

USD #232 MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Program Planning And Course Guide



REACH. CHALLENGE. PREPARE.

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Curriculum and Courses

Course Overview		
6th Grade Required Courses	7th Grade Required Courses	8th Grade Required Courses
Pathways 6	Pathways 7	Pathways 8
English Language Arts	English Language Arts	English Language Arts
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
Science	Science	Science
Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies
Physical Education (every other day all year)	Physical Education (every other day all year)	Physical Education (one semester)
Band OR Vocal Music (every other day all year) OR World Music 6 (MTMS and LTMS only)	Band OR Vocal Music OR World Music 7 (every other day all year) OR Theatre Communications 7 (MTMS only)	
Exploratory Courses		
Art	Art	Band (year)
Engineering Technology	Engineering Technology	Vocal Music (semester/year)
Human Services/FACS	Human Services/FACS	Introduction to FACS/Human Services (semester)
World Languages	Exploratory French and Spanish 7	Spanish I (year)
Museum Connections (MTMS only)	Museum Connections (MTMS only)	Beyond Basic French 8 (semester)
Computers	Computers	Beyond Basic Spanish 8 (semester)
		Museum Connections (MTMS only)
		Art (semester)
		Computers (semester)
		Engineering Technology (semester)
		Publications/Yearbook (year)
		Theater Communications 8 (MTMS only)

Considerations for Course Enrollment

- Students attend seven classes daily, with one Academic Extension or Extended learning time. The Academic Extension is used for getting support/assistance from a teacher, small “targeted skill” group instruction, extended learning opportunities, homework, make-up work and more.
- Students’ five core subjects (English Language Arts, Pathways, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies) are taught by a team of teachers who coordinate instruction and routines to address student needs. Students are assigned to grade level teams each school year. Students remain together as a team for their five core subjects.
- Students earn one credit for each year-long class they earn passing grades in both semesters. For passing a semester-long class, they earn .5 credits. Only sixth and seventh graders are offered quarter-long elective courses for which they may earn .25 credit per quarter.

6th Grade Courses

REQUIRED COURSES

PATHWAYS 6

Credit:

Pathways is a cross-curricular course. Students build 21st century skills through critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, communication, and creativity. Themes and subjects explored in this course introduce students to Individual Plans of Study, which allow them an opportunity to explore educational and career paths that align with their interests. According to the Kansas State Department of Education, the Individual Plan of Study "includes development of a flexible career focus and an education plan that is clearly-defined, rigorous, and relevant to assure a successful and efficient transition to postsecondary education and/or the workforce." Additional units of study include self-exploration, project-based learning and use of the Career Cruising program.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Credit: 1

In 6th Grade English Language Arts, students will explore such themes as character and citizenship, conformity and individuality, justice and diversity, as well as investigations and future. During the school year, students will read a variety of texts and genres to enhance and enrich their knowledge while also building comprehension skills. Students will build critical thinking skills through writing, discussions, media clips, and vocabulary acquisition.

MATHEMATICS

Credit: 1

During sixth grade common core math, the students will continue on their journey into becoming college and career ready. This course will incorporate mathematics concepts as well as encouraging literacy and writing. The main components in sixth grade math are proportional reasoning, fractions, percents, decimals, algebraic expressions, algebraic equations, inequalities, integers, coordinate plane, area, third dimension, and data.

SCIENCE

Credit: 1

6th Grade Science is designed to address the Next Generation Science Standards. Throughout this year, students will learn about the scientific method, states of matter, interactions of matter, atoms-elements-compounds, energy, motion, and simple machines.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Credit: 1

The Ancient World History course covers the time period from the birth of the river civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China to the Middle Ages in Europe. Students will examine the impact of geography on the development of civilizations. The course will include a discussion of characteristics of civilizations including the development of agriculture, governments, division of labor, social hierarchies, and culture. Students will focus on causes, effects, and turning points in the rise and fall of various civilizations. They will investigate major religions including Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam and their impact on governments, society, and culture. The course will include an examination of the spread and transformation of culture and ideas across these regions through trade and conquest. Students will draw conclusions about the significance of various civilizations and their connection to events, ideas, and culture today. The course should be rigorous and relevant with instruction that integrates thinking skills, historical processes, and content so that students are able to apply their learning to their own lives. Instruction should include the integration of concepts and principles from history, economics, geography, civics, and the humanities.

6th Grade Courses

REQUIRED COURSES

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Credit: .5

Sixth grade PE meets every other day, all year. Goals are to improve the student's level of physical fitness, to develop good social skills, to learn new skills, to actively participate in a variety of sports and games, to improve the skills the student already possesses, and to share information on a variety of health topics.

VOCAL MUSIC

Credit: .5

6th grade vocal music is a comprehensive performance-based program that meets every other day for the entire school year. Using the voice as a learning tool, we will cover concepts such as rhythm, melody and pitch, as well as the skills of listening to, analyzing, reading and performing choral music. Healthy and proper singing techniques will also be emphasized. Students will be required to perform in 2 evening performances during the school year. There will be specific concert attire suggestions that might require a small fee (t-shirt, black/white apparel, etc.) *

BAND

Credit: .5

Sixth grade Band is a year-long class that meets every other day. Students will continue to build the musical skills necessary to play a band instrument. These include reading and interpreting notes, rhythms, and musical terms, instrument-specific techniques, exploring music history, listening to and evaluating musical performances. The sixth grade band students have a varied number of required performances throughout the year.*

World Music 6

Credit: 1

The 6th grade World Music class is designed to develop an appreciation of all types of music through listening, analyzing, evaluating, and composing skills. The curriculum encourages students to develop an understanding of the elements of music including rhythm, melody, harmony, form, and tone color, while fully engaging students in hands-on activities. Students then showcase their knowledge and skills learned through original, creative projects. Music technology (Garage Band, www.musictheory.net, etc.) is utilized via the student Mac. (MTMS and LTMS ONLY)

*6th grade students take either Band OR Vocal Music, not both.

(OR World Music 6 at MTMS or LTMS)

6th Grade Courses

EXPLORATORY COURSES

ART

Credit: .25

Sixth grade art is a nine-week introductory course that concentrates on exposing students to the Elements of Art: line, value, color, shape, space, texture, and form. Students will experiment using a variety of mediums, some of which are: markers, tempera paints, watercolors, fabrics, pastels, and clay.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Credit: .25

Welcome to the world of avionic engineering! In this course, students will explore the science behind flight by applying the laws of physics. They will also learn to identify the differences in aircraft and their use. Additional topics will also include Newton's Laws of Motion, forces and wind power. Hands-on activities will include building model aircraft such as a hot air balloon, parachute, kite and airplane, and flying an aircraft simulator. All topics incorporate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as well as reading, mathematics, and research. This is a nine week course.

HUMAN SERVICES/FACS

Credit: .25

In this 9-week course, students will focus on developing the skills needed to successfully balance relationships and responsibilities in family, career, and community life. Course units will be focused on: decision-making, time management, consumer skills, how to care for textile products, nutrition and food selection, manners and dining etiquette, basic food safety and preparation techniques. Students will participate in numerous cooking labs as well as complete an introductory-level sewing project.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Credit: .25

This course explores seven major world languages: ASL, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin and Spanish. Students will receive brief exposure to cultural topics, regional maps and vocabulary relating to travel.

MUSEUM CONNECTIONS (MTMS ONLY) Credit: .25

This is a history extension course taught entirely in the Museum Classroom. During this 9 week course, students will design and create their own history textbook, study museum artifacts, watch videos, and create a final exam project to better understand the major cultures studied in their 6th Grade World History classes.

COMPUTERS

Credit: .25

This introductory course focuses on foundational computer skills including but not limited to: keyboarding skills, computer components, and basic use of Microsoft Office programs such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook. Every assignment, project, and activity will focus on 21st Century Skills to help students be successful when using the computer to communicate, collaborate, show creativity and publish learnings.

7th Grade Courses

REQUIRED COURSES

PATHWAYS 7

Credit:

Pathways is a cross-curricular course. Students build 21st century skills through critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, communication, and creativity. Themes and subjects explored in this course introduce students to Individual Plans of Study, which allow them an opportunity to explore educational and career paths that align with their interests. According to the Kansas State Department of Education, the Individual Plan of Study "includes development of a flexible career focus and an education plan that is clearly-defined, rigorous, and relevant to assure a successful and efficient transition to postsecondary education and/or the workforce." Additional units of study include self-exploration, project-based learning and use of the Career Cruising program.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Credit: 1

The learner will understand and interpret information received through reading, understand and apply skills, concepts, rules and spelling of the Standard American English language and its dialects and use appropriate tools of technology that promote learning and aid in the development of skills for lifelong application.

Students will be exposed to a wide variety of genres from various cultures and times by both men and women and will be able to recognize a variety of literary terms and concepts. Students will read and interpret the following forms of written expression: narrative, expository, persuasive, and technical. Students will study literature both from novels and short stories from the Prentice Hall literature book.

SCIENCE

Credit: 1

Seventh grade science is a life science course focusing on living vs. non-living, ecology, scientific process, cells, heredity/genetics, human organs and organ systems, microorganisms, fungi and plants, and environmental science.

MATHEMATICS

Credit: 1

The seventh grade common core creates an integrated approach to mathematics. It includes both the conceptual process of mathematics and the content of math. The conceptual process includes 8 Mathematical Practices such as making sense of real world problems using viable arguments and appropriate tools. The main components in seventh grade math are proportional reasoning, developing number sense, algebraic thinking, geometry, and statistical thinking and probability.

Compacted Math 7 (By invitation only)

The Seventh Grade Compacted Math Course contains the same College and Career Ready Common Core Standards as the non-compacted course. In addition, the course will also include the First Semester College and Career Ready Common Core Standards from the 8th grade math course. This course will only be recommended for those students who have shown through multiple data points and observation the need for acceleration.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Credit: 1

The geography course in the seventh grade will familiarize students with their world using the essential elements and geography themes. Students will develop knowledge about location, place, human environment interaction, movement and regions. The course will compare and contrast these themes across all continents. This course will integrate historical thinking skills, historical processes and content so student can apply their learning to their own lives. Students will be able to apply their knowledge to their community, state, nation, world and themselves. Instruction will also integrate concepts and ideas from history, economics, geography, civics and the humanities.

The Kansas History course begins with a study of native inhabitants of the land that was to become Kansas. Students will analyze major events, individuals, groups, innovations, and movements from pre-historic days to the present. It will build a connection or relationship between the student and the state. Just like the geography course, this will integrate thinking skills, historical processes and content so the students can apply their learning to their own lives.

7th Grade Courses

REQUIRED COURSES

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Credit: .5

Seventh grade PE meets every other day, all year. Goals are to improve the student's level of physical fitness, to develop good social skills, to learn new skills, to actively participate in a variety of sports and games, to improve the skills the student already possesses, and to share information on a variety of health topics.

BAND

Credit: .5

Seventh grade Band is a year-long class that meets every other day and is a continuation of the band curriculum begun in 5th grade. Students will continue to build and master the musical skills necessary to play an instrument. These include reading and interpreting notes, rhythms, and musical terms, instrument-specific techniques, exploring music history, listening to and evaluating musical performances.

7th Grade Band students have a varied number of required performances throughout the year. *

VOCAL MUSIC

Credit: .5

7th grade vocal music is a comprehensive performance-based program that meets every other day for the entire school year. Using the voice as a learning tool, we will cover concepts such as rhythm, melody and pitch as well as the skills of listening to, analyzing, reading and performing choral music. Healthy and proper singing techniques will also be emphasized. Students will be required to perform in 2 evening performances during the school year. There will be specific concert attire suggestions that might require a small fee (t-shirt, black/white apparel, etc.) *

WORLD MUSIC 7

Credit: .5

World Music 7 is a 7th grade course that is an alternative to band or vocal music. This is a year-long course that meets every other day. There are no extra costs or fees associated with this course and will generally be taught by the vocal music teacher. Each quarter, students will study, through research and hands on activities, different types of music indigenous to regions around the world. Musical styles that might be studied are African, Latino, Celtic, Oriental and/or American. This course is a non-performance course and will require no evening performances.*

THEATER COMMUNICATIONS 7

Credit: 1

This course helps students strengthen their effectiveness in presenting and performing for an audience, as well as develop critical thinking and listening skills. During the theater units, student study acting styles, develop performance and directing skills, and increase their understanding and appreciation of theater. During the communication units, students learn techniques for public speaking and presentations. **(MTMS ONLY)**

*7th grade students take either Band OR
Vocal Music, not both.

(OR Theatre Communications at MTMS)

7th Grade Courses

EXPLORATORY COURSES

ART

Credit: .25

Seventh grade art is a nine-week course which continues the art curriculum begun in the 6th grade. We will explore the Elements of Art: line, value, color, shape, space, texture, and form. In addition to production, students will be exposed to art history, aesthetics, and art criticism.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Credit: .25

In this 7th grade course, students will study and practice in the areas of manufacturing, the forces involved in simple machines and fluids, the use of solar power and bioremediation. Students will build and launch a model rocket, test microbes, grow and test bacteria, build a structure to simulate a cargo drop, and use various simulator models throughout the course. All topics incorporate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as well as reading, mathematics, and research. This is a nine week course.

EXPLORATORY FRENCH & SPANISH 7

Credit: .25

This course will explore both the French and Spanish languages in a communicative context. Students will learn greetings and conversation pertaining to introductions. Vocabulary relates to the classroom: school supplies, simple commands, calendar and telling time.

MUSEUM CONNECTIONS (MTMS ONLY)

Credit: .25

This is a history extension course taught entirely in the Museum Classroom. During this 9 week course, students will design and create their own history textbook, study museum artifacts, watch videos, and create a final exam project to better understand the major cultures studied in their 7th Grade World History classes.

HUMAN SERVICES/FACS

Credit: .25

In this 9-week course students will focus on developing the skills needed to successfully balance relationships and responsibilities in family, career, and community life. Course units will be focused on effective communication skills in career and family life, characteristics of healthy friendships/relationships, consumer skills, nutrition and food selection, food safety and preparation techniques. Students will participate in numerous cooking labs as well as complete an intermediate-level sewing project.

COMPUTERS

Credit: .25

In this class we will use technology to collaborate, communicate, show creativity and publish learnings. Tools used are Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Throughout the quarter students will work to increase keyboarding skills, therefore reducing the amount of time it takes to complete assignments. This course is a stepping stone for 8th grade Computer Apps through higher-level use of programs and exploration of various online resources, apps and software.

8th Grade Courses

REQUIRED COURSES

PATHWAYS 8

Pathways is a cross-curricular course. Students build 21st century skills through critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, communication, and creativity. Themes and subjects explored in this course introduce students to Individual Plans of Study, which allow them an opportunity to explore educational and career paths that align with their interests. According to the Kansas State Department of Education, the Individual Plan of Study "includes development of a flexible career focus and an education plan that is clearly-defined, rigorous, and relevant to assure a successful and efficient transition to postsecondary education and/or the workforce." Additional units of study include self-exploration, project-based learning and use of the Career Cruising program.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Credit: 1

At the eighth grade level at USD 232, our students will focus on reading and writing experiences that are developmentally appropriate. The focus will include vocabulary instruction, the importance of literary devices, as well as accurately identifying various text types and structure. Students will deepen their literary analysis skills through the exploration of the themes Coming of Age, Morality, Perseverance and Oppression by reading various types of fiction and nonfiction literature.

MATHEMATICS

Credit: 1

Throughout this course we will introduce students to the common core curriculum and strategies. Math 8 focuses on algebraic thinking, geometry, and statistical thinking and probability, and revisits prior algebraic concepts and geometry. There will be hands-on exploratory, and activity-oriented instruction. Manipulatives and graphing calculators will be used extensively and students will be actively involved in using mathematics in real-world applications. There will be group work and projects incorporated into instruction, along with current technology. This course strives to foster improvement in problem-solving skills, problem analysis, and independent thinking in preparation for high school mathematics.

Compacted Math 8 (By invitation only)

The Eighth Grade Compacted Math Course contains the same College and Career Ready Standards as the non-compacted course. In addition, the course will also include the Second Semester College and Career Ready Standards from the 8th grade math course and the Integrated Math 1 curriculum. This course will only be recommended for those students who have shown through multiple data points and observation the need for acceleration.

SCIENCE

Credit: 1

In eighth grade science, students will begin the year reviewing the Scientific Method. Throughout the year, they will learn about Rocks and Minerals; Earth Processes: Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Erosion and Weathering; Water: Rivers, Oceans, and Weather; Astronomy; and Natural Resources.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Credit: 1

This course will examine the major ideas, people, events, and cultural shifts of the United States of America from the writing of the Constitution to the late 1800's. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking skills, analyzing primary sources, determining cause and effect relationships, and developing and defending opinions.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Credit: 1

Eighth grade PE meets every day for one semester. Goals are to improve the student's level of physical fitness, to develop good social skills, to learn new skills, to actively participate in a variety of sports and games, to improve the skills the student already possesses, and to share information on a variety of health topics.

8th Grade Courses

EXPLORATORY COURSES

BAND

Credit: 1

Eighth grade Band is a year-long class that meets daily. It is a continuation of the band curriculum begun in 5th grade. By 8th grade, students have developed many of the skills necessary to play an instrument and begin working on advanced skills and concepts. These include mixed meter, extended ranges, composition, music history, music theory, ensemble technique, and musicality. 8th Grade Band students have a varied number of required performances throughout the year.

VOCAL MUSIC

Credit: 1 or .5

8th grade vocal music is a comprehensive performance-based program that meets every day for either a semester or the entire school year. Choral skills and concepts covered in the 6th and 7th grades will be expanded upon through study and performance of advanced choral literature. Students will be required to perform in 2 evening performances, as well as a myriad of other performance opportunities such as assemblies, community service trips, festivals/competitions, etc. There will be specific concert attire suggestions that might require a small fee (t-shirt, black/white apparel, etc.)

THEATER COMMUNICATIONS

This course will guide students in planning, preparing and presenting theatrical works and public speaking. In the theater units, students will use drama techniques to create characters and scenes, use improvisation, and develop stage presence. Students will watch and evaluate performances and learn how to offer constructive criticism. Students will utilize technical and design elements in class productions. During the communication units, students will organize, construct and deliver a variety of individual and group presentations.

HUMAN SERVICES (FACS)

Credit: .5

In this semester course students will focus on developing the skills needed to successfully balance relationships and responsibilities in family, career, and community life. Course units will be focused on: career exploration; money management and consumer skills; family structures and functions in society; parenting styles and developmental milestones of children; nutrition and food selection; healthy lifestyle choices; food safety, meal planning and preparation techniques. Students will participate in numerous cooking labs as well as construct an intermediate-level sewing project.

SPANISH 1

Credit: 1

This class is designed to be the first in a series of five classes that can be taken through high school. The 2 main objectives in this Spanish class are: (1) to help students attain an acceptable degree of proficiency in the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing; and (2) to present the language with the context of the contemporary Spanish speaking world and its culture. Students will become aware of the variety of the Spanish speaking world from South American to Caribbean, from Mexico and Central America to Europe.

*Spanish I at the Middle School level does not count as a credit toward Kansas Scholars Curriculum at the High School. Spanish I curriculum is thorough in preparing students for the Spanish II curriculum.

8th Grade Courses

EXPLORATORY COURSES

BEYOND BASIC SPANISH 8

Credit: .5

This introductory course will prepare students for further language study in high school Spanish I. We will look at cultures of the Spanish-speaking world, descriptive vocabulary and basic grammatical structures.

BEYOND BASIC FRENCH 8

Credit: .5

This introductory course will prepare students for further language study in high school French I. We will look at cultures of the French-speaking world, descriptive vocabulary and basic grammatical structures.

ART

Credit: .5

Eighth grade art is a semester course that continues to expose students to the Elements of Art but also addresses the Principles of Design: balance, emphasis, rhythm, contrast, pattern, movement, and unity. In addition, production, art history, aesthetics, and art criticism will be integrated throughout the curriculum.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

Credit: .5

Computer Applications explores and extends knowledge of a wide-range of Microsoft Office applications including (but not limited to) word processing, spreadsheets, and graphics. This course covers the use of email and desktop publishing in order to provide students with real-world applications and assist and complement their work in other classes. Projects in this class follow the themes of Digital Citizenship and incorporate business terms and concepts, providing students with skills to add to their résumés and Individual Plans of Study (IPS) portfolios. This Career & Technical Education (CTE) course is a stepping stone to the wide range of CTE courses offered at the high school.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Credit: .5

In this 8th grade course, students will study the design and manufacture of structures and the materials involved; alternative power sources such as solar, nuclear, and geothermal, and the programming and control of a robot. Hands-on activities include building a tent, columns, structures and bridges and testing them for weight capacity, creating and racing a CO2 powered car, a computer software drafting project, circuit board design, and creating hydrogen for use in a fuel cell. All topics incorporate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as well as reading, mathematics, and research. This is an eighteen week course.

PUBLICATIONS/YEARBOOK

Credit: 1

This class will be responsible for creating the yearbook using an online yearbook program provided by the yearbook publisher. It will also publish the school newspaper, sports programs and other various school publications. We will be using Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, Microsoft Word and Microsoft Publisher to accomplish our tasks. **Students must submit an application to be accepted in this class.**

MUSEUM CONNECTIONS (MTMS ONLY) Credit: .5

This is a history extension course taught entirely in the Museum classroom. During this semester course, students will design and create their own history textbook, study museum artifacts, watch videos, and create two 9 week final exam projects to better understand the major cultures studied in their 8th Grade American History classes. **(MTMS ONLY)**