject matter. Emphasis is in two areas of study: Food/Nutrition and Child development/Pre-Parenthood. Students will analyze their diet and relate the information to dietary guidelines. Food prepared in class will relate to nutritional needs for a healthy body. In Child Development, students will experience working with young children, examine babysitting/caregiver responsibilities, use the infant simulator and analyze a nurturing environment.

HEALTHY LIVING

The objective of this course is to provide students an opportunity to examine their basic knowledge of healthy living. A major goal is for each student to take personal responsibility for their health and well being while attempting to make positive lifestyle changes. Learning activities are related to nutrition and food preparation as well as healthy choices, substance abuse prevention, building healthy relationships, family life and human sexuality, personal safety, anger management and violence prevention, and fitness. This is a state required course that is combined with 7th grade students.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING 8

This course will introduce Middle School students to the Career Pathway of Manufacturing and Engineering and Skilled Trades. The purpose of this course is to ignite interest in manufacturing and engineering careers in middle school students by allowing students to design, innovate, build and potentially market a product from beginning to end. The students will learn to use a Laser Engraver, CNC mill, 3D Printer, Welder and other machinery to create and design their products. Northwest Community Schools will partner with Jackson Area Manufacturing Association, Shop Rats, and local Manufacturing businesses, Jackson Area Career Center, Baker College and Jackson College.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

Physical education class will be a combination of fitness and sports. During each trimester you will learn skills and rules for a variety of sports. Along with sports you will also be involved in a variety of physical activities to help you become more physically fit.

WEIGHTLIFTING

Weightlifting is a non-impact conditioning course designed to enhance muscular fitness (muscular endurance and muscular strength), balance, and improve body composition by sculpting and defining muscles through the use of resistance equipment, core training, calisthenics, and flexibility exercises.

Cinematic Stories 8

In Cinematic Stories students will learn the history of film. Students will learn the following: Filmmakers' Terminology, The Talkies, The Golden Age of Hollywood and much more. Students will learn material in slides presentation format and have access to these slides during formative and summative assessments. When the work piece is finished, students enjoy relaxing and viewing some PG movies from a variety of genres.

YEARBOOK

The yearbook course has been designed to provide students with the journalism skills and the ability to apply those skills to the actual production of the yearbook. Units of study include teamwork, responsibility, brainstorming, content, coverage, concept, reporting, writing, headlines, captions, editing, photography, typography, design, graphics, finances, yearbook campaigns, advertising and distribution.

CAREER EXPLORATION

This program has been re-envisioned to introduce learners to possible career pathways and begin to uncover those interests and skills that may inform decisions about future careers and jobs; including high school course selection, CTE program enrollment, and transferable skill development. The experiences are designed with and for learners to leverage current and emerging technologies that further enhance the 21st century skills of research, information fluency, communication, collaboration, critical and creative thinking.

DIRECTED STUDY

Directed Study focuses on study skills/test taking skills and learning strategies, math remediation, and homework support. Technology used in this class includes Study Island and Math Facts in a Flash. Grades are based on daily student performance and completion of assignments. *This is not an elective class; students are placed in this course.*

ART 8

Come to Art and learn how to create watercolor landscapes. In this class there is the possibility to experience making masks using plaster and decorating them using different styles and techniques from around the world.

Advanced Art 8

This is an advanced class for highly motivated students. Students will explore more sophisticated drawing and painting techniques. Using a variety of media and methods. Students will engage in long term assignments that will further strengthen their advanced skills and techniques.

COMPUTER SCIENCE 8

The course teaches a wide range of computer science and STEM concepts by covering topics such as programming, 3D printing, design, and engineering. Students engage with computer science and STEM as a medium for creativity, communication, problem-solving, and entertainment. They choose who they work with and whether they work alone or collaboratively. This choice and interest-centered environment help all students find Challenges to inspire learning and engagement.

Minecraft 8

Minecraft Coding is a trimester long course where students will learn the basics of coding using the MakeCode for Minecraft editor. MakeCode allows coding with visual blocks, based on a drag and drop interface for beginners, as well as in text with a JavaScript interface for the more experienced learners. Coding with blocks or text, MakeCode teaches the 101 of programming languages, including variables, control flow, if statements, loops and functions. More advanced users smoothly ramp up to more complex concepts such as recursion, fractals and object oriented or distributed programming. Along with coding concepts students will also be exposed to the engineering design process. During this unit students will use an industry/manufacturing standard Computer Aided Design (CAD) software called SolidWorks. To teach this software students will design a keychain that they then will 3D print when it is completed. This course is perfect for any student that enjoys playing Minecraft but also would like to learn basic programming language and principles along with problem solving, and teamwork skills while at the same time having fun doing it since the course is such a hands-on experience.