

# RYAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Parent Handbook





Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

## PUBLIC NOTICE



The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, creed, sex, age, national origin, physical or mental disability, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, sexual orientation, gender identity or veteran status or any other basis of discrimination prohibited by local, state, or Federal law.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in the educational programs or activities which it operates.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District does not discriminate on the basis of disability in violation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This includes admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, services, and activities.

Individuals requiring further information should contact the designated compliance director:

Mr. David Rucker  
Employment and Educational Opportunity Officer  
520 Fifth Avenue  
3rd Floor, Suite A  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 452-2000 ext. 11488  
Fax (907) 451-6008  
[eeo@k12northstar.org](mailto:eeo@k12northstar.org)

# Principal's Welcome

Welcome to Ryan Middle School!

The faculty and staff place a strong emphasis on not only providing students with the tools needed to reach their full potential, but also on creating a safe, nurturing environment that encourages creativity and a desire to learn.

This year Ryan Middle School will be receiving Title I funds. Title I provides supplemental federal funding to schools to support student learning. Funding is based on the percentage of students that qualify for free/reduced lunch. The additional funds help us to provide increased family involvement opportunities, additional professional development and supplemental academic support for our students.

It is important to get involved! We have sports, clubs and student leadership opportunities for students to get connected. It's a fact that students who are involved in activities in school get better grades and have a reduced risk of dropping out.

Students, staff and parents all share in the responsibility of learning and we believe that it is best achieved when we all work together, communicate openly and each do our part in achieving the goals of education. We are privileged to serve Ryan Middle School students and look forward to an AMAZING year.

Go Wolverines!

Sincerely,

*Neather Stewart*

## Ryan Middle School

Students, parents, and staff all share responsibility for student learning. By reviewing together this compact of shared responsibilities we can better understand how everyone contributes to a student's success.

### Positive Social Environment & Life Skills

#### Student: I will....

- Follow my school's code of conduct
- Learn from my mistakes and try again
- Treat staff, parents, other students and visitors with respect
- Take responsibility for my behavior
- Talk to a trusted adult when I see bullying, harassment or unsafe behavior
- Use technology appropriately and abide by the Acceptable Use Policy

#### Parent/Guardian: I/We will...

- Make sure my child is appropriately dressed and has had adequate sleep, physical activity, and nutrition
- Balance screen time with other positive uses of my child's time outside of school
- Support my child's development of life skills such as demonstrating respect and problem solving
- Review and understand the Technology Acceptable Use Policy
- Communicate a positive attitude towards school and learning

#### School Staff: I/We will...

- Provide a learning environment where everyone feels welcome and belongs
- Provide a safe learning environment
- Value and demonstrate respect for diversity
- Support students' social and emotional needs
- Clearly articulate behavior expectations and provide support when needed
- Regularly communicate digital citizenship expectations

### Learning & Academic Success

#### Student: I will....

- Participate fully in classroom activities
- Complete my classroom assignments on time
- Ask for help when I don't understand
- Complete homework and turn it in on time
- Take responsibility for my own learning
- Read every day outside of school time

#### Parent/Guardian: I/We will...

- Support excellent attendance
- Provide time and space for daily homework
- Support the completion of school assignments
- Expose my student to real life applications of school learning (current events, budgets)
- Stay up-to-date about my student's education and academic progress using PowerSchool, email and/or text messages

#### School Staff: I/We will...

- Set clear expectations and high standards for what students will learn
- Incorporate current research into my daily practices
- Provide instruction based on the Alaska State Standards, the district curriculum and students' personal needs
- Personalize learning to meet individual student needs
- Embed technology resources to maximize personalization and learning options

### School Engagement

#### Student: I will....

- Talk to my family about what I learned at school that day
- Attend and participate in school-based family activities whenever possible
- Give my parents/guardians all of the notices, flyers or any other information I get at school
- Show my parents/guardians my grades and assignments on PowerSchool
- Talk to my teacher about late or missing assignments

#### Parent/Guardian: I/We will...

- Participate in parent-teacher conferences
- Contact school staff as needed
- Stay informed about the school and school activities through newsletters, email, websites, social media
- Respond to surveys and return input forms
- Attend school activities such as family events whenever possible
- Volunteer or contribute time to activities at the school if possible
- Attend meetings to discuss plans and make decisions about my student's education
- Serve on school or district level parent advisory groups whenever possible

#### School Staff: I/We will...

- Update PowerSchool regularly and help parents understand how to use it
- Ensure parents know how to retrieve and review Report Cards and State and local assessments (FEAKS and MAP)
- Provide opportunities for parents to participate at the school: Helping with classroom projects; chaperoning field trips; observing or volunteering in the classroom
- Plan school-based family activities with parent input
- Host parent meetings to explain the Title I Schoolwide Plan
- Be available to consult with parents by phone, email and in-person by appointment

# Ryan Middle School Mission

The mission of Ryan Middle School, an innovative and richly diverse community, is to inspire a love of learning, equip students with the knowledge and skills to succeed, and respond to the unique developmental and cultural needs of young adults through the collaboration of competent staff, able students and a caring community in a safe environment.





# Things to Know About Ryan Middle School

## Building Hours

School Hours  
9:30 am - 4:00 pm  
Office Hours 8:30 am - 4:30 pm



- Students may enter the supervised building at 9:10 am and go to the Commons
- The doors will open at 8:45 am when the weather is 20 degrees or colder
- Students are expected to leave the building no later than 4:10 pm unless participating in a supervised school activity
- Students NOT participating in a school activity will need to wait quietly in the breezeway for their ride after 4:10 pm

## Attendance

Attendance Secretary, 452-4751 x 13502

### **G**ood attendance

Is important to a student's success at Ryan Middle School. Students are required, by Alaska law, to attend school punctually and regularly. An accurate record is kept of all absences and tardies. If a student is more than ten minutes late to a class the student is considered absent, as stated in District policy 1031.2.

### **A**bsence from School *Not going to be here today?*

Parents/guardians are requested to telephone the school at 452-4751 between 8:30 and 11:30 am. If the parent/guardian is unable to call, the student should bring a signed note from home the day of his/her return, listing the full name of student, date of absence and reason for absence.

**Parents/guardians must notify the school within two (2) school days if a student's absence has parental consent.**

### **H**omework Request *Need your missing work?*

In case a student is absent three or more days, parents/guardians may request student assignments through the office. **Teachers have 24 hours to compile and bring homework to the office for parental pick up.**

### **P**re-arranged Absence

A Pre-arranged Absence Form, available from the front office, must be used for absences of more than 2 consecutive days. Students should have their parent and each teacher sign the form and then return the form to the office prior to the start of the absence. A copy will be given to the student. This form is available on the Ryan webpage at <http://ryn.k12northstar.org>

**Absences longer than 10 consecutive days will result in the student being withdrawn from Ryan Middle School. Parents will need to re-enroll students upon return as per School Board Policy 1031.**

## **L** eaving School

Once on the school campus, students are not allowed to leave the campus/building without being signed out at the office by a parent or guardian. Students should come to the office in the morning with a parent signed note stating the pick up time. Parents are welcome to call the office to request an "Off Campus Pass". Students will be issued an "Off Campus Pass". It is the student's responsibility to show their teacher the pass and report to the office at the time stated on the pass. **Parents/guardians must come into the building and show picture ID to sign students out.** Students must sign out at the office before leaving and sign back in upon return. We strongly recommend that appointments be made outside the student-teacher contact day, but we understand that this is not always possible.

## **T** ardy to Class

Students are expected to be in class on time and should understand that tardies are disruptive to the class and to their own learning experience.

**A tardy of more than 10 minutes is considered an absence.**

## **T** ardy to School

If a student is late for school he/she must report to the office to sign in before going to class. **In order for the tardy to be excused the student MUST have a note or phone call from the parent/guardian excusing the tardy.**



## **T** ruancy

Multiple unexcused absences and tardies violate Alaska State Law and can be categorized as truancy. Skipping school and/or a class is considered truancy. School staff will contact families and the students may be referred to the counselor for additional follow-up and support. Students may be assigned to the Intervention Room for skipping school/class for individual assistance and monitoring.



## **BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROGRAM**

**R**yan has an excellent and varied breakfast & lunch program offering meals that allow the students to select from a variety of hot and cold entrees, which includes: salad, french-fries, milk and fruit. Each student has a computerized lunchroom account. Lunches can be prepaid or purchased on a daily basis. Forms for free or reduced priced lunches are available online and in the administrative office; you must reapply for this program every year. Students on a free or reduced priced lunch are able to continue for 30 days into the following school year so that new paperwork can be processed. The school menu is posted in the school, online and available in the office.



# Counseling & Guidance

452-4751 x option 2

There is one counselor for 7th grade and one for 8th grade. A student can make an appointment to see a counselor before school, between classes or can request permission from his/her teacher to see the counselor or make an appointment.

Counselors can assist students with scheduling, grades, homework help, problems with peers, concerns about school, career questions or any other issues.

## **C**lass Concern Policy

If there is a concern about one of the student's classes or teachers, the following steps can be taken:

- Contact the teacher
- Contact the counselor and make an appointment to meet with the teacher and counselor
- Make an appointment to meet with the principal
- A parent, teacher, student, counselor, principal conference can be arranged

Mr. Merritt Counselor x13526

Ms. Luther Counselor x13525



## Student Assistance Program

Mrs. Piek 452-4751 x13530

**The Student Assistance Program (SAP)** is part of the Safe and Drug Free Schools and is designed to help students be successful in school. The goals of the SAP are to provide prevention, identification, intervention and support for students and their families struggling with issues of substance abuse, violence, truancy and achievement.

### **Student Assistance Program**

- \*Conflict Resolution/Mediation Services
- \*Substance Abuse Counseling
- \*Behavioral Intervention
- \*Catch-Up Club Academic Support
- \*Positive Alternatives to School Suspension (PASS)

### **Student Leadership Program**

- \*Peer Mediation Certification (MeD8)
- \*Student 2 Student Ambassadors (S2S)
- \*Teens Against Nicotine Use (TANU)
- \*Peers Against Destructive Decisions (PADD)
- \*Students Making a Right Turn (SMART)

## Social Services Manager

Ms. Kraus 452-4751 x13518

**S**ocial Services Managers (SSMs) support students and families who experience barriers to school success. SSMs strive to connect home, school, and community resources. They serve students and their families to improve educational, social and vocational outcomes.

**S**SMs promote school stability and success through partnerships with educators, families, students, and communities. They collaborate with schools and families to identify the students' needs, develop strategic interventions and implement plans to enhance social emotional wellbeing and improve academic performance.

# Health Services

## Nurse's Office 452-4751 option 3



**S**tudents are allowed to see the nurse only with a signed pass from their teacher or a lunchroom pass. Emergencies are handled as they occur.

**A**ll medication, whether prescription or over the counter, which is to be taken during school hours or other school sponsored activities, must be left in the nurse's office. **All prescription medication must be brought in by a parent/guardian in the labeled bottle with the name of the student, doctor, medication, dosage and frequency. No student should call home to be picked up for health related reasons without checking with the nurse first.** Parents, please inform the school nurse of all current or ongoing medical concerns so that we may better serve your student's needs.

**A**ll students will be expected to participate in health programs sponsored by the school district unless special arrangements are made with the principal.

## Special Programs

**T**o meet a wide range of individual needs, various programs are available at Ryan. The teachers and specialists of these programs provide assistance in the areas of environmental adaptations, supplemental materials and/or instructional modifications. Ryan has a continuum of services available for students with special needs. The goal of the educational services provided at Ryan is to involve the home, school and other appropriate agencies in creating a successful program for each student.

### ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM (ANE)

**S**tudents of American Indian or Alaska Native descent qualify for this program. The ANE gram provides students with academic and personal support and also acts as a liaison between students, parents, school and community resource or support services.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

**C**lasses are available for those students who qualify for and require help with the English language. The type of assistance needed is determined by the language needs of the students.

### EXTENDED LEARNING PROGRAM

**T**his program was developed to provide the necessary challenge, both within the core subject classroom and in an ELP room setting. This program is designed for above-average students. The specific activities in which they will be involved are determined by the student profile of abilities, achievements, needs and interests. One of the program goals is to ensure that our brightest students are motivated, interested and encouraged to work at a level that will challenge and stimulate them.

### MIGRANT EDUCATION SERVICES

**T**he Migrant Education Program is a Title I Supplemental program designed to meet the unique needs of students whose seasonal relocations may disrupt their educational opportunities. A migrant eligible child is one who has traveled with his/her family within in the past three years to conduct subsistence activities.

### SPECIAL RESOURCES

**R**yan's special education services emphasize meeting each student's individual needs in the least restrictive environment. Please contact your student's case manager or counselor with questions about special education services or specific course schedules.

# Student Behavior and Responsibilities

**R**yan Middle School strives to provide a positive environment for the personal, social, emotional and intellectual development of all students. Students are expected to comply with school expectations as outlined in the policies of this Student Handbook and the District's Student Rights, Responsibilities and Behavioral Consequences Handbook.

**R**yan Middle School utilizes **CHAMPS, A Proactive & Positive Approach to Classroom Management**, as our framework for student behavioral expectations. The CHAMPS acronym will identify for students the behavioral expectations in the classroom, common areas and during transitions. One goal of using the CHAMPS model is to prevent misbehavior and encourage responsible behavior by teaching students the expectations for the environment in which they are interacting.

## **S**chool Board Policy 1042.1 states:

Each pupil is under the control and direction of the principal or teacher in charge of the school and is subject to district and school policy, regulations and rules: while being transported to or from school, waiting at the bus stop, while attending school, on school premises and at any school sponsored activity.

**M**ost discipline in a school is handled in classes, hallways and general areas with friendly reminders and discussions. When behavior escalates, Ryan Middle School teachers follow the **Classroom Step Plan** which includes the following hierarchy of consequences:

- **Warning**
- **Lunch Detention**
- **After School Detention and phone call home**
- **Required parent conference**
- **In-school intervention, Saturday School and out of school suspension**

In cases where severe behavior issues occur, consequences will start at a higher level on the hierarchy.

**D**iscipline procedures are outlined in the **Students Rights and Responsibilities and Behavioral Consequences Handbook** and will be followed.

**T**he following are the guidelines for detention and in-school intervention:

### • **Lunch Detention**

Lunch detention can be assigned by a staff member or administrator and is held in the Intervention Room. If a student is assigned lunch detention, he/she reports directly to the Intervention Room with their lunch.

### • **After School Detention**

After school detention is held from 4:10-5:00 pm and can be assigned by a staff member or administrator. Students must be on time and bring schoolwork to do while serving detention. Parents or guardians are responsible for providing transportation if after school detention is assigned. A parent or guardian can re-schedule an after school detention by calling the assistant principal at 452-4751 x13511.

### • **Saturday School**

Saturday school will be held when required and will be from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Students should be dropped off and picked up from the main entrance to the building.

### • **In-school Intervention**

The Intervention Room assignment is an alternative to out of school suspension at the administrator's discretion. Students assigned to the Intervention Room should come prepared with schoolwork and materials. Teachers will provide assignments during Intervention Room time and credit will be received for work completed. If a student needs to attend class while in the Intervention Room, teachers request that the student be escorted to class. Students will be informed of the Intervention Room rules and those who cannot abide by those rules may serve an additional day and/or will serve the remainder of their consequence in out of school suspension.

### • **Out of School Suspension**

Used as a last resort or when safety or learning of student or others is impacted.

**S**tudent misconduct that occurs off school property or outside the school day, may be subject to school disciplinary action provided that the misconduct is shown to be related to the school's order. Such determination will be made by the building principal or designee.

## School Safety

Students have a responsibility to report unsafe situations to an adult. **Anything reported will be treated with extreme confidentiality and the student's identity will not be revealed.**



### **S**chool Security Videos

In order to promote safety for students, staff and visitors, to deter criminal activity on school campus and to protect school property, school security cameras are utilized. Video cameras will be used in non-private areas of the school as part of the overall school safety plan to improve the supervision of the school facilities and to create a record of all conduct at certain locations.

## Closed Campus Policy

**R**yan Middle School is a closed campus. Students are not allowed to leave without being signed out by a parent/guardian. Students who are attending school sponsored activities and sporting events should remain on campus until the activity is over. This includes leaving campus and coming back during the activity.

## Bullying Behavior



**I**ntimidating Behavior/Bullying Behavior is defined as intentional and generally unprovoked attempts by one or more individuals to inflict physical harm or emotional distress upon another person or group. Parents are encouraged to review the District's Student Rights, Responsibilities and Behavioral Consequences Handbook with their child, as the consequences for this offense are stern. Reference School Board Policy & Admin. Reg 1048.2

## Harassment

**H**arassment is taken very seriously at Ryan Middle School. There are generally four types of harassment to be aware of: physical, sexual, verbal, and cyber harassment. Any forms of harassment should be reported to the office, a teacher, or a counselor immediately.



# Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco Violations

**S**tudents and parents will be expected to familiarize themselves with the FNSBSD's policies on drug/alcohol and tobacco, which are located in the District's Student Rights, Responsibilities and Behavioral Consequences Handbook. Please note that this also includes possession of prescription or over the counter medications, unless they are given to the nurse to administer.

**S**tudents who are in violation of the above policy will be required to work with the school's Prevention Intervention Specialist in a one on one setting to develop refusal skills, positive social skills and alternative behavioral choices.

## Zero Tolerance

**R**yan Middle School adheres to the District's zero tolerance policies for illegal substances, weapons and sexual, religious and racial harassment. Language and symbols which disparage any person, culture or belief or which are sexual, violent or offensive in a public school setting are not permitted. Ryan Middle School staff and students will set the highest example of courtesy, civility and self-control at all times. All students and parents/guardians are required to be familiar with the District policies listed in this Parent and Student Handbook and the policies of the FNSBSD's Student Rights, Responsibilities and Behavioral Consequences handbook that will be given to students.

## Reporting

**R**yan Middle School is a community and we expect that our staff and students work to take care of each other. When you see someone being unsafe please report that to a teacher, counselor, administrator and/or your parents. We can not keep students and staff safe if we don't know that something is going on. Students or parents can fill out a report form, call the office, send an email or talk to a trusted adult. **ALL reports are kept confidential.**



**See Something = Say Something**  
Tell a Trusted Adult





## Cell Phones, I-pods, Cameras & Other Electronics

**C**ell phones, I-pods, cameras, Kindles and other electronic devices are not allowed at school. If students bring them to school they should be turned off upon entering the building. They must be **OFF** and **IN** the students' lockers during the school day. The school day is from 9:20am-4:00pm. **Any of these devices found not in a locker during the school day will be confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian.**

**L**aser pens are not allowed at school at any time and will be confiscated.

**S**tudents are discouraged from bringing the above items, and must understand that the school is not responsible for damage or theft. If a student's electronic devices are confiscated 3 or more times, disciplinary action may occur.



**The rule is:  
"Off and In your Locker"**

# Academic Eligibility for Sports and Activities

**clubs** Academic eligibility for middle school students shall be based on grade checks at the quarter and mid-quarter.

## **Activities/Athletics**

Each year individual staff members sponsor a wide variety of sports, clubs and cultural events. These vary from year to year according to the interests and availability of sponsors. Students are encouraged to participate in or attend school-sponsored activities.

All students participating in activities need to have a **Parental Consent Form** on file with the administration. Students participating in athletics must also have a **Sports Physical and Concussion form** on file with the administration before they try out for the sport. Physicals are good for 18 months.

The following activities/clubs and sports are currently on the approved list for sponsorship at Ryan Middle School.

Basketball (Boys & Girls)	Soccer Club
Track and Field	Speech
Cross-country Running	Spelling Bee
MathCounts	Student Council
Geography Bee	Card Club
Volleyball (Boys & Girls)	Wrestling
Chess Club	Yearbook
Drama	



**Sports**

## Eligibility

"To be eligible for participation in an extracurricular activity for which the district provides a sponsor, a student in grades 7-12 must be taking five classes and have a 2.0 grade point average with no more than one "F" for the prior grading period at the end of the first and third quarter and each semester."

VISIT RYAN'S WEBPAGE  
<http://ryn.k12northstar.org>

- Sports schedules
  - Consent forms
  - Concussion information
- Look for us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

# Middle School Required Classes

## Health & Physical Education Required 7th & 8th Grade

### Integrated Health & Physical Education

**Fee: Required T-Shirt \$10.00**

**Optional Sweatpants/Shorts \$20.00**

Integrates health and physical education objectives to emphasize the essential relationship between physical, intellectual, social, and emotional health. It focuses on the acquisition of accurate health information and the ability to make healthy decisions while learning how to become healthy, active individuals through participation in a variety of physical activities.

## 7th Grade Required Classes

### English 7

Emphasizes both the critical exploration of literature and the writing process. Students read a variety of genres and utilize basic literary terms and forms as basis for discussion, writing topics, and models. As readers respond to literature, they measure their own experiences against those of others, connecting literature to real life, other texts, and media. Students write for a variety of purposes and audiences, and conventions of good writing (such as grammar, vocabulary, spelling, sentence, and paragraph structures) are studied and applied.

### Math 7

Provides students with a solid foundation in mathematics through a broad study of numbers and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, statistics, and probability. By concentrating on computational accuracy and efficiency, students will be able to solve problems by manipulating fractions, decimals, and percentages. Students will be able to select and use appropriate units of measurement and apply basic geometric concepts. All topics will require mathematical reasoning and communication.

### Advanced Math 7

Will continue to build on Advanced 6th Grade Math, demanding a faster pace for instruction and learning. Advanced 7th Grade Math will focus on the real number system, linear expressions and equations, systems of equations, functions, drawing statistical inferences, and two- and three-dimensional shapes and figures.

### Science 7

Is an introductory course designed to expand 7th grade students' understanding of the natural world by focusing on the characteristics of living things, cellular organization, the diversity of life, how organisms and populations change over time in terms of biological adaptation, heredity and genetics, evolution, natural selection and changes over time in Earth's history.

### Social Studies 7: Geography and Area Studies

This year-long global geography course combines the physical, economic, political and social aspects of geography. The course will help develop students' skills as geographers by using an inquiry-based approach to learning about human-environment interaction and how this has changed over time. Through geographic inquiry, students are provided opportunities to collect information and consider a range of viewpoints about human-environment interaction relationships and then synthesize this information to construct their own understanding.

## 8th Grade Required Classes

### English 8

Emphasizes both the writing process and the critical exploration of literature. Students read a variety of genres and utilize basic literary terms and forms as basis for discussion, writing topics, and models. Students write for a variety of purposes and audiences, and conventions of good writing (such as grammar, vocabulary, spelling, sentence, and paragraph structures) are studied and applied.

### Math 8

Is an in-depth study of mathematical concepts, with an emphasis on practical application, problem solving, and mathematical communication. Students will be provided the foundation to be successful in high school mathematics courses by studying numbers and operations, algebra, geometry, measurements, statistics and probabilities.

### Algebra 1

Algebra I thoroughly covers linear functions, linear inequalities, concept of functions, real numbers, manipulating algebraic symbols, and solving real world problems using algebraic expressions and equations. The topics of probability, statistics, trigonometry, quadratic equations, factoring, graphing quadratic functions, and the coordinate grid system will be incorporated. Technology is incorporated as appropriate during the course.

### Science 8

Is designed to expand student investigation of physics and chemistry. Aspects of physics are studied through laboratory investigations including sound, light, electricity, mechanics, motion, and energy. Aspects of chemistry are studied based on the Periodic Table of the Elements and through basic chemical laboratory investigations. Laboratory work, laboratory reporting, and engineering design will be included and is an integral part of the learning process.

### Social Studies 8: Early U.S. History

This year-long course will focus on foundations of United States history from pre-colonization to settlement, into the revolution and creation of our nation, westward expansion/reform and ultimately leading through the Civil War. Students will begin critically thinking as historians by developing research skills and evaluating primary and secondary sources. This course will explore the integration of historical periods and lay a foundation to build on into their high school years. Additionally, students will apply the Alaska Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies through the completion of a research project using both primary and secondary sources.



# Elective & Connection Class Descriptions

Elective & Connections classes are designed to provide enrichment, interest and intervention. Our goal is for Ryan students to develop skills that prepare them not only for high school but also for their post secondary careers.

## Archery

Learn proper techniques with bows and arrows, improve your accuracy and compare your shooting skills with others, as well as your own past performance.

## Art Special Topics

### Fee: \$15.00

Exploring Art is a survey of art experiences designed for seventh graders. Students experiment with a variety of techniques and materials that may include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, weaving, pottery, digital photography, videography, and portfolio development. They also study artists and their work, learn to make judgments about art, and consider different theories and purposes of art.

## Band {Band teacher will determine placement of students}

### Fee: \$15.00

Varsity Band is designed for those students who are not ready for the advanced class but are past the beginning stage. Students will spend time on technical exercises as well as appropriate level music, in preparing students for the next level of instruction. This is a progressive skills class which may be repeated for credit. Concert Band is designed for the more advanced band student. Students will spend time on technical exercises and appropriate level band literature. This group is a performance ensemble and represents its school at public functions, athletic events, and evening performances. This is a progressive skills class which may be repeated for credit.

## Choir

Choir is open to all students who like to sing, play instruments, do choreography (movement), have fun, and work hard. Students will reinforce and expand their knowledge of the following music concepts: dynamics, melody, harmony, texture, rhythm, tempo, timbre (tone color), and form. Choir students will receive instruction in music reading fundamentals, singing skills, performance skills, and various choral literature styles. The choir will have several concerts throughout the year.

## Coding

"Coding is Everywhere": From your favorite games to your interactive toys, coding is everywhere! In this class, you'll learn at your own pace as you gain valuable skills in animation, block-coding, game-design and programming for robots. We even tinker in Tynker to design 3-D objects that we can print.

## **Computer Applications**

### **Fee \$10.00**

Exploring Computer Applications will focus on learning advanced computer application skills and tools. Keyboarding, Internet safety, and ethical computer use, including copyright laws, will also be components of this class. Students will learn and expand on practical uses for applications, which may include the Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office Suite, and the iLife Suite. Students will use web-based applications and learn how to responsibly and ethically interact in the web-based world through blogs and online collaborative tools, such as Google Docs.

## **Extended Learning Program (ELP)**

### **Fee \$10.00**

Students and parents will develop a student-learning plan to help guide the enrichment activities offered in this class.

## **E-Sports**

Do you think playing video games is about sitting in a room by yourself? Do you think the only skill it teaches is how to level up? Think again! Esports is the fastest growing sport in the country. In E-sports class you will learn skills like conceptual thinking (strategizing), teamwork, sportsmanship, and develop leadership skills. You don't need to be a gamer to join the class. We are looking for team managers, tournament organizers, color commentators, and those just interested in checking out this phenomenon. If you take the esports class, we expect you to come in with an open mind and be ready to learn multiple games, work with a wide variety of people, and be prepared to step out of your gaming comfort zone.

## **Family Consumer Science**

### **Fee: \$15.00**

Students explore and practice basic life skills in the areas of personal health, safety, nutrition and basic food preparation techniques. Topics may include careers, following recipe instructions, food preparation techniques, food pyramid, kitchen equipment, kitchen safety & sanitation and time management.

## **Fitness for Health**

Students also learn to make knowledgeable personal choices toward becoming healthy, active individuals. Students will participate in a variety of games and other fitness activities such as weightlifting.

## **I-LIFE**

This class will explore the newest features in the areas of digital video, digital photography and digital sound. Focusing on Apple's popular and easy-to-use Applications iMovie, iPhoto, and Garageband students will use their creative skills to make movies, songs, podcasts, and photographic projects.

## **Jazz Band**

This class will give students an opportunity to experience different styles of music literature and the creative process unique to jazz. Students will be required to be in Varsity or Concert Band unless they play instruments not commonly found in these ensembles, or with the permission of the instructor.

## **Journalism and Publications**

Explore the world of news! Learn about newspaper publishing, interviewing skills, and article writing. At the end of the quarter, create your very own newsletter for Ryan Middle School, capturing noteworthy news you and your classmates would like to share with your fellow students and the faculty.

## **Literature in Media**

This class will focus on the question: "What is Literature?" To answer this, we will examine non-traditional forms of storytelling. We will examine media such as anime, comic books, video games, radio, the oral traditions and much more! Students will be asked to discuss these stories in detail and examine how literary elements are represented in them.

## **"Mythbusters" (3rd Quarter Only) Science Fair Projects**

Who's the bathroom is the dirtiest boys or girls? What's the best way to train your dog? Can people really tell gummy bear flavors apart when blindfolded? Let your curiosity be your guide as you design experiments and find the answers yourself. Our goal is to create a personal project to enter into the Ryan MS Science Fair.

## **Mythology & Folktales**

This class will examine world mythology and folktales as literature. We will look at myths and stories such as Greek and Roman mythology, the Japanese myth "Amaterasu and The Cave," The English Arthurian Legends, Excerpts from the Middle Eastern 1,001 Nights, and many others. Students will be asked to read and discuss on a daily basis.

## **Orchestra {Orchestra teacher will determine placement of students}**

### **Fee \$15.00**

Intermediate Orchestra is for students with one year or less of training or those who are not quite ready for the performing group. Students will spend time on technical exercises, as well as some orchestral literature in preparing the students for the Concert Orchestra. Concert participation may be required as outlined in the grading criteria. Concert Orchestra is the performing group of string players and represents the school at public functions and concerts. Concert participation may be required as outlined in the grading criteria.

## **Photography**

In this class students would learn about manual camera settings and camera basics such as: shutter speed, white balance, composition, exposure, and aperture to create fascinating photos. Students would also dive into editing with Adobe software and learn how to enhance portraits with editing tools. Each week would feature a new artist and photography topic.

## **Sewing**

This class introduces students to the basics of sewing using sewing machines and hand sewing techniques. Throughout the quarter students will learn the essentials of the sewing machine, create a pattern and make a pillow. Students will also explore a variety of choice projects in our sewing workshop to take home and share with others.

## **Social Dance**

Students will learn a variety of ballroom dances such as the foxtrot, waltz, cha-cha and swing. They will learn the basics of leading and following and rotate partners throughout the class. In addition to learning several social dances, the students will learn a routine as a class and have the opportunity to perform in the community.

## **Speech & Drama**

Speech and Drama is a semester course in which students prepare and deliver speeches, explore the history of theater, study parts of the physical theater, and experience the various jobs in producing and performing a play.

## **STEM**

### **Fee \$15.00**

STEM provides students with a broad understanding of STEM and associated careers. This course introduces students to various aspects of science, technology, engineering and math through designing and problem solving activities.

## **Teacher Assistant (TA) 8th Grade Only**

Students will learn practical and significant employment skills. A strong work ethic, self-motivation, maturity, the ability to protect confidential information, and a demonstrated ability to work without constant supervision are needed for these positions. Positions are available in: classrooms, counseling, library and the main office. See the counselors for an application.

## **Toys in Science**

"Build and Test It" Do you like to tinker and build? In this class, we like to design and create new vehicles such as paper airplanes, gliders, mousetrap racecars, and parachutes. Once we build it, we test it to see what it can do and how to make it better.

## **Weight Lifting and Conditioning**

Weight training. Get healthier! Get stronger! Be better in your sport! In weight training you will learn the proper techniques needed to use weight resistance to your advantage.

## **Yoga**

Enjoy yoga in the middle of your busy day! Learn yoga poses for increased strength, balance, flexibility and relaxation.

## **Video Productions 8th Grade Only**

Introduction to Video Production is a semester-long course, which students will work both independently and in groups to learn the skills involved with producing informational videos. Students will learn pre-production skills including topic selection, interviewing, research, using still cameras, video cameras, microphones, and tripods. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the components of video production including set, lighting and sound. Students will use video editing software to create original productions. Students will develop writing and public speaking skills as they produce videos for a variety of audiences. Self-motivation and a willingness to work outside of class are critical skills for students in the class.



## Study Skills and Intervention Classes

### Reading Skills

This class is designed to support students who need additional help in reading comprehension and to address individual needs in reading. Emphasis will be placed on understanding of reading material, strategies to use when reading textbooks and non-fiction material.

### Math Tutorial

This class is designed to support math content as well as to identify and address individual needs in mathematics. Emphasis will be placed on teaching mathematics using different learning styles. Students will concentrate on math facts, operations with fractions and decimals, as well as applying units of measurements. Operations with rational numbers and basic algebraic concepts will also be addressed.

### Study Skills for School Success

Students will learn skills required for success in school: appropriate classroom behavior, organizational skills, specific learning strategies, textbook reference skills, graphics skills and use of classroom materials. Students will learn to organize and prioritize classwork and homework and how to break down long term projects into manageable pieces.





# 2020-2021 Ryan Middle School Elective Request Sheet

SCHOOL

STUDENT NAME

STUDENT S#

**REQUIRED COURSES**

**ENGLISH**

- 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH
- 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH

**MATH**

- 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH
- 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ADVANCED MATH
- 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH
- ALGEBRA I

**SCIENCE**

- 7<sup>TH</sup> Grade- LIFE SCIENCE
- 8<sup>TH</sup> Grade- PHYSICAL SCIENCE

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

- 7<sup>TH</sup> Grade- GEOGRAPHY AND AREA STUDIES
- 8<sup>TH</sup> Grade- EARLY U.S. HISTORY

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH**

Integrated Health & PE\*

If you are a music and ELP student would you be interested in taking ELP & music? YES or NO

**ELECTIVE COURSES**

Choose your top 8 choices for elective classes.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature in Media                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art*                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Myth Busters: Science Fair                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choir                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Mythology and Folktales                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Band (yearlong)                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Orchestra                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coding                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Applications*           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E-Sports                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Dance                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extended Learning Program (ELP)* | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech & Drama                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family & Consumer Science*       | <input type="checkbox"/> STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness for Health               | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Assistant (8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Only)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> i-Life                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Toys In Science                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jazz Band                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Weightlifting/Conditioning                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Journalism & Publication         | <input type="checkbox"/> Yoga  |
| <i>*See Parent Handbook for fees.</i>                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Video Productions (8 <sup>th</sup> Only)        |

**STUDY SKILLS & INTERVENTION**

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Study Skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Math Tutorial  |                                       |

Please note that student schedules may be visible in PowerSchool during the summer, however they will not be finalized until after the first week of school. Our counselors will need time to balance classes and some students' schedules might change as a result. Please be patient as we work to meet the needs of our students.

**NOTE: Courses are subject to change according to budgetary and staffing allocations.**