



2024-2025
MIDDLE SCHOOL
PLANNING
GUIDE



Rockford Public Middle Schools

EISENHOWER MIDDLE SCHOOL

3525 Spring Creek Rd 61107

Phone: 815-229-2450

Principal: Jeff Carlson

MARIA MONTESSORI AT MARSH

2021 Hawthorne Dr 61107

Phone: 815-654-4906

Principal: Candice Collins

FLINN MIDDLE SCHOOL

2525 Ohio Parkway 61108

Phone: 815-229-2800

Principal: Cory Schrank

RESA MIDDLE SCHOOL

1800 Ogilby Road 61102

Phone: 815-489-5509

Principal: Ben Stover

GIFTED ACADEMY AT THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL

4664 N. Rockton Avenue 61103

Phone: 815-490-5400

Principal: Jessica Powell

TWO-WAY LANGUAGE IMMERSION AT BARBOUR

1506 Clover Ave 61102

Phone: 815-966-3395

Principal: Julio Lopez

KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL

520 Pierpont Avenue 61101

Phone: 815-654-4880

Principal: Kourtnei Gray

WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

1900 N. Rockton Ave. 61103

Phone: 815-966-3200

Principal: Taren Turner

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL

1500 Charles Street 61104

Phone: 815-229-2400

Principal: Jacob Sayre

Table of Contents

GENERAL INFORMATION

Academics	1
High School Proficiency Credit	2
High School Academy Model	3
Benchmarks	4
Services	5
Extracurricular Opportunities	8

GRADES 6-8 COURSE INFORMATION

Core Course Sequences	9
6th Grade	10
7th Grade	15
8th Grade	21
Intervention Courses	28

SPECIAL PROGRAMS BY SELECTIVE ENROLLMENT

Creative and Performing Arts at West	29
Gifted Academy at Marshall	33
5th Grade	36
6th Grade	39
7th Grade	43
8th Grade	48
Maria Montessori at Marsh	54
Two-Way Language Immersion at Barbour	55

SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING

Programs for Students with Disabilities	56
Bilingual Education Programs	58

General Information

ACADEMICS

HONORS COURSES

English, math and social science offer some honors courses as well as regular-level classes. Students will be recommended to enroll in these courses based on several data points. Any discussions about student or parent concerns regarding recommendations should begin with the student's counselor.

HONOR ROLL

To qualify for Honor Roll, a student must have a GPA of 3.0 for a minimum of 5 classes and have no failing grades.

SUMMER SCHOOL INTEGRATED MATH

1

This opportunity may be available for students who would like to advance their education in math. Students will cover the same curriculum as the year long Integrated Math 1, but at a much faster pace. The class meets Monday-Thursday for 6 hours a day for 5 weeks. Students are assessed daily and progress is constantly monitored. Upon successful completion the student will enter high school in Integrated Math 2 or Integrated Math 2 Accelerated.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer School information will be available through your school's counseling department later in the spring.

General Information

HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY CREDIT

Select courses have been aligned with the high school standards and may be available for 8th grade students to obtain high school proficiency credit prior to entering a Rockford Public High School. Proficiency credit allows students to continue their course sequence without having to retake the high school level course.

INTEGRATED MATH 1 (13470)

Yearlong. The purpose of Integrated Math 1 is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. Overarching themes are centered around deepening and extending linear relationships, exploring exponential relationships, the concept of a function, summarizing, representing, and interpreting statistical data, and algebraic connections in the area of coordinate geometry. The Common Core Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout this course and, together with the content standards, will allow students to experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that helps make sense of problem situations.

ISBE Code: 02062A000

SPANISH 1 (11100)

Yearlong. This course is an introduction to the language, customs, and culture of Spanish-speaking countries. The basic structure of the language is covered with an emphasis on listening and reading in the target language, and an introduction to speaking and writing skills in the target language. Emphasis will be placed on interpretive skills.

ISBE Code: 06404A000

FRENCH 1 (11300)

Yearlong. This course is an introduction to the language, customs, and culture of French-speaking countries. The basic structure of the language is covered with an emphasis on listening and reading in the target language, and an introduction to speaking and writing skills in the target language. Emphasis will be placed on interpretive skills.

ISBE Code: 06121A000

GIFTED MANDARIN CHINESE 1 (61050)

Yearlong. This beginner's course centers on mastering the Mandarin sound system and writing Chinese characters. Students will cover topics on greetings, time/dates, hobbies and school. Chinese culture will be introduced through language experiences as well as interactive and hands-on activities.

ISBE Code: 06401A00

General Information

HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY MODEL

The mission of Rockford Public Schools is to collaboratively engage all students in a world-class education. Academies are small learning communities that provide real-world experiences with local businesses and professionals, linking schoolwork and the workplace. Regular coursework, including core curriculum, global electives, and College and Career Pathways, is presented within the context of the academy's focus. Academies provide small learning communities within each high school to help ensure that graduating students are better prepared for college and the workforce.

BUSINESS ACADEMY PATHWAYS:

- Business & Entrepreneurship
- Graphic Design
- Information Technology
- Media Production
- Studio Art

PRODUCTION ACADEMY PATHWAYS:

- Engineering
- Industrial Technology
- Manufacturing
- Transportation Technology

SERVICE ACADEMY PATHWAYS

- Hospitality
- JROTC
- Public Safety
- Rockford University Education

HEALTH ACADEMY PATHWAYS:

- Biomedical/Lab Sciences
- Mental Health & Wellness
- Nursing/Pre-Med

**CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS
ACADEMY OF AUBURN (Audition Required)**
CAPA uses arts integration into core courses paired with accelerated arts electives. CAPA students take a four-year sequence of electives in preparation for entrance at art-related colleges/universities and art-related careers.

**GIFTED ACADEMY OF AUBURN
(Assessment Proficiency Required)**
Gifted students take a four-year sequence of core courses that make them prepared for and competitive at any college/university of their choice.



General Information

BENCHMARKS

Maximizing the opportunity for each student to reach his or her potential is one of our organizational goals. Four key areas are nationally and statistically proven indicators of student achievement and success beyond high school: Literacy, Numeracy, College and Career Readiness, and Attainment. We will measure these benchmarks annually, adjust curriculum and instruction as needed, and keep climbing toward student success for all.

LITERACY

The ability to read proficiently by the end of third grade is a critical benchmark that sets a child up for success in school and life.

NUMERACY

The ability to develop logical thinking and reasoning strategies in our daily lives is directly connected to our ability to confidently and effectively use mathematics.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Academies help prepare our students for life after high school by using small learning communities, college and career prep curriculum, and partnerships with local businesses and organizations. All students in K-12 will develop a college and career readiness portfolio.

ATTAINMENT

Our vision is to help all of our students reach their academic and personal goals. Tracking key indications from PreK through 12th grade will help us keep our students on track for our goal of 100% of students graduating from high school.

KINDERGARTEN – GRADE 5

- Can I demonstrate self-management skills to achieve school and life success?
- Can I demonstrate skills and ways to maintain positive relationships?
- Can I demonstrate decision-making skills and responsible behaviors in school and the community?

GRADE 6 – WHERE DO I FIT IN?

- Complete a middle school transition assessment
- Conduct a personal learning style/personality inventory

GRADE 7 – WHAT ARE MY KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT?

- Identify appropriate school/workplace behaviors
- Explore internet safety and responsibility

GRADE 8 – HOW DO I PREPARE FOR HIGH SCHOOL?

- Conduct a personal interest inventory
- Attend and engage in a high school visit
- Develop a personal budget

General Information

SERVICES

COUNSELING SERVICES

The Rockford School District's Counseling Program supports teaching and learning by assuring that all students achieve academic success and develop life skills through the acquisition of academic, career, and personal/social competencies, which will prepare them to be contributing members of a diverse and ever-changing society. The Rockford School District Counseling Program is based on the National Standards for School Counseling Programs and the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) National Model.

Credentialed school counselors provide comprehensive school counseling programs that incorporate prevention and intervention activities through school-wide assemblies and activities, classroom lessons, individual counseling, and collaboration with outside community resources. School counseling programs are comprised of three domains:

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Acquiring the attitudes, knowledge, and skills that contribute to effective learning in school and in life;
- Completing school with the academic preparation essential to choose from a range of post-secondary options;
- Understanding the relationship between academic success and future educational options.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT:

- Acquiring the skills to investigate career choices in relation to self-knowledge and current job trends;
- Understanding relationships between personal qualities, educational and training opportunities and careers;
- Learning decision making strategies for future career choices.

PERSONAL/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Acquiring attitudes, knowledge and interpersonal skills to help students understand & respect self and others;
- Making decisions, setting goals and taking necessary action to achieve goals;
- Applying effective problem-solving and conflict resolution skills to make safe and healthy choices.

A student's right to privacy and confidentiality is the basis for an effective counseling relationship. Confidentiality ensures that school counselors will not share the student's disclosures with others except when the student authorizes it or when there is a clear and present danger to the student and/or to other persons.

Parents and students are encouraged to make use of each school's counseling services. Students should see counselors after obtaining a pass from their teacher or scheduling an appointment. Parents should contact counselors in advance to make an appointment.

General Information

HEALTH SERVICES

Rockford Public Schools require that all children show proof of having had a health examination and required immunizations PRIOR to the first day of school. (Board Policy 7.100 and 105 ILCS 5/27-8.1).

HEALTH EXAMINATIONS

A student must have a physical examination within one year prior to entering:

- Sixth Grade
- Any student new to the school district must meet requirement within 30 days of enrollment

IMMUNIZATIONS

Students must show proof of basic immunization and required boosters for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Red Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Haemophilus Influenza Type B (pre-school), Hepatitis B (pre-school, 5-12th grades), Varicella and Meningitis.

OBJECTIONS

Children whose parents or legal guardians object to health and vision exams or to the required immunizations may submit a letter explaining their religious beliefs and request an exemption to the law.

NEW STUDENTS

If a student enters the district from out of state, parents or legal guardians have 30 days to comply with the above requirements, regardless of age. The required health examinations and immunizations may be obtained at the local health department, clinic, or doctor's office of choice.

HEALTHY STUDENTS ARE BETTER LEARNERS

Health Services staff encourages good practices to allow for optimum learning opportunities:

- Thorough & frequent hand washing
- Eating a nutritious breakfast
- Sleeping 8-10 hours each night
- Exercising for 30 minutes, 3x/week

If, however, your child is ill, they should not be sent to school. Your child should remain at home for at least 24 hours after their symptoms have resolved. Please consider contacting your doctor for advice if your child exhibits any of the following conditions:

- Temperature over 100.4 degrees
- Contagious illness or condition
- Vomiting or diarrhea

The District will follow Winnebago County Health Department guidance on all communicable diseases.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION: Medications shall be administered to students by the school nurse or voluntary school personnel only when absolutely necessary for the critical health and well-being of the student. Medication prescribed daily, twice, or three times per day should be administered by the parent around school hours. If it is determined that the student shall receive medication at school, the procedures set forth by the School Board will be followed.

ADMINISTRATION OF APPROVED DISCRETIONARY MEDICATION

The District has standing protocols related to administration of undesignated epinephrine injectors, asthma medication, and an opioid antagonist to students when there is a good faith belief that the student is having an anaphylactic reaction, asthmatic episode, or opioid overdose whether such reactions are known to parent/guardian or not, and if applicable, undesignated glucagon when authorized by the student's diabetes care plan and if the student's glucagon is not available on-site or has expired.

General Information

LIBRARY SERVICES

The library is an extension of the classroom, as a place for learning and enjoyment where students and teachers can become knowledgeable in research techniques and information acquisition. In order to provide this environment, the classroom teacher and library media specialist work closely together to identify learning needs of students and determine how to support those needs.

Libraries operate as a hub for instructional support. Materials and resources are available to students and teachers to support curricular needs, and may be borrowed for classroom or home use. Print materials include books, newspapers, and magazines, but electronic resources are equally robust. This service is provided on an individual, small group, or class basis.

Each library has access to a variety of online databases, and assistance is given in organizing and executing a systematic investigation of a given topic. These databases are accessible from school or home, and students will learn how to use these effectively.

General Information

EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

In order to participate in co-curricular activities, students must meet the following requirements:

1. All students in grades 6-8 participating in co-curricular activities must have received a passing grade in a minimum of five (5) full credit courses the previous semester. This does include accredited summer school or other accredited courses if available. Continued participation will require a student to be passing (5) full credit courses on a weekly basis, with no unexcused classroom absences.
2. For students receiving services under the IDEA or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, their IEP or 504 plans will be reviewed for proper implementation prior to determining ineligibility.

Ineligible students in grades 6-8 must attend 3 tutoring sessions during the week of ineligibility. If a student fails to attend 3 tutoring sessions during that week, the student remains ineligible the following week even if the student may be passing 5 classes. Ineligible students may continue to practice with their team throughout the week they are ineligible.

Eligible students carrying one (1) F may continue to practice with their team throughout the week they are in tutoring.

STEPS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE ON A TEAM:

1. Each student must be academically eligible.
2. Students must have a sports physical on file with their school.
3. Participants must complete the registration process their school requires. Please see your school's athletic director for more information.

Middle school club opportunities: Contact your school's administration to find out what possibilities are available for you.

IESA: Middle school teams participate in the IESA State Series in the sports indicated below. Visit iesa.org.

General athletics info: More information about athletics in the district can be found at rps205.com/parents/athletics

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
Football	Boys Basketball (IESA)	Boys Volleyball
Coed Soccer	Coed Swimming	Boys Track/Field (IESA)
Boys Cross Country (IESA)	Girls Volleyball (IESA)	Girls Track/Field (IESA)
Girls Cross Country (IESA)	Cheerleading (IESA)	Coed Tennis
Girls Basketball (IESA)	Wrestling (IESA)	Coed Golf
Cheerleading		Girls Bowling (IESA)
		Boys Bowling (IESA)
Fall Activities	Winter Activities	Spring Activities
Robotics	Chess	
	Robotics	
	Scholastic Bowl	

General Information

CORE COURSE SEQUENCES

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts 6
OR
Honors Language Arts 6



Language Arts 7
OR
Honors Language Arts 7



Language Arts 8
OR
Honors Language Arts 8

MATHEMATICS

Math 6
OR
Honors Math 6



Math 7
OR
Honors Math 7



Math 8
OR
Integrated Math 1 Accelerated

All middle school students are required to take a Language Arts block each year.

SCIENCE

Science 6



Science 7



Science 8

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Ancient Civilizations 6
OR
Honors Ancient Civilizations 6



Early American History 7
OR
Honors Early American History 7



Modern American History 8
OR
Honors Modern American History 8

6th Grade

STUDENT SCHEDULE

Language Arts (block)*
Math
Science
Social Science
PE/Health
Elective Choice

* Includes English & Reading



6th Grade

CORE COURSES

LANGUAGE ARTS

LANGUAGE ARTS 6 (06510)

This writing-intensive course is aligned with the grade level Common Core State Standards and is an integration of reading and writing. Students will participate in studies of core works and writing in addition to opportunities for small group and independent study. Students will write for a variety of purposes, including skill-building in argumentation, in addition to source-based writing, grammar, mechanics, style, and usage. Instruction in critical reading will include strategies to engage with text.

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 6 (06520)

This writing-intensive, Common Core State Standards- based course, focused on college and career readiness skills, is designed to provide students with an intense and enriched curriculum of the Language Arts, integrating reading and writing. Students will read and write for a variety of purposes, including skill-building in argumentation in addition to source-based writing, grammar, mechanics, style, and usage. Both the pace and rigor of the course are designed for motivated students seeking a greater challenge in the study of Language Arts.

MATHEMATICS

MATH 6 (06200)

The 6th grade core math program focuses on the New Illinois Learning Standards based on the Common Core State Standards and Practices which helps students develop understanding of important concepts through investigation, practice and reflection. The 6th grade concepts include ratios and rates, understanding and using rational numbers, factors and multiples, algebra, two- and three-dimensional geometry and measurement, and data.

HONORS MATH 6 (06206)

This course is intended for advanced students to extend their learning and problem solving skills. Students will strengthen their depth of understanding of the 6th grade core math content.

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 6 (06300)

This course uses problem-based and inquiry learning to introduce students to scientific topics including weather & climate, cellular systems, and ecosystem dynamics & interactions. Students use a hands-on approach to learning, as they use crosscutting concepts and scientific practices to provide solutions to problems.

6th Grade

SOCIAL SCIENCE

ANCIENT CIVILIZATION 6 (06400)

In this course, students examine the development of societies, economies, governments, religions, and other institutions throughout early-recorded human history.

Students in the course also evaluate the impact of geography, technology, and social systems on the development of nations around the globe. Units of study focus on various ancient societies and cultures. Examples include Egypt, Greece and China.

HONORS ANCIENT CIVILIZATION 6 (06406)

In this course, students will follow the same curriculum laid out for all 6th grade students. As an honors course there is intense focus on primary and secondary source analysis, as well as informative and argumentative writing or creation of another learning artifact, supported by the analyzed sources.

PE/HEALTH

PE 6 (09069)

Semester. This course helps to build participants as health-literate persons through lifetime fitness and team sport activities. Participants will learn basic locomotor, non-locomotor, and manipulative principles of correct athletic forms for course activities. Students will demonstrate their understanding of fitness and health through the performance, analysis, and critique of fitness, movement, and safety procedures for physical activities. Principles of teamwork within physical activity to group activities will be explored within the course, providing students with opportunities to develop individual responsibility, cooperation, and respect for self and others in everyday life experiences.

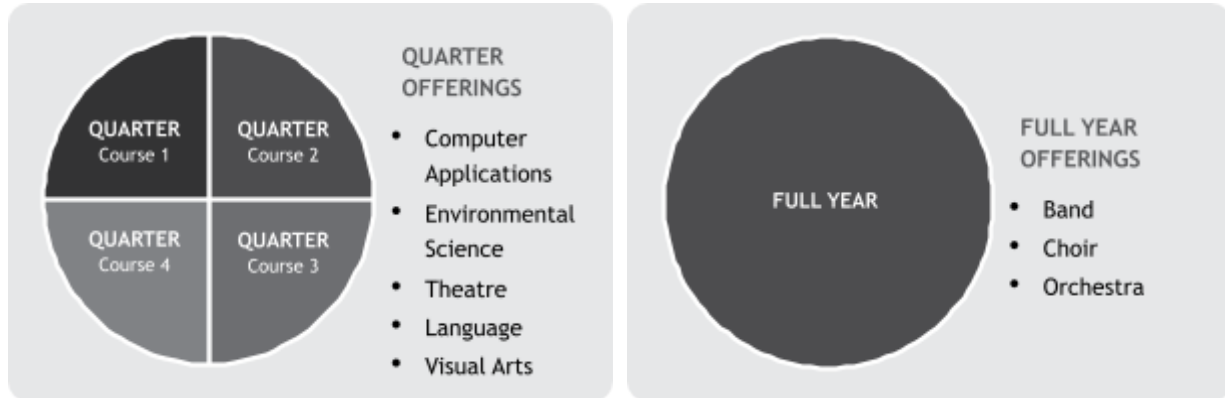
HEALTH 6 (09190)

Semester. Students will learn about the human body systems, actions, health promotion, as well as prevention and treatment within this course. In addition, they will explore communication and decision-making skills to promote healthy living.

6th Grade

ELECTIVE COURSES

6th grade students will have the choice of taking either a full year elective class or the wheel which will consist of four quarter classes. Classes in the wheel may vary by school; each school will offer four of the five classes listed below.



QUARTER ELECTIVES

BEGINNING COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (09224Q)

This is an introductory course to computer applications beginning with basic keyboarding skills and introducing students to basic skills in Microsoft Office.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (09130Q)

Environmental Science focuses on environmental issues which include ecological principles, natural resource preservation, and human interaction with the environment. The purpose of this class is to enrich the student's scientific understanding of the environment.

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE (09508Q)

Students will be engaged in learning about the basics of theatre, from acting to theatre etiquette to stage production and design. Students will learn theatre vocabulary and develop skills and techniques in improvisation, pantomime, and character study. Class members will be engaged in reader's theatre exercises, class discussions/critiques of works, acting out short plays, and developing team scripts.

MULTI-LANGUAGE LAB (09560Q)

Students will be introduced to the basics of Spanish and French. Units of study will include the alphabet and pronunciation, greetings and goodbyes, numbers, days of the week, months, and seasons.

VISUAL ARTS EXPLORATIONS (09100Q)

Students will explore traditional and technological media from a variety of cultures and time periods. Through the use of various media, students will build their skills and knowledge of art, as well as through opportunities in art criticism and artist studies. An emphasis is placed on learning how to draw, paint, print and on developing good studio habits, craftsmanship, and visual art vocabulary.

6th Grade

YEAR-LONG ELECTIVES

BEGINNING BAND (09010)

Students with little or no experience in a band ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will initially learn about various instruments within the band and then work with one instrument through more in-depth study on skills and techniques. Students will focus on individual and ensemble instrumental technique through performance. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

BEGINNING CHOIR (09000)

Students with little or no experience in a choral ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will develop music literacy and vocal skills through rehearsal and performance. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA (09040)

Students with little or no experience in a string ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will initially learn about various instruments within the strings ensemble and then work with one instrument through more in-depth study on skills and techniques. Students will focus on individual and ensemble instrumental technique through performance. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

7th Grade

STUDENT SCHEDULE

Language Arts (block)*
Math
Science
Social Science
PE/Health
Elective Choice

* Includes English & Reading



7th Grade

CORE COURSES

LANGUAGE ARTS

LANGUAGE ARTS 7 (07510)

This writing-intensive course is aligned with the grade level Common Core State Standards and is an integration of reading and writing. Students will participate in studies of core works and writing in addition to opportunities for small group and independent study. Students will write for a variety of purposes, including skill-building in argumentation, in addition to source-based writing, grammar, mechanics, style, and usage. Instruction in critical reading will include strategies to engage with text.

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 7 (07520)

This writing-intensive, Common Core State Standards- based course, focused on college and career readiness skills, is designed to provide students with an intense and enriched curriculum of the Language Arts, integrating reading and writing. Students will read and write for a variety of purposes, including skill-building in argumentation in addition to source-based writing, grammar, mechanics, style, and usage. Both the pace and rigor of the course are designed for motivated students seeking a greater challenge in the study of Language Arts.

MATHEMATICS

MATH 7 (07200)

The 7th grade core math program focuses on the New Illinois Learning Standards based on the Common Core State Standards and Practices which helps students develop understanding of important concepts through investigation, practice and reflection. The 7th grade concepts include introducing ratios and proportions, scale factors, percent, rational numbers, algebra, scale drawings, two and three-dimensional geometry and measurement, samples and populations, probability and compound events.

HONORS MATH 7 (07206)

This course is intended for advanced students to extend and accelerate their understanding of pre-algebra through practice, problem solving and modeling real world problems. This course is an essential step leading to Integrated Math 1.

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 7 (07300)

This course uses problem-based and inquiry learning to introduce students to scientific topics including chemistry, astronomy, Earth's history & processes, and forces & motion. Students use a hands-on approach to learning, as they use crosscutting concepts and scientific practices to provide solutions to problems.

7th Grade

SOCIAL SCIENCE

EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY 7 (07400)

Students in this course discover key events, ideas, and people who shaped American history from colonization through the westward expansion following the Civil War. In this course, students also explore the dynamic influences that shaped the nation's government, economy, and society. Units of study examine topics such as the American Revolution, Growth of and Strains upon the Nation, and the Civil War.

HONORS EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY 7 (07406)

Students in this course will follow the same curriculum laid out for all 7th grade students. As an honors course there is intense focus on primary and secondary source analysis, as well as informative and argumentative writing or creation of another learning artifact, supported by the analyzed sources.

PE

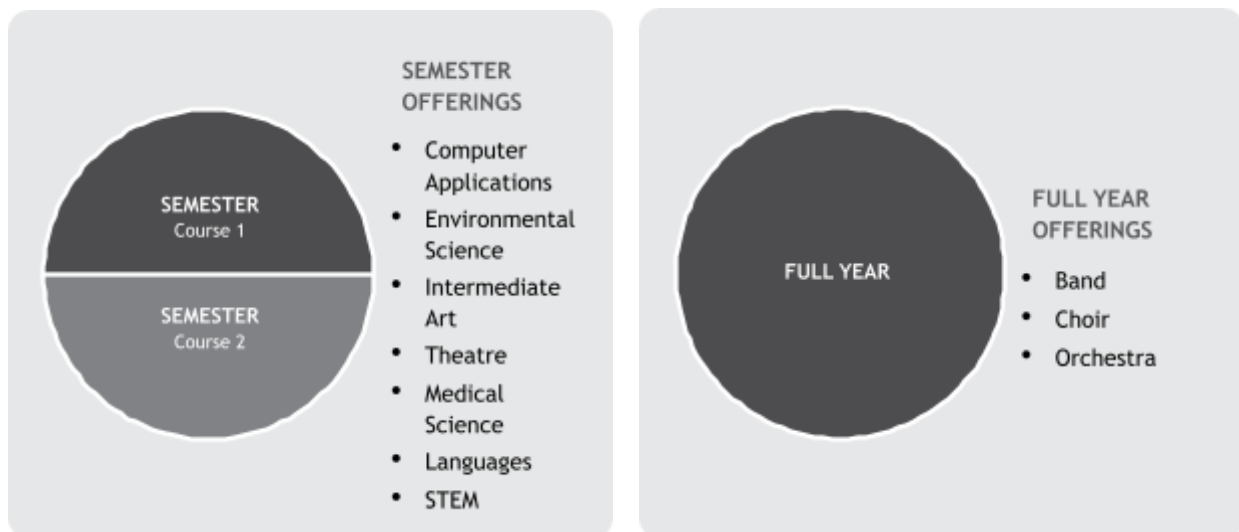
PE 7 (09033)

Yearlong. Students participate within various fitness tests to assist in their design of individualized fitness plans. Participants will learn to utilize fitness tools and resources to help monitor, evaluate, design, and implement these plans. Students will continue to build their health and fitness literacy through the performance, analysis, and critique of fitness, movement, and safety procedures for physical activities. Activities that may be a part of this course are weight lifting, agility drills, specific stretching techniques, sports etiquette, and physical and nutritional care. Students will continue to develop individual responsibility, cooperation, and respect for self and others in everyday life experiences. *Course may not be repeated.*

7th Grade

ELECTIVE COURSES

7th grade students can select either a full year elective class or two semester classes.



SEMESTER ELECTIVES

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (09223)

This course is an opportunity to learn a variety of computer related skills including keyboarding, basic computer knowledge, and basic computer operations including word processing and formatting, presentation software, spreadsheets, graphic arts, and programming. Students will enhance their skills in Microsoft Office and other applications. *Course may not be repeated.*

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (09130)

Environmental Science is an elective that focuses on environmental issues which include ecological principles, natural resource preservation, and human interaction with the environment. The purpose of this class is to enrich the student's scientific understanding of the environment. *Course may not be repeated.*

INTERMEDIATE ART (09103)

Students will focus on mastering basic drawing and painting skills in a variety of media with special emphasis on experimentation, expression, craftsmanship, and originality. Art history, aesthetics, and critical topics will be presented. *Course may not be repeated.*

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE (09508)

Students will be engaged in learning about the basics of theatre, from acting to theatre etiquette to stage production and design. Students will learn theatre vocabulary, develop skills and techniques in improvisation, pantomime, and character study. Class members will be engaged in reader's theatre exercises, class discussions/ critiques of works, acting out short plays, and developing team scripts. *Course may not be repeated.*

7th Grade

MEDICAL SCIENCE (09310)

This is a semester course designed for students interested in the field of health care. Students will learn a core of knowledge and skills that are needed for many health career fields. Students will learn about safety, assessment (temperature, pulse, respiration, and blood pressure), patient transport, personal care techniques, and various other general health care skills. Students will also do research in relation to medical science and careers associated with the discipline. *Course may not be repeated.*

SPANISH FOUNDATIONS (09545)

This course is designed to build a foundation for Spanish 1. The students will be introduced to the language, customs, and culture of Spanish speaking countries. The basic structure of the language is covered with an emphasis on listening and reading skills. *Course may not be repeated.*

STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH) (09320)

Students in this class will learn using a hands-on approach that utilizes technology and laboratory equipment in their pursuit of STEM education. They will investigate a wide variety of STEM related fields such as robotics, biotechnology, renewable energy and sustainable living, structural engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science, and many more. This class will include many project based initiatives that will generate inquiry based learning in the STEM fields. *Course may not be repeated.*

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY - MEDICAL DETECTIVES (09339) (FLINN ONLY)

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction. *Course may not be repeated.*

7th Grade

YEARLONG ELECTIVES

BEGINNING BAND (09010)

Students with little or no experience in a band ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will initially learn about various instruments within the band and then work with one instrument through more in-depth study on skills and techniques. Students will focus on individual and ensemble instrumental technique through performance. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

BEGINNING CHOIR (09000)

Students with little or no experience in a choral ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will develop music literacy and vocal skills through rehearsal and performance. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA (09040)

Students with little or no experience in a string ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will initially learn about various instruments within the strings ensemble and then work with one instrument through more in-depth study on skills and techniques. Students will focus on individual and ensemble instrumental technique through performance. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

INTERMEDIATE BAND (09013)

Prerequisite: Beginning Band or consent of instructor. Students will focus on individual and ensemble instrumental technique through performance. This ensemble may have the opportunity to perform throughout the year. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

INTERMEDIATE CHOIR (09120)

Prerequisite: Beginning Choir or consent of instructor. Students will focus on vocal techniques, literature, sight-reading skills, improvisation, and performance. This ensemble may perform at school as well as in the community. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may be repeated.* Course may be embedded with Advanced Choir.

INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA (09043)

Prerequisite: Beginning Orchestra or consent of instructor. Students will focus on individual and ensemble instrumental technique through performance. This ensemble may have the opportunity to perform throughout the year. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

8th Grade

STUDENT SCHEDULE

Language Arts (block)*
Math
Science
Social Science
PE/Health
Elective Choice

* Includes English & Reading



8th Grade

CORE COURSES

LANGUAGE ARTS

LANGUAGE ARTS 8 (08510)

This writing-intensive course is aligned with the grade level Common Core State Standards and is an integration of reading and writing. Students will participate in studies of core works and writing, in addition to opportunities for small group and independent study. Students will write for a variety of purposes, including skill-building in argumentation in addition to source-based writing, grammar, mechanics, style, and usage. Instruction in critical reading will include strategies to engage with text.

HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 8 (08520)

This writing-intensive, Common Core State Standards-based course, focused on college and career readiness skills, is designed to provide students with an intense and enriched curriculum of the Language Arts, integrating reading and writing. Students will read and write for a variety of purposes, including skill-building in argumentation in addition to source-based writing, grammar, mechanics, style, and usage. Both the pace and rigor of the course are designed for motivated students seeking a greater challenge in the study of Language Arts.

MATHEMATICS

MATH 8 (08200)

The 8th grade core math program focuses on the New Illinois Learning Standards based on the Common Core State Standards and Practices which helps students develop understanding of important concepts through investigation, practice and reflection. The 8th grade concepts include irrational numbers, exponents and roots, scientific notation, linear equations and functions, systems, transformations, similarity and congruence, angles and triangle similarity, the Pythagorean Theorem, volume, and statistics.

ACCELERATED INTEGRATED MATH 1 (08220)

This course is intended for advanced students to prepare them for the rigor of high school mathematics. Overarching themes are centered around deepening and extending linear relationships, exploring exponential relationships, the concept of a function, summarizing, representing, and interpreting statistical data, and algebraic connections in the area of coordinate geometry. The Common Core Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout the course and, together with the content standards, will allow students to experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that helps make sense of problem situations.

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 8 (08300)

This course uses problem-based and inquiry learning to introduce students to scientific topics including genetics, the flow of energy, Earth's systems, and the Earth & Human Activity. Students use a hands-on approach to learning, as they use crosscutting concepts and scientific practices to provide solutions to problems.

8th Grade

SOCIAL SCIENCE

MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY 8 (08400)

During this course, students trace the evolution of the United States as a world power from the end of the 19th century through the present era. The course examines changes in American society and politics as the nation transitioned from the Progressive Era to the Cold War and investigates the conflicts and compromises that contributed to the identity of the nation during the "American Century." Topics of focus include Industrialization, Urbanization, Progressivism, Imperialism, World Wars, Jazz Age, Great Depression, and Cold War.

HONORS MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY 8 (08406)

Students in this course will follow the same curriculum laid out for all 8th grade students. As an honors course there is intense focus on primary and secondary source analysis, as well as informative and argumentative writing or creation of another learning artifact, supported by the analyzed sources.

PE/HIGH SCHOOL READINESS

PE 8 (09066)

Semester. Students participate within various fitness tests to assist in their design of individualized fitness plans. Participants will learn to utilize fitness tools and resources to help monitor, evaluate, design, and implement these plans. Students will continue to build their health and fitness literacy through the performance, analysis, and critique of fitness, movement, and safety procedures for physical activities. Activities that may be a part of this course are weight lifting, agility drills, specific stretching techniques, sports etiquette, and physical and nutritional care. Students will continue to develop individual responsibility, cooperation, and respect for self and others in everyday life experiences.

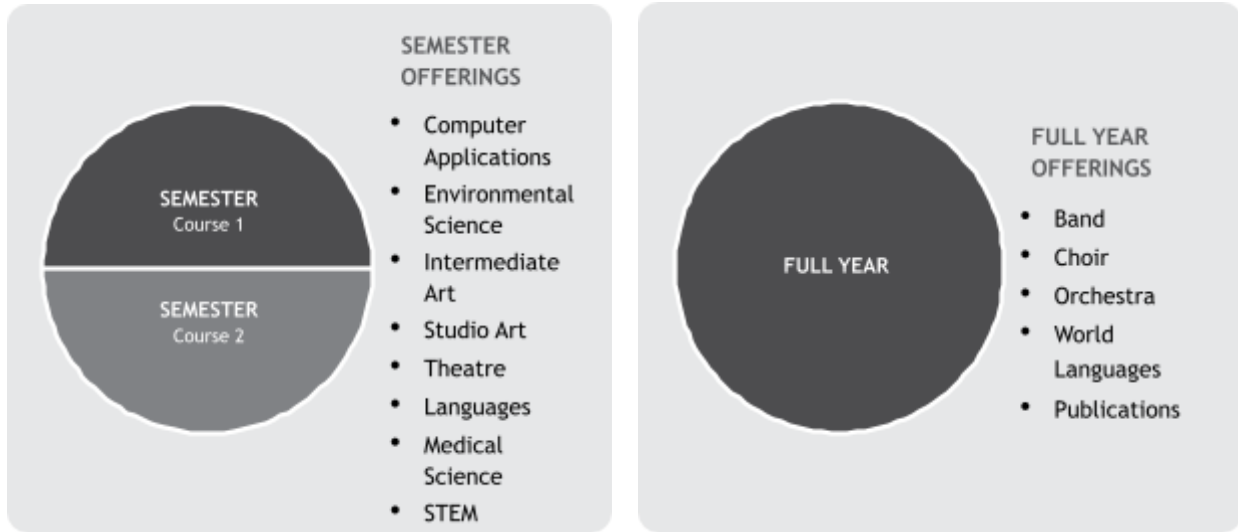
HIGH SCHOOL READINESS (09450)

Semester. A student's first year of high school is considered to be one of the most crucial of their school career. It is a pivotal year and a good predictor of a student's high school success. For this reason, we carefully guide our students' transition from 8th to 9th grade. Middle school academic performance is a key predictor of success in ninth grade, where course completion is the most accurate predictor of graduation. The middle school years lay a foundation for success in high school, college, and career.

8th Grade

ELECTIVE COURSES

8th grade students can select either a full year elective class or two semester classes.



SEMESTER ELECTIVES

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (09223)

This course is an opportunity to learn a variety of computer related skills including keyboarding, basic computer knowledge, and basic computer operations including word processing and formatting, presentation software, spreadsheets, graphic arts, and programming. Students will enhance their skills in Microsoft Office and other applications. *Course may not be repeated.*

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (09130)

Environmental Science is an elective that focuses on environmental issues which include ecological principles, natural resource preservation, and human interaction with the environment. The purpose of this class is to enrich the student's scientific understanding of the environment. *Course may not be repeated.*

INTERMEDIATE ART (09103)

Students will focus on mastering basic drawing and painting skills in a variety of media with special emphasis on experimentation, expression, craftsmanship, and originality. Art history, aesthetics, and critical topics will be presented. *Course may not be repeated.*

STUDIO ART (09106)

Prerequisite: Intermediate Art or consent of instructor. Students will continue to master skills and techniques in a variety of media including, but not limited to drawing, painting, printmaking, fibers, sculpture, and graphic design. Art history, aesthetics, and critical topics will be presented with student work connecting their artwork with these areas. Participation within a project based learning assessment is required.

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE (09508)

Students will be engaged in learning about the basics of theatre, from acting to theatre etiquette to stage production and design. Students will learn theatre vocabulary, develop skills and techniques in improvisation, pantomime, and character study. Class members will be engaged in reader's theatre exercises, class discussions/ critiques of works, acting out short plays, and developing team scripts. *Course may not be repeated.*

8th Grade

SPANISH FOUNDATIONS (09545)

This course is designed to build a foundation for Spanish 1. The students will be introduced to the language, customs, and culture of Spanish speaking countries. The basic structure of the language is covered with an emphasis on listening and reading skills. *Course may not be repeated.*

MEDICAL SCIENCE (09310)

This is a semester course designed for students interested in the field of health care. Students will learn a core of knowledge and skills that are needed for many health career fields. Students will learn about safety, assessment (temperature, pulse, respiration, and blood pressure), patient transport, personal care techniques, and various other general health care skills. Students will also do research in relation to medical science and careers associated with the discipline. *Course may not be repeated.*

STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH) (09320)

Students in this class will learn using a hands-on approach that utilizes technology and laboratory equipment in their pursuit of STEM education. They will investigate a wide variety of STEM related fields such as robotics, biotechnology, renewable energy and sustainable living, structural engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science, and many more. This class will include many project based initiatives that will generate inquiry based learning in the STEM fields. *Course may not be repeated*

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY - MEDICAL DETECTIVES (09339) (FLINN ONLY)

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction. *Course may not be repeated.*

8th Grade

YEARLONG ELECTIVES

BEGINNING BAND (09010)

Students with little or no experience in a band ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will initially learn about various instruments within the band and then work with one instrument through more in-depth study on skills and techniques. Students will focus on individual and ensemble instrumental technique through performance. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

BEGINNING CHOIR (09000)

Students with little or no experience in a choral ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will develop music literacy and vocal skills through rehearsal and performance. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may be repeated.*

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA (09040)

Students with little or no experience in a string ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will initially learn about various instruments within the strings ensemble and then work with one instrument through more in-depth study on skills and techniques. Students will focus on individual and ensemble instrumental technique through performance. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

INTERMEDIATE BAND (09013)

Prerequisite: Beginning Band or consent of instructor. Students will focus on individual and ensemble instrumental technique through performance. This ensemble may have the opportunity to perform throughout the year. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

INTERMEDIATE CHOIR (09120)

Prerequisite: Beginning Choir or consent of instructor. Students will focus on vocal techniques, literature, sight-reading skills, improvisation, and performance. This ensemble may perform at school as well as in the community. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may be repeated.* Course may be embedded with Advanced Choir.

INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA (09043)

Prerequisite: Beginning Orchestra or consent of instructor. Students will focus on individual and ensemble instrumental technique through performance. This ensemble may have the opportunity to perform throughout the year. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

ADVANCED BAND (09016)

Prerequisite: Intermediate Band or consent of instructor. Students will focus on band techniques, literature, sight-reading skills, and performance. This ensemble will perform at school as well as in the community. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may be repeated.*

8th Grade

ADVANCED CHOIR (09123)

Prerequisite: Intermediate Choir or consent of instructor. Students will focus on vocal techniques, literature, sight-reading skills, improvisation, and performance.

This ensemble may perform at school as well as in the community. Students may enroll in this course for more than one year. Participation in the performance assessment is required.

Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory. *Course may be repeated. Course may be embedded with Intermediate Choir.*

ADVANCED ORCHESTRA (09046)

Prerequisite: Intermediate Orchestra or consent of instructor. Students will focus on string techniques, literature, sight-reading skills, and performance. This ensemble will perform at school as well as in the community.

Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may be repeated.*

FRENCH 1 (09573)

This course is an introduction to the language, customs, and culture of French-speaking countries. The basic structure of the language is covered with an emphasis on listening and reading in the target language, and an introduction to speaking and writing skills in the target language. Emphasis will be placed on interpretive skills. Students who complete this course go into French 2 in high school.

SPANISH 1 (09570)

This course is an introduction to the language, customs, and culture of Spanish speaking countries. The basic structure of the language is covered with an emphasis on listening and reading in the target language, and an introduction to speaking and writing skills in the target language. Emphasis will be placed on interpretive skills. Students who complete this course go into Spanish 2 in high school.

YEARBOOK PUBLICATION (09440)

As a Language Arts elective, students will be expanding their skills in reading vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency as well as writing, listening, and speaking in various contexts. A primary focus of this class is the design and creation of the school yearbook. Any student who is considering Publications must have computer knowledge and be willing to occasionally spend extra time after school with editing and photography. Students who have a strong work ethic and are good team players will be given priority in class selection.

Intervention Courses

Students may be placed into an intervention course instead of an elective. Placement into these classes is based on analysis of multiple forms of assessment data, established criteria, and recommendation by the MTSS team and building interventionist(s).

LITERACY SUPPORT

READ 180 (R180)

Grade Level: 6-8. Read 180 is a comprehensive system Tier II intervention program designed for students to accelerate reading growth and literacy independence. This program is for students reading below grade level. The academic areas of focus are reading (including phonological awareness, phonics/word study, comprehension, fluency, expanding vocabulary, and spelling) which also includes writing components; sentence construction, planning and revising. Read 180 is designed to maximize student engagement with technology, text, teacher instruction/modeling and peer reflections.

SYSTEM 44 (09546)

Grade Level: 6-8. System 44 is an Tier III intervention program that meets individual student needs through systematic instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, word analysis, spelling and fluency to improve reading skills. Direct teacher instruction guidance and reinforces phonics and word strategies while adaptive technology provides individualized practice.

MATH SUPPORT

MATH 6 FOUNDATIONS (06210)

This course is intended to be taken concurrently with the 6th grade core math course. It is an intervention designed to strengthen basic skills and provide support for students to be successful in the 6th grade core math course.

MATH 8 FOUNDATIONS (08210)

This course is intended to be taken concurrently with the 8th grade core math course. It is an intervention designed to strengthen basic skills and provide support for students to be successful in the 8th grade core math course.

MATH 7 FOUNDATIONS (07210)

This course is intended to be taken concurrently with the 7th grade core math course. It is an intervention designed to strengthen basic skills and provide support for students to be successful in the 7th grade core math course.

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS (CAPA)

West Middle School

CAPA is by audition only at West Middle School & Auburn High School. CAPA is a leading arts program for artistically talented and passionate students. For the past 40 years, CAPA has encouraged students to grow and pursue a lifelong love of the arts.

The CAPA program provides an in-depth fine arts experience in choir, band, orchestra, piano, dance, visual arts, media arts, theatre and technical theatre. Students take a three-year sequence of CAPA electives – students will hold a major and minor in two concentrated art areas of study based on their audition results and/or performance in their concentrated fine arts areas. Students are provided with numerous performance opportunities including community involvement and professional arts opportunities.

WHAT MAKES THE PROGRAM UNIQUE?

- Provides intensive and professional experiences in the arts.
- Arts integrated curriculum through all subject areas.
- The only program in the district that offers dance.
- The only middle school program that allows students to take two year-round arts classes.
- Highly qualified fine art staff who are active in the local community.
- Produces highly skilled artists and technicians who are committed to the arts and are ready to enter the workforce.

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

CORE COURSES

The curriculum and progression for core courses follow the listings in each content section, with additional enrichment via integration of the arts.

ELECTIVES

CAPA BEGINNING VISUAL ARTS (69100)

This course emphasizes developing creative ideas and problem-solving skills while providing students with an introduction to the visual arts. Foundation skills in design and composition will be emphasized in drawing, painting and sculpture.

CAPA INTERMEDIATE VISUAL ARTS (69103)

This course will explore traditional and experimental media. Students will study artwork from a variety of cultures and time periods with an emphasis on learning how to draw, paint, and develop good studio habits, craftsmanship and visual art vocabulary.

CAPA ADVANCED VISUAL ARTS (69106)

Students will advance and continue their exploration and development of skills with focus on mastering basic drawing and painting skills in a variety of media with special emphasis on experimentation, expression, craftsmanship, and originality. Art history, aesthetics, and critical topics will be presented. Simple studio and digital projects will allow simple image manipulation on the computer. Attention to the College Board Advanced Placement Art Studio progression of study will be infused within the curriculum.

CAPA MEDIA ARTS (69110)

This course is intended to engage student learning in the field of Digital Media with hands-on-projects and “real world” activities, focusing on narrative storytelling, self-representation, and self-expression. This course is based upon the development of a specific set of skills that would be required in the field of Digital Media. Five specific competencies or skills areas will be covered: Basics of Photography/Graphic design, Animation, Audio production and Web design. **Mandatory outside of class time spent working with other CAPA Art disciplines is part of the assessment for this class.**

CAPA BEGINNING DANCE (69079)

Students begin with the essentials of technique that combine and isolate movements in simple coordination, providing an introduction to all major dance techniques including ballet, modern, tap, jazz, lyrical and ethnic dance. Dance history and dance composition are also an integral part of the dance curriculum. **Students in the dance program will participate in mandatory classroom and public / community performances as an assessment component.**

CAPA INTERMEDIATE DANCE (69082)

At this level, students will continue to progress in their study and deepen their overall technical strength by practicing and improving their precision and clarity of movement. **Students in the dance program will participate in mandatory classroom and public / community performances as an assessment component.**

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

CAPA ADVANCED DANCE (69085)

Students will progress to find mastery of specific technical goals. This level will focus on the improvement of movement patterns in relation to spatial elements. Students will be expected to create original works which may be performed in a concert. **Students in the dance program will participate in mandatory classroom and public / community performances as an assessment component.**

CAPA BEGINNING BAND (69010)

This course is designed to develop the instrumental music skills of the beginning students. The emphasis of this performance-based group will be on developing skills and techniques on an instrument, sight reading, and ensemble performing skills. Students will participate in classroom and public/community performances as an assessment component. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is a mandatory part of the class assessment.**

CAPA INTERMEDIATE BAND (69013)

This band encourages the development of technical proficiency and musical knowledge through performance. Students will have opportunities to be a part of solo and ensemble events, school and community performances, as well as marching band. **Mandatory outside of class time spent rehearsing / performing is part of the assessment for this class.**

CAPA ADVANCED BAND (69016)

This band is made up of students who are encouraged to develop their musical training. As performance is such an important aspect of the program, students will have numerous opportunities to be a part of solo and ensemble events, school and community performances, as well as marching band. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is a mandatory part of the class assessment.**

CAPA BEGINNING ORCHESTRA (69040)

This course is designed to develop the instrumental music skills of the beginning string player. An emphasis of this performance based group will be placed on skills and techniques of the instrument, sight reading and ensemble performing skills. Participation in performances is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is a mandatory part of the class assessment.**

CAPA INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA (69043)

This course primarily will develop student technical proficiency and musical knowledge. String training will enable students to advance in their skills. Performance is an important aspect of the program; students will have numerous opportunities to be a part of solo and ensemble events and competitions. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is a mandatory part of the class assessment.**

CAPA ADVANCED ORCHESTRA (69046)

This course is an advanced group of musicians who work on techniques, literature, and performance. Students will be assigned small ensembles to rehearse in class as well. As performance is such an important aspect of the program, students will have numerous opportunities to be a part of solo and ensemble events and competitions. **Mandatory outside of class time spent rehearsing / performing is part of the assessment for this class.**

CAPA PIANO KEYBOARDING LAB (69050)

Building fundamentals of reading music in both bass clef and treble clef. Our goal is to be able to play piano with both hands and be able to read music at level 1.5 by the end of the school year. The students will also perform 2 concerts a year. Students will collaborate with other instrumental CAPA classes.

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

CAPA BEGINNING CHORUS (69000)

Students perform through singing, accompanying and creative movement. Proper breathing techniques, music theory, the study of solfege, improvisations, composition and the elements of music (melody, rhythm, texture, harmony and form), are all an integral part of the choral curriculum. CAPA choir students will participate in classroom and public/community performances as an assessment component.

Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is a mandatory part of the class assessment.

CAPA INTERMEDIATE CHORUS (69030)

Intermediate Choir students expand skills through more advanced ensemble singing. This is achieved through expanded part singing, singing in foreign languages and score study. Vocal techniques, music theory, solfege, improvisations, composition and the elements of music (melody, rhythm, texture, harmony and form), are all an integral part of the choral curriculum. CAPA choir students will participate in classroom and public/community performances as an assessment component.

Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is a mandatory part of the class assessment.

CAPA ADVANCED CHORUS (69033)

This course is designed to further develop the choral/ musicianship skills of the singer. Students will perform quality literature representing time periods, genres, and languages of choral music. Strong emphasis will be placed on independent musicianship, analysis of text, and interpretation. Performance is an important aspect of the program, students will have numerous opportunities to be a part of solo and ensemble events and competitions and community performances. **Rehearsal /**

performance time outside of class is a mandatory part of the class assessment.

CAPA BEGINNING THEATRE (69499)

This course is a basic overview of the actor's craft and theatre as an art form. Students will learn basic theatre terminology, improvisation, pantomime, and playwriting. Class members will perform reader's theatre, scenes and short plays and explore the use of voice, movement, and facial expression to tell a story and create a character. Students will study the origins of theatre, dramatic structure and style, criticism, and theatre etiquette. **Students will have numerous performance opportunities including community involvement.**

CAPA INTERMEDIATE THEATRE (69502)

This course explores various acting techniques and styles through in-depth study of pantomime, improvisation, scene work, monologues and an introduction to Shakespeare. Students will develop skills in theatrical criticism as they read and evaluate play scripts and performances. **Students will have numerous opportunities to be part of school and community performances, including the Intermediate Theatre Showcase.**

CAPA ADVANCED THEATRE (69505)

This course allows students to continue in an in-depth study of acting and prepares students to continue as theatre artists beyond the middle school program. In addition to acting, Advanced Theatre students study auditioning as well as theatre as it relates to outside careers. Students develop skills in performance and direction and culminate their middle school experience with a student directed Evening of One-Act Plays. **Students will have numerous opportunities to be part of school and community performances, including the One-Act Plays**

CAPA TECH THEATRE (69508)

This course is a broad overview of what happens behind the curtain. Students will learn the basics of set design, lighting, sound, props, makeup, set construction and costumes. Tech Theatre will assist in the production of the all-school plays and school events. **Hours outside of class time being involved in the performances will be an important part of the learning.**

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

GIFTED ACADEMY

Thurgood Marshall School

The Gifted Academy admission is by testing only. Admission testing sessions are held for students who live within RPS 205 boundaries. The gifted academy is at Thurgood Marshall Elementary (grades 1-4), Thurgood Marshall School (grades 5-8) and Auburn High School (grades 9-12).

Students thrive in the RPS 205 Gifted Academy, an accelerated program where academically gifted students develop their academic, creative, and critical-thinking skills.

The Gifted Academy includes many elective opportunities, clubs, and athletics to enrich the rigorous, inquiry-driven core instruction that defines the program. Learning extends beyond the classroom with field trips, partnerships and mentors, and volunteer opportunities to spark students' curiosity.

WHAT MAKES THE PROGRAM UNIQUE?

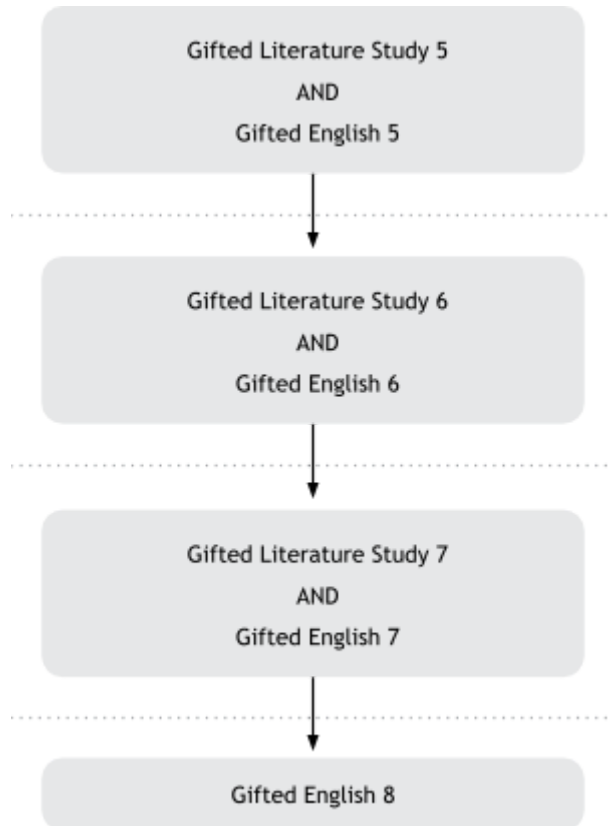
- Accelerated and advanced learning & curriculum to challenge students.
- An inquiry focus in all subject areas, including a daily inquiry block time in elementary school where students learn social and science skills.
- Project Lead The Way (PLTW) in middle & high school.
- Mandarin Chinese offered in middle & high school.
- Academic, athletic, service & special interest clubs.
- Competition opportunities: athletics, academic quiz bowl, chess, robotics, music, art, theatre.

STUDENT SCHEDULE

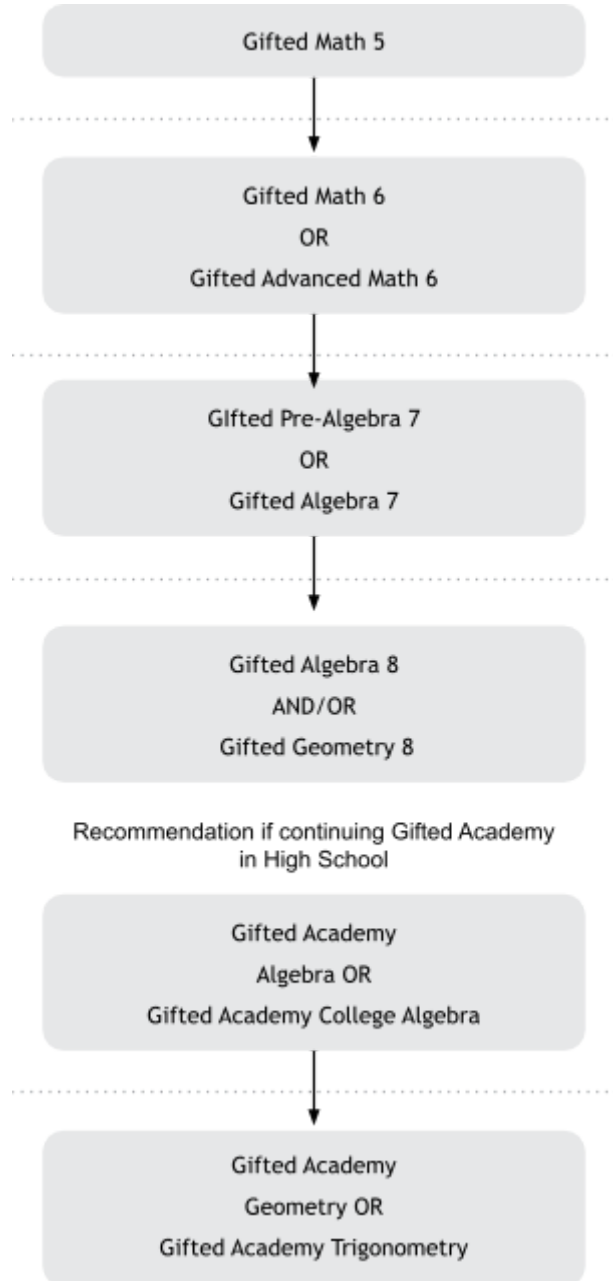
5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Gifted English 5	Gifted English 6	Gifted English 7	Gifted English 8
Gifted Math 5	Gifted Math	Gifted Math	Gifted Math
Gifted Science 5	Gifted Science 6	Gifted Science 7	Gifted Science 8
Gifted Social Studies 5	Gifted Social Studies 6	Gifted Social Studies 7	Gifted Social Studies 8
PE 5	Health/PE 6	PE 7	PE 8/Seminar
Gifted Literature 5	Gifted Literature 6	Gifted Literature 7	Elective Choice
Elective Choice	Elective Choice	Elective Choice	Elective Choice

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

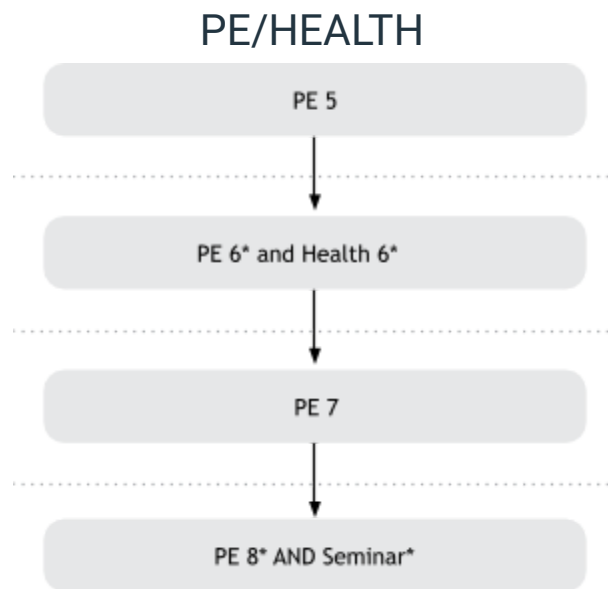
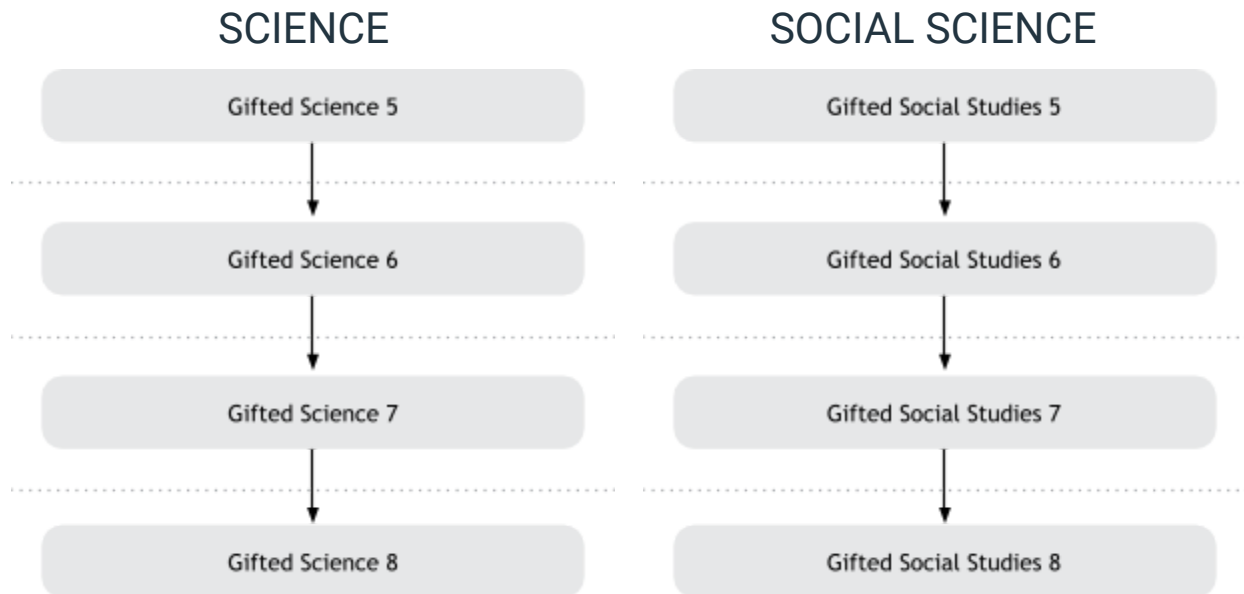
LANGUAGE ARTS



MATHEMATICS



Special Programs by Selective Enrollment



*1 semester

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

5TH GRADE CORE COURSES

GIFTED LITERATURE STUDY 5 (65280)

Grade Level: 5. In this course, students read a wide variety of rich and challenging texts to develop their critical reading skills and strengthen their reading identities. Students practice close reading strategies, noting how authors develop themes in fictional works, delve into higher-level nonfiction, and focus on fluency and word-solving. Students use relevant evidence to support reasoning when engaged in academic conversations, debate, and written analysis.

GIFTED ENGLISH 5 (65100)

Grade Level: 5. In this course, students use the writing process to develop a progression of writing skills related to organization, elaboration, craft, and conventions. Students read rich and challenging mentor texts to identify and study craft moves within a variety of genres. Students write often and revise their own narrative, informational, and argumentative texts, with a focus on volume, revision, and the use of textual evidence to support claims and reasoning. An intensive study of key grammatical features and proper usage complement students' growth as writers.

GIFTED MATH 5 (65200)

Grade Level: 5. In this course, students engage in problem-based lessons structured around a core concept, interact in groups to foster mathematical discourse, and practice with concepts and procedures spaced over time to aid in mastery. This course balances procedural fluency using algorithms and basic skills, deep conceptual understanding, strategic competence through problem-solving, and adaptive reasoning by application and extension activities. Key skills: operations with rational numbers, area/volume of shapes, data representation, basic statistics/probability.

GIFTED SCIENCE 5 (65300)

Grade Level: 5. This NGSS-aligned course uses an issue-oriented problem-based approach to investigate and study science. Students will learn and apply knowledge about physical science, life science, earth and space science and engineering design. Utilizing driving questions throughout, active student learners conduct investigations, engage in labs and simulations, read relevant informational texts and collaborate with peers to assess and resolve an identified issue. Student scientists apply new knowledge, as they use crosscutting concepts and scientific practices to provide solutions to science-related problems. Topics include: land, water and human interactions, energy, chemistry of materials, and ecology.

GIFTED SOCIAL STUDIES 5 (65400)

Grade Level: 5. In this course, students use geography as a lens to understand the world. Through analysis of maps, graphs, charts, and primary and secondary sources, students explain and evaluate the relationship between people and their environments. Students use inquiry to ask questions, identify and use reliable sources, and communicate conclusions about both historical and current events.

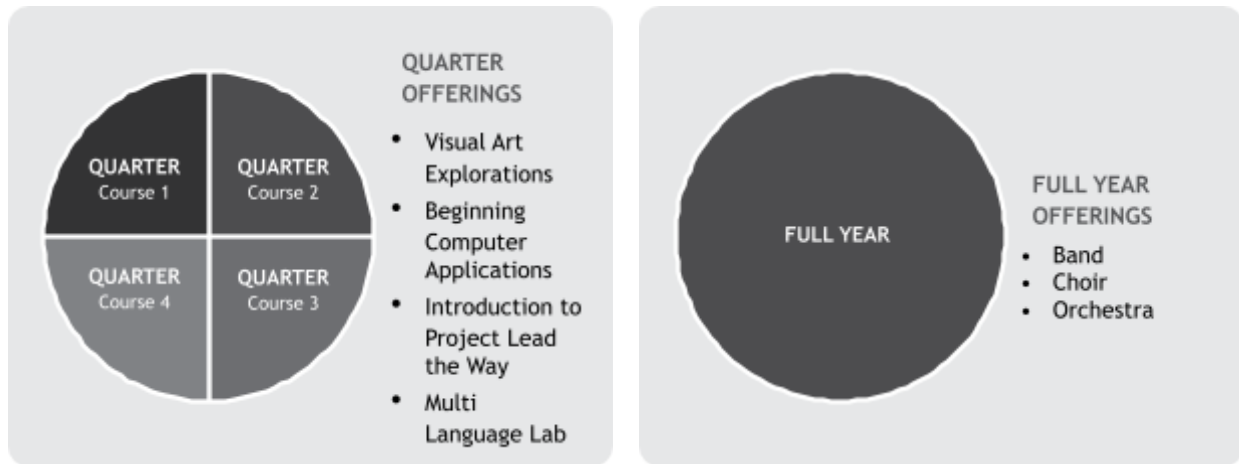
PE 5 (65030)

Grade Level: 5. Physical education class.

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

5TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

5th grade students will have the choice of taking either a full year elective class or the wheel which will consist of four quarter classes.



QUARTER ELECTIVES

VISUAL ARTS EXPLORATIONS (09100Q)

Grade Level: 5. One quarter. Students will explore traditional and technological media from a variety of cultures and time periods. Through the use of various media, students will build their skills and knowledge of art, as well as through opportunities in art criticism and artist studies. An emphasis is placed on learning how to draw, paint, print and on developing good studio habits, craftsmanship, and visual art vocabulary.

BEGINNING COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (09224Q)

Grade Level: 5. One quarter. This is an introductory course to computer applications beginning with basic keyboarding skills and introducing students to basic skills in Microsoft Office.

INTRODUCTION TO PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (09279)

Grade Level: 5. One quarter. Students will become better problem solvers, communicators, collaborators, and critical thinkers as they tackle global issues through coding, robotics, circuitry, and aeronautics.

MULTI-LANGUAGE LAB (09560Q)

Grade Level: 5. One quarter. Students will be introduced to the basics of Spanish and French. Units of study will include the alphabet and pronunciation, greetings and goodbyes, numbers, days of the week, months, and seasons.

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

YEARLONG ELECTIVES

BEGINNING BAND (09010)

Grade Level: 5-8. Yearlong. Students with little or no experience in a band ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will initially learn about various instruments within the band and then work with one instrument through more in-depth study on skills and techniques. Students will be learning both individual and ensemble skills and techniques through the use of quality literature from many time periods, and genres. Participation in the performance assessment is required. Mandatory outside of class time spent rehearsing / performing is part of this class. *Course may not be repeated.*

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA (09040)

Grade Level: 5-8. Yearlong. Students with little or no experience in a strings ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will initially learn about various instruments within the strings ensemble and then work with one instrument through more in-depth study on skills and techniques. Students will be learning both individual and ensemble skills and techniques through the use of quality literature from many time periods, and genres. Participation in the performance assessment is required. Mandatory outside of class time spent rehearsing / performing is part of this class. *Course may not be repeated.*

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

6TH GRADE CORE COURSES

GIFTED LITERATURE STUDY 6 (09280)

Grade Level: 6. In this course, students use essential Pre-AP skills and knowledge to engage in rich and complex reading experiences under the broad topic of change. Through close reading and analysis, students identify relevant evidence to support and answer claims within a wide variety of genres and texts including poetry, novels, plays, biographies, nonfiction narratives, speeches and films. A focus on evidence-supported written responses prepares students to engage in rich and lively academic conversations. Independent reading provides regular options for choice and creates relatable connections to in-class reading work.

GIFTED ENGLISH 6 (66100)

Grade Level: 6. This course uses essential Pre-AP skills and knowledge to engage students in reading rich, challenging mentor texts to study and apply the craft of writing. Through deep analysis and critique, writers learn to develop their own skills as authors of narrative, argumentative, and informational texts. Students write and revise often, using a wide variety of formats and techniques. They engage in the work of research, supporting their own claims with relevant evidence and reasoning. Additional focus areas of learning include the study of Latin and Greek roots, grammar and usage.

GIFTED MATH 6 (66200)

Grade Level: 6. In this course, students engage in problem-based lessons structured around a core concept, interact in groups to foster mathematical discourse, and practice with concepts and procedures spaced over time to aid in mastery. This course balances procedural fluency using algorithms and basic skills, deep conceptual understanding, strategic competence through problem-solving, and adaptive reasoning by application and extension activities. Key skills: operations with decimals and fractions, proportional relationships and unit rates, solving algebraic equations one and two steps

GIFTED ADVANCED MATH 6 (66203)

Grade Level: 6. In this course, students engage in problem-based lessons structured around a core concept, interact in groups to foster mathematical discourse, and practice with concepts and procedures spaced over time to aid in mastery. This course balances procedural fluency using algorithms and basic skills, deep conceptual understanding, strategic competence through problem-solving, and adaptive reasoning by application and extension activities. Key skills: comparing ratios and rates, representing and simplifying expressions including exponents, linear equations through multiple representations, introduction to system equations

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

GIFTED SCIENCE 6 (66300)

Grade Level: 6. This NGSS-aligned course uses an issue-oriented problem-based approach to investigate and study science. Students will learn and apply knowledge about physical science, life science, earth and space science and engineering design. Utilizing driving questions throughout, active student learners conduct investigations, engage in labs and simulations, read relevant informational texts and collaborate with peers to assess and resolve an identified issue. Student scientists apply new knowledge, as they use crosscutting concepts and scientific practices to provide solutions to science-related problems. Topics include: weather and climate, geological processes, chemical reactions, body systems.

GIFTED SOCIAL STUDIES 6 (66400)

Grade Level: 6. In this course, students examine the development of societies and governments throughout early-recorded human history. Through a deep study of historical sources, students analyze and evaluate how early power structures protected, granted, or denied rights across the ancient world. Evidence-based critique and analysis are used to develop an understanding of how and why peoples' perspectives change over time. Students use inquiry to ask questions, identify and use reliable sources, communicate conclusions and take informed action.

PE 6 (09069)

Grade Level: 6. Semester. This course helps to build participants as health-literate persons through lifetime fitness and team sport activities. Participants will learn basic locomotor, non-loco motor, and manipulative principles of correct athletic forms for course activities. Students will demonstrate their understanding of fitness and health through the performance, analysis, and critique of fitness, movement, and safety procedures for physical activities. Principles of teamwork within physical activity to group activities will be explored within the course, providing students with opportunities to develop individual responsibility, cooperation, and respect for self and others in everyday life experiences.

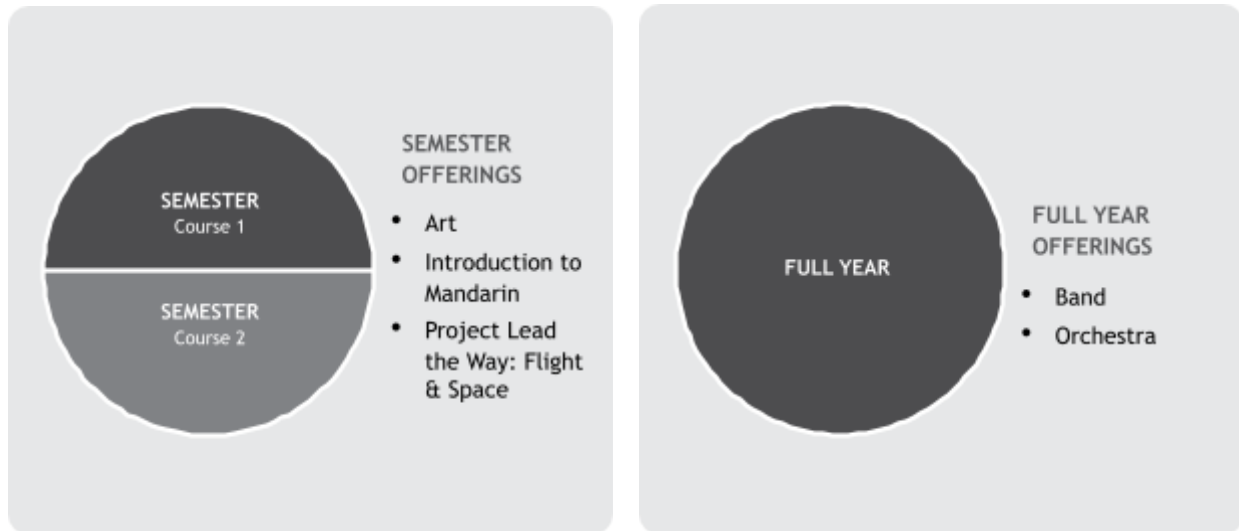
HEALTH 6 (09190)

Semester. Students will learn about the human body systems, actions, health promotion, as well as prevention and treatment within this course. In addition, they will explore communication and decision-making skills to promote healthy living.

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

6TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

6th grade students will have the choice of taking either two semester-long elective classes or a full year elective class.



SEMESTER ELECTIVES

VISUAL ART EXPLORATIONS (09100)

Grade Level: 6-8. One semester. Students will explore traditional and technological media from a variety of cultures and time periods. Using various media and opportunities in art criticism and artist studies, students will build their skills and knowledge of art. An emphasis is placed on learning how to draw, paint, print, develop good studio habits, appreciate craftsmanship, and understand and use visual art vocabulary.

INTRODUCTION TO MANDARIN (07621)

Grade Level: 6. One semester. Students will be introduced to the Mandarin Chinese Language and the Chinese people. Topics of study will include the customs and history, alphabet and pronunciation, greetings and goodbyes.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY: FLIGHT & SPACE (09336)

Grade Level: 6-7. One semester. The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through the Flight and Space (FS) unit. Students become engineers as they design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to travel and live in space. They solve real-world aviation and space challenges and plan a mission to Mars.

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

YEARLONG ELECTIVES

BEGINNING BAND (09010)

Grade Level: 5-8. Yearlong. Students with little or no experience in a band ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will initially learn about various instruments within the band and then work with one instrument through more in-depth study on skills and techniques. Students will be learning both individual and ensemble skills and techniques through the use of quality literature from many time periods, and genres. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

INTERMEDIATE BAND (09013)

Grade Level: 6-8. Yearlong. Prerequisite: Beginning Band or consent of instructor. Students will focus on band techniques, literature, sight-reading skills, improvisation, and performance. This ensemble will perform at school as well as in the community. Participation in the performance assessment is required. Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory. *Course may not be repeated.*

BEGINNING CHOIR (09000)

Grade Level: 5-8. Yearlong. Students with little or no experience in a choral ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will develop music literacy and vocal skills through rehearsal and performance. Participation in the performance assessment is required. Mandatory outside of class time spent rehearsing / performing is part of the assessment for this class. *Course may not be repeated.*

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA (09040)

Grade Level: 5-8. Yearlong. Students with little or no experience in a strings ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will initially learn about various instruments within the strings ensemble and then work with one instrument through more in-depth study on skills and techniques. Students will be learning both individual and ensemble skills and techniques through the use of quality literature from many time periods, and genres. Participation in the performance assessment is required. Mandatory outside of class time spent rehearsing / performing is part of this class. *Course may not be repeated.*

INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA (09043)

Grade Level: 6-8. Yearlong. Prerequisite: Beginning Orchestra or consent of instructor. Students will focus on string techniques, literature, sight-reading skills, improvisation, and performance. This ensemble will perform at school as well as in the community. Participation in the performance assessment is required. Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory. *Course may not be repeated.*

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

7TH GRADE CORE COURSES

7TH GRADE LITERATURE STUDIES (09403)

Grade Level: 7. In this course, students use essential Pre-AP skills and knowledge to engage in rich and complex reading experiences under the broad topic of choice. Students use close reading strategies to read and think critically using a wide variety of genres and texts including poetry, novels, plays, biographies, nonfiction narratives, speeches and films. Students read, research, and make connections across multiple texts, to develop and support claims and counterclaims with relevant evidence and high-level reasoning. Independent reading provides regular options for choice and creates relatable connections to in-class reading work.

GIFTED ENGLISH 7 (67100)

Grade Level: 7. This course uses essential Pre-AP skills and knowledge to engage students in reading rich, challenging mentor texts to study and apply the craft of writing. Through deep analysis and critique, writers learn to develop their own skills as authors of narrative, argumentative and informational texts. Students write and revise often, using a wide variety of formats and techniques. A deep study of grammar and usage anchor the writing work. Students develop and answer researchable questions by identifying multiple, credible sources and finding relevant evidence to support claims and develop counterclaims. Opportunities for collaboration create an environment where students actively share, compare, critique, debate, and build on others' ideas to advance their learning.

GIFTED PRE-ALGEBRA 7 (67200)

Grade Level: 7. In this course, students engage in problem-based lessons structured around a core concept, interact in groups to foster mathematical discourse, and practice with concepts and procedures spaced over time to aid in mastery. This course balances procedural fluency using algorithms and basic skills, deep conceptual understanding, strategic competence through problem-solving, and adaptive reasoning by application and extension activities. Key skills: comparing ratios and rates, representing and simplifying expressions including exponents, linear equations through multiple representations, introduction to system equations

GIFTED ALGEBRA 7 (67203)

Grade Level: 7. In this course, students engage in problem-based lessons structured around a core concept, interact in groups to foster mathematical discourse, and practice with concepts and procedures spaced over time to aid in mastery. This course balances procedural fluency using algorithms and basic skills, deep conceptual understanding, strategic competence through problem-solving, and adaptive reasoning by application and extension activities. Key skills: solving, graphing and modeling with linear, quadratic and exponential functions, solving complex equations & inequalities, systems of equations

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

GIFTED SCIENCE 7 (67300)

Grade Level: 7. This NGSS-aligned course uses an issue-oriented problem-based approach to investigate and study science. Students will learn and apply knowledge about physical science, life science, earth and space science and engineering design. Utilizing driving questions throughout, active student learners conduct investigations, engage in labs and simulations, read relevant informational texts and collaborate with peers to assess and resolve an identified issue. Student scientists apply new knowledge, as they use crosscutting concepts and scientific practices to provide solutions to science-related problems. Topics include: solar system and beyond, force and motion, fields and interactions, cells to organisms.

GIFTED SOCIAL STUDIES 7 (67402)

Grade Level: 7. In this course, students discover the key events, ideas, and people who shaped American history from colonization through westward expansion. Students explore the dynamic influences that shaped the nation's government, economy, and society through reading and analysis of our nation's foundational documents. Evidence-based research, critique, and analysis are used to develop a deep understanding of the causes and effects of key historical events and the multiple perspectives that inform source documents. Students use inquiry to ask questions, identify and use reliable sources, and communicate conclusions through argumentative writing, debate, and discussion.

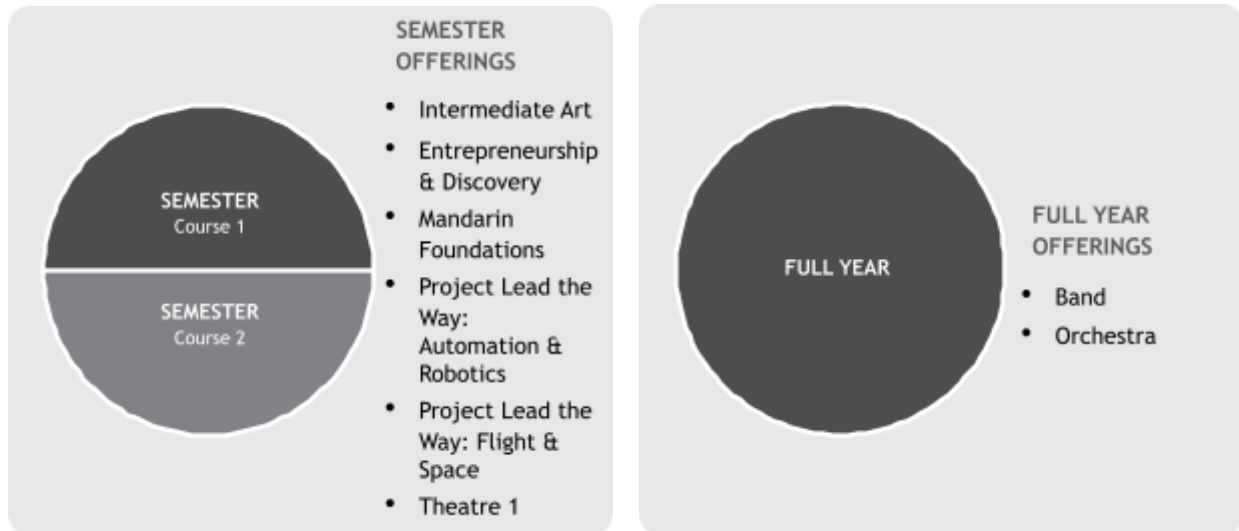
PE 7 (09033)

Grade Level: 7. Yearlong. Students participate within various fitness tests to assist in their design of individualized fitness plans. Participants will learn to utilize fitness tools and resources to help monitor, evaluate, design, and implement these plans. Students will continue to build their health and fitness literacy through the performance, analysis, and critique of fitness, movement, and safety procedures for physical activities. Activities that may be a part of this course are weight lifting, agility drills, specific stretching techniques, sports etiquette, and physical and nutritional care. Students will continue to develop individual responsibility, cooperation, and respect for self and others in everyday life experiences. *Course may not be repeated.*

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

7TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

7th grade students will have the choice of taking either two semester-long elective classes or a full year elective class.



SEMESTER ELECTIVES

INTERMEDIATE ART (09103)

Grade Level: 7. One semester. Students will focus on mastering basic drawing and painting skills in a variety of media with special emphasis on experimentation, expression, craftsmanship, and originality. Art history, aesthetics, and critical topics will be presented. *Course may not be repeated.*

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & DISCOVERY (09451)

Grade Level: 7-8. One semester. Students will be engaged in Career & Technical exploration with hands-on entrepreneurship experience. This program empowers students with the tools and mindset to explore what it takes to be an entrepreneur, which in turn can help shape a student's future regardless of path. *Course may not be repeated.*

MANDARIN FOUNDATIONS (07620)

Grade Level: 7. One semester. This course is designed to build a foundation for the high school Mandarin course. The students will be introduced to the language, customs, and culture of China. The basic structure of the language is covered with an emphasis on listening and speaking skills.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY: AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS (09335)

Grade Level: 7. One semester. By learning and designing mechanical systems, exploring energy transfer, and creating computer controls, students will gain insight into the engineered and robotic world around them. They will use the VEX Robotics platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. *Course may not be repeated.*

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY: FLIGHT & SPACE (09336)

Grade Level: 6-7. One semester. The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through the Flight and Space (FS) unit. Students become engineers as they design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to travel and live in space. They solve real-world aviation and space challenges and plan a mission to Mars.

GIFTED THEATRE 1 (09401)

Grade Level: 7. One semester. Students will study and perform musicals, drama, and comedy through scripted materials, dramatic criticism, original creation, and the role of theater in society. Students will perform collaboratively while learning methods of self-expression.

YEARLONG ELECTIVES

BEGINNING BAND (09010)

Grade Level: 5-8. Yearlong. Students with little or no experience in a band ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will initially learn about various instruments within the band and then work with one instrument through more in-depth study on skills and techniques. Students will be learning both individual and ensemble skills and techniques through the use of quality literature from many time periods, and genres. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

INTERMEDIATE BAND (09013)

Grade Level: 6-8. Yearlong. Prerequisite: Beginning Band or consent of instructor. Students will focus on band techniques, literature, sight-reading skills, improvisation, and performance. This ensemble will perform at school as well as in the community. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

ADVANCED BAND (09016)

Grade Level: 7-8. Yearlong. Prerequisite: Intermediate Band or consent of instructor. Students will focus on band techniques, literature, sight-reading skills, improvisation, and performance. This ensemble will perform at school as well as in the community. Students may enroll in this course for more than one year. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

BEGINNING CHOIR (09000)

Grade Level: 5-8. Yearlong. Students with little or no experience in a choral ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will develop music literacy and vocal skills through rehearsal and performance. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA (09040)

Grade Level: 5-8. Yearlong. Students with little or no experience in a strings ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will initially learn about various instruments within the strings ensemble and then work with one instrument through more in-depth study on skills and techniques. Students will be learning both individual and ensemble skills and techniques through the use of quality literature from many time periods, and genres. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA (09043)

Grade Level: 6-8. Yearlong. Prerequisite: Beginning Orchestra or consent of instructor. Students will focus on string techniques, literature, sight-reading skills, improvisation, and performance. This ensemble will perform at school as well as in the community. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

ADVANCED ORCHESTRA (09046)

Grade Level: 7-8. Yearlong. Prerequisite: Intermediate Orchestra or consent of instructor. Students will focus on string techniques, literature, sight-reading skills, improvisation, and performance. This ensemble will perform at school as well as in the community. Students may enroll in this course for more than one year. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

8TH GRADE CORE COURSES

GIFTED ENGLISH 8 (68100)

Grade Level: 8. This writing-intensive capstone course uses essential Pre-AP skills and knowledge to engage students in reading rich, challenging mentor texts to study and apply the craft of writing. Through deep analysis and critique, writers learn to develop their own skills as authors of narrative, argumentative, and informational texts. Students write and revise often, using a wide variety of formats and techniques. They engage in the work of research, synthesizing ideas across multiple texts while making connections to real-world issues. Students participate in lively debates, engage in discussions of literature, design multimedia presentations, and develop their higher-order thinking skills to enhance their understanding of complex literary texts. Opportunities for collaboration create an environment where students actively share, compare, critique, debate, and build on others' ideas to advance their learning.

GIFTED ALGEBRA 8 (68200)

Grade Level: 7-8. In this course, students engage in problem-based lessons structured around a core concept, interact in groups to foster mathematical discourse, and practice with concepts and procedures spaced over time to aid in mastery. This course balances procedural fluency using algorithms and basic skills, deep conceptual understanding, strategic competence through problem-solving, and adaptive reasoning by application and extension activities. Key skills: solving, graphing and modeling with linear, quadratic and exponential functions, solving complex equations & inequalities, systems of equations.

GIFTED GEOMETRY 8 (68203)

Grade Level: 8. In this course, students engage in problem-based lessons structured around a core concept, interact in groups to foster mathematical discourse, and practice with concepts and procedures spaced over time to aid in mastery. This course balances procedural fluency using algorithms and basic skills, deep conceptual understanding, strategic competence through problem-solving, and adaptive reasoning by application and extension activities. Key skills: constructing logical arguments, developing spatial reasoning using properties of 2 and 3 dimensional figures, and using properties of similarity and congruence for calculating measurements. Students should be concurrently enrolled in Algebra to take Geometry as an elective.

GIFTED SCIENCE 8 (68300)

Grade Level: 8. This NGSS-aligned course uses an issue-oriented problem-based approach to investigate and study science. Students will learn and apply knowledge about physical science, life science, earth and space science and engineering design. Utilizing driving questions throughout, active student learners conduct investigations, engage in labs and simulations, read relevant informational texts and collaborate with peers to assess and resolve an identified issue. Student scientists apply new knowledge, as they use crosscutting concepts and scientific practices to provide solutions to science-related problems. Topics include: Earth's resources, reproduction, biomedical engineering, evolution and waves.

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

GIFTED SOCIAL STUDIES 8 (68401)

Grade Level: 8. In this course, students trace the evolution of the United States as a world power from the end of the 19th century through the present era. Students will examine recurring themes in order to develop critical thinking and analysis skills to study the patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use and alteration of the world. The students will use a project-based learning approach to ask questions, identify and use credible sources, communicate conclusions, and critique arguments with supporting evidence and reasoning.

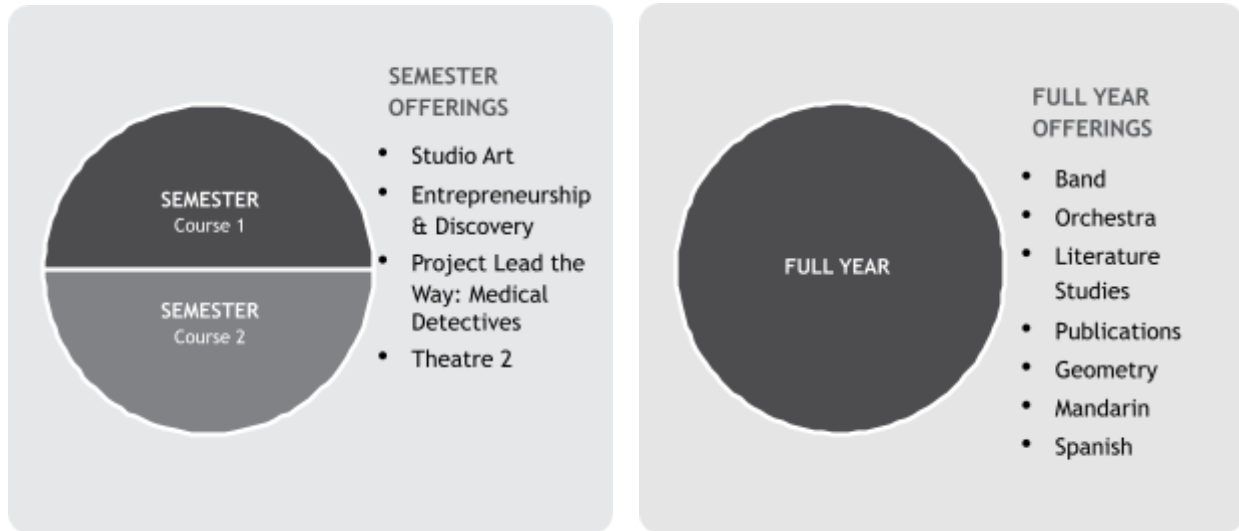
PE 8 (09066)

Grade Level: 8. Semester. Students participate within various fitness tests to assist in their design of individualized fitness plans. Participants will learn to utilize fitness tools and resources to help monitor, evaluate, design, and implement these plans. Students will continue to build their health and fitness literacy through the performance, analysis, and critique of fitness, movement, and safety procedures for physical activities. Activities that may be a part of this course are weight lifting, agility drills, specific stretching techniques, sports etiquette, and physical and nutritional care. Students will continue to develop individual responsibility, cooperation, and respect for self and others in everyday life experiences.

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

8TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

8th grade students will have the choice of taking either two semester-long elective classes or a full year elective class.



SEMESTER ELECTIVES

STUDIO ART (09106)

Grade Level: 8. One semester. Prerequisite: Intermediate Art or consent of instructor. Students will continue to master skills and techniques in a variety of media including, but not limited to drawing, painting, printmaking, fibers, sculpture, and graphic design. Art history, aesthetics, and critical topics will be presented with student work connecting their artwork with these areas. Participation within a project based learning assessment is required.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & DISCOVERY (09451)

Grade Level: 7-8. One semester. Students will be engaged in Career & Technical exploration with hands-on entrepreneurship experience. This program empowers students with the tools and mindset to explore what it takes to be an entrepreneur, which in turn can help shape a student's future regardless of path. *Course may not be repeated.*

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY - MEDICAL DETECTIVES (09339)

Grade Level: 8. One semester. Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction. Course may not be repeated.

GIFTED THEATRE 2 (09402)

Grade Level: 8. One semester. Students will express themselves in dramatic play and storytelling using movement, language, character, plot, and spectacle. Students may focus on acting techniques and traditions or other aspects of drama such as staging, lighting, and costuming.

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

YEARLONG ELECTIVES

BEGINNING BAND (09010)

Grade Level: 5-8. Yearlong. Students with little or no experience in a band ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will initially learn about various instruments within the band and then work with one instrument through more in-depth study on skills and techniques. Students will be learning both individual and ensemble skills and techniques through the use of quality literature from many time periods, and genres. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

INTERMEDIATE BAND (09013)

Grade Level: 6-8. Yearlong. Prerequisite: Beginning Band or consent of instructor. Students will focus on band techniques, literature, sight-reading skills, improvisation, and performance. This ensemble will perform at school as well as in the community. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

ADVANCED BAND (09016)

Grade Level: 7-8. Yearlong. Prerequisite: Intermediate Band or consent of instructor. Students will focus on band techniques, literature, sight-reading skills, improvisation, and performance. This ensemble will perform at school as well as in the community. Students may enroll in this course for more than one year. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

BEGINNING CHOIR (09000)

Grade Level: 5-8. Yearlong. Students with little or no experience in a choral ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will develop music literacy and vocal skills through rehearsal and performance. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA (09040)

Grade Level: 5-8. Yearlong. Students with little or no experience in a strings ensemble will be participating within this course. Students will initially learn about various instruments within the strings ensemble and then work with one instrument through more in-depth study on skills and techniques. Students will be learning both individual and ensemble skills and techniques through the use of quality literature from many time periods, and genres. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA (09043)

Grade Level: 6-8. Yearlong. Prerequisite: Beginning Orchestra or consent of instructor. Students will focus on string techniques, literature, sight-reading skills, improvisation, and performance. This ensemble will perform at school as well as in the community. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

ADVANCED ORCHESTRA (09046)

Grade Level: 7-8. Yearlong. Prerequisite: Intermediate Orchestra or consent of instructor. Students will focus on string techniques, literature, sight-reading skills, improvisation, and performance. This ensemble will perform at school as well as in the community. Students may enroll in this course for more than one year. Participation in the performance assessment is required. **Rehearsal / performance time outside of class is mandatory.** *Course may not be repeated.*

GIFTED LITERATURE STUDY 8 (08500)

Grade Level: 8. Yearlong. In this course, our community of readers will read and explore genres, authors, relevant and inspirational themes, and a variety of texts through independent reading, book clubs, discussions, and personal reflection. Choices abound, as students explore a variety of text types including novels, literary nonfiction, essays, short stories, poems, infographics, digital commentary, and articles. This year-long course is designed to inspire readers of all kinds and ignite the joy of reading.

YEARBOOK PUBLICATION (09440)

Grade Level: 8. Yearlong. As a Language Arts elective, students will be expanding their skills in reading vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency as well as writing, listening, and speaking in various contexts. A primary focus of this class is the design and creation of the school yearbook. Any student who is considering Publications must have computer knowledge and be willing to occasionally spend extra time after school with editing and photography. Students who have a strong work ethic and are good team players will be given priority in class selection.

GIFTED GEOMETRY 8 (68203)

Grade Level: 8. Yearlong. In this course, students engage in problem-based lessons structured around a core concept, interact in groups to foster mathematical discourse, and practice with concepts and procedures spaced over time to aid in mastery. This course balances procedural fluency using algorithms and basic skills, deep conceptual understanding, strategic competence through problem-solving, and adaptive reasoning by application and extension activities. Key skills: constructing logical arguments, developing spatial reasoning using properties of 2 and 3 dimensional figures, and using properties of similarity and congruence for calculating measurements. Students should be concurrently enrolled in Algebra to take Geometry as an elective.

MANDARIN (08630)

Grade Level: 8. Yearlong. This year-long course is an introduction to the language, customs, and culture of China. The basic structure of the language will be covered with an emphasis on speaking and listening. Reading and writing skills will be introduced. Course completion counts as a prerequisite to Mandarin Chinese 2 offered at high school.

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

SPANISH 1 (09570)

Grade Level: 8. Yearlong. This course is an introduction to the language, customs, and culture of Spanish speaking countries. The basic structure of the language is covered with an emphasis on listening and reading in the target language, and an introduction to speaking and writing skills in the target language. Emphasis will be placed on interpretive skills. Students who complete this course go into Spanish 2 in high school.

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

MARIA MONTESSORI

Marsh

Maria Montessori education starts with students' natural interests and activities instead of a traditional structured day.

More time could be spent on certain activities or subject areas, since students are encouraged to prioritize their own learning and activities. In turn, they learn project and time management. Student independence is encouraged, with a focus on the whole student: social, emotional, intellectual and physical development.

A PreK lottery is held January to early March for children who will be 4 on or before September 1.

Students interested in grades K-6 can complete an interest form to be put on a waitlist.

What makes the program unique?

- Students are grouped in multi-age classrooms and encouraged to take responsibility for their own education.
- Montessori-trained teachers foster independence by supporting students as they move with purpose throughout the classroom.
- Older students model for younger students.
- Students remain with the same teacher for 2-3 years, developing a strong sense of community with self-directed learning.

Special Programs by Selective Enrollment

TWO-WAY LANGUAGE IMMERSION

Barbour

Two-Way Language Immersion at Barbour gives students the gift of two languages. Students will develop proficiency in reading and writing in English and Spanish. Students will develop appreciation toward other cultures.

A kindergarten lottery is held from January to early March. Must pass a Spanish or English verbal assessment. Complete an interest form to be put on a waitlist:

- Students entering grades K-1 can speak English and/or Spanish.
- Students entering grades 2-7 must speak both English *and* Spanish.

What makes the program unique?

- The only grades K-8 school where students learn to read, write and speak in English and Spanish.
Daily Instruction:
 - **Grades K-1:** 90% Spanish and 10% English. English instruction increases in second grade.
 - **Grades 3-8:** 50% Spanish and 50% English
 - **All grades:** 100% English in art, music, PE & library
- Split Spanish and English heritage speakers allows for peer modeling and support.
- Opportunity to earn the Seal of Biliteracy and achieve college credits by taking the Spanish AP test.
- Prepares students for the global market.

Course selection at Barbour is driven by the unique language allocation that drives the Two-Way Language Immersion model. By middle school, students are immersed 50% of their academic day in Spanish, and the other 50% in English. All students participate in core curriculums such as Spanish Language Arts, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Sciences, Science, Intervention, Physical Education and Health. Students at Barbour have a choice of a performing or visual art curriculum to complete their academic studies.

The following are course code numbers that may be offered at Barbour TWI:

Language Arts

- ELA 6 (06100)
- SLA 6 (63640)
- ELA 7 (07100)
- SLA 7 (63740)
- ELA 8 (08100)
- SLA 8 (63840)

Social Studies

- Spanish Social Studies 6 (63630)
- Early American History 7 (07400)
- Modern American History 8 (08400)

Fine and Performing Arts

- Beginning Art (09110)
- Intermediate Art (09113)
- Advanced Art (09116)
- Beginning Band (09140)
- Intermediate Band (09143)
- Advanced Band (09146)
- General Music 6-8 (09930)

Mathematics

- Math 6 (06200)
- Math 7 (07200)
- Math 8 (08200)
- Acc. Integrated Math 1 (08220)

Science

- Spanish Science 6 (63620)
- Science 7 (07300)
- Spanish Science 8 (63820)

Physical Education

- PE 6-8 (09900)
- Health 6-8 (09911)

SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING

PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

All Rockford middle schools provide support and services to students with all types of disabilities. All decisions regarding course selection and graduation options must be discussed at a student's annual IEP meeting.

CO-TAUGHT

Rockford middle schools offer co-taught general education classes for students with disabilities. A co-taught class is made up of students with and without disabilities and is taught by both a general and a special education teacher. Co-taught classes are designed to cover the same standards at the same rate as a typical class. The advantage is that students are able to receive more individualized attention, curricular accommodations, and the student-to-teacher ratio is significantly lowered. Students with disabilities are placed in co-taught classes through the IEP process.

INSTRUCTIONAL CLASSES

Instructional opportunities exist for all core academic courses. Instructional classes are only for students with special education eligibilities and are taught by licensed special education teachers. Instructional classes cover the same standards, but at a slower rate than general education classes. Due to the slower rate, not all standards are covered in the same depth as in a general education class. Instructional classes have smaller class size limits and may have paraprofessional support as needed. Students are placed in instructional classes only through the IEP process.

PROGRAMMED LEARNING FOR UNIQUE STUDENTS (PLUS) PROGRAM

PLUS classrooms are for students with low incidence special education needs in the areas of communication, social skills development, and cognitive deficits. PLUS classrooms are located in specific schools. Students with moderate, severe, or profound cognitive disabilities may participate in PLUS classes. Students in these classes take the Dynamic Learning Map State Assessment (DLM) and participate in an alternate curriculum based on the Illinois Common Core Essential Elements. The curriculum focuses on providing opportunities for the students to be as independent as possible upon high school completion. Students in PLUS classes will be expected to exit high school with a Certificate of Completion at the end of their program. Students are placed in PLUS classes only through the IEP process.

LOW INCIDENCE/HEARING IMPAIRED CLASSES (HI)

HI classrooms are located in specific schools. These classes are taught by teachers trained to teach students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Total Communication is utilized for instruction and all classes required for graduation are taught in the HI program. Students are placed in HI classes only through the IEP process.

SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING

LOW INCIDENCE/EMOTIONAL DISABILITY CLASSES (ED)

ED classrooms are located in specific schools. These classes are for students with Emotional Disabilities. Students with Emotional Disabilities may benefit from the highly structured behavior management systems utilized in the LI/ED classrooms. Students in LI/ED classes will be expected to exit high school with a standard diploma. LI/ED classes have smaller class size limits and are taught by a licensed special education teacher with paraprofessional support as needed. Students are placed in LI/ED classes only through the IEP process.

VISION IMPAIRED RESOURCE (VI)

The vision resource program is for students who are blind and visually impaired. Vision itinerant services are provided at every school throughout the district, but dedicated VI classrooms are located in specific schools. The resource program is primarily used for students who use/are learning braille, assistive technology, and keyboarding. The students have access to a variety of assistive technology equipment in the vision room such as CCTVs, talking computer programs, magnification programs, braille embossers, tactile machines, and the like.

SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING

BILINGUAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

These programs are offered at selected schools. Please contact your guidance counselor for more information on which schools are offering which programs.

TRANSITIONAL BILINGUAL EDUCATION (TBE) - ARABIC & SPANISH

Students whose first language is Spanish or Arabic and have scored below a 4.8 composite on either the state mandated ACCESS test or WIDA MODEL screener qualifies for bilingual services. Bilingual coursework is offered in two types: Bilingual and Sheltered Instruction.

Bilingual classes are offered in all academic core content classes. Instruction is primarily given in the students' native language. Students are scheduled into these classes based on placement guidelines.

Sheltered classes are offered in core content classes as well. These classes utilize the general education materials as well as supplemental materials. The language of instruction is primarily in English with home language support as necessary. The goal of these classes is to acquire academic literacy in content areas. Students are scheduled into these classes based on placement guidelines.

COURSES IN TBE PROGRAMMING

The following is a list of the courses offered in the bilingual program. Each class follows the standards established by the general education curriculum. Course descriptions, sequences, and grade levels can be found in the earlier sections. Students enrolled in these courses will be provided directions and some instruction in their native language. The instruction will work on bridging the languages for the students to be successful in their general education classes.

ESL AND ALA OR SLA

Students in the TBE program are required to take English as a Second Language (ESL) and either Arabic Language Arts (ALA) or Spanish Language Arts (SLA).

The ESL class supports students in improving their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English. Students are placed in an ESL class based on their level of English proficiency.

The ALA or SLA class gives students the opportunity to receive instruction on the culture of the student's native land, as well as develop their Language Arts skills. Students are placed in these classes based on their grade level.

ESL 1 (02100)	AND	ALA 6 (03865) OR SLA 6 (03860)
ESL 2 (02200)		ALA 7 (03875) OR SLA 7 (03870)
ESL 3 (02300)		ALA 8 (03885) OR SLA 8 (03880)
ESL 4 (02400)		

Bilingual Math

- Bilingual Math 6 (03600)
- Bilingual Math 7 (03700)
- Bilingual Math 8 (03800)

Bilingual Science

- Bilingual Science 6 (03610)
- Bilingual Science 7 (03710)
- Bilingual Science 8 (03810)

Bilingual Social Studies

- Bilingual Ancient Civilization 6 (03620)
- Bilingual Early American History 7 (03720)
- Bilingual Modern American History (03820)

SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING

TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS OF INSTRUCTION (TPI)

Students whose first language is other than Arabic, English, or Spanish and have scored below a 4.8 overall composite on either the state mandated ACCESS test or WIDA MODEL screener also qualify for bilingual services in the form of sheltered instruction where the teacher uses ESL techniques to make the content comprehensible.

These classes utilize the general education materials and the language of instruction is primarily in English. The goal of these classes is to acquire academic literacy in content areas. Students are scheduled into these classes based on placement guidelines.

COURSES IN TPI PROGRAMMING

The following is a list of the courses offered in the sheltered program. Each class follows the standards established by the general education curriculum. Course descriptions, sequences, and grade levels can be found in the earlier sections. Students enrolled in these courses will be provided strategies for English learning to bridge the academic language of non-native English speakers. The courses will support the students to be successful in general education classes.

Students in the TPI program are required to take English as a Second Language (ESL) and English Language Arts (ELA), OR grade-level Sheltered Language Arts. These courses are designed to support students in the acquisition of academic English in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. These classes are offered as a single, two-period block.

ESL/Language Arts Classes

Students are placed into an ESL/ELA class based on their level of English proficiency.

The ESL component of the class supports students in improving their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English.

The ELA component of the class gives students the opportunity to develop their Language Arts skills and follows the Common Core standards established by the general education curriculum.

- 02110 ESL/ELA 1
- 02210 ESL/ELA 2
- 02310 ESL/ELA 3

Sheltered Language Arts

Students are placed into a Sheltered Language Arts class based on their grade level.

- Sheltered Language Arts 6 (04630)
- Sheltered Language Arts 7 (04730)
- Sheltered Language Arts 8 (04830)

Sheltered Math

- Sheltered Math 6 (04600)
- Sheltered Math 7 (04700)
- Sheltered Math 8 (04800)
- Sheltered Honors Math 8 (04206)

Sheltered Math Foundations

- Sheltered Math Foundations 6 (04110)
- Sheltered Math Foundations 7 (04210)
- Sheltered Math Foundations 8 (04310)

Sheltered Science

- Sheltered Science 6 (04610)
- Sheltered Science 7 (04710)
- Sheltered Science 8 (04810)

Sheltered Social Studies

- Sheltered Ancient Civilization 6 (04620)
- Sheltered Early American History (04720)
- Sheltered Modern American History (04820)

SPECIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING

NEWCOMER PROGRAM

The Newcomer Program is offered for English Language Learners who have recently arrived in the United States (Spanish and Arabic speakers enroll in the TBE Program). It is specifically designed for those who have very limited English skills, limited formal education, and limited literacy skills in their native language. Newcomer classes are offered in all core academic content areas. Newcomer ESL is a double block language arts course. Newcomer classes are intended to provide intensive language and content instruction as well as acculturation to prepare students to succeed in TPI courses. These students remain in the Newcomer Program for up to two full academic school years and are then placed in the TPI program.

NEWCOMER SLIFE (STUDENTS WITH LIMITED OR INTERRUPTED FORMAL EDUCATION)

It is an educational program designed to support newcomer students who have experienced significant disruptions or limitations in their formal education, often due to the factors such as migration, war, or displacement. These students typically face unique challenges, including language barriers, gaps in their academic knowledge, and adjusting to a new educational system. In the SLIFE program students can be enrolled up to 5 full academic school years to receive tailored instruction and support to help them acquire necessary language and academic skills.

NEWCOMERS CLASSES

These classes provide intensive language and content instruction as well as support student transition into the new culture.

- Newcomers Math (05200)
- Newcomers Social Studies (05300)
- Newcomers Science (05500)
- Newcomers ELA (05510)

HONORS

Students in the EL program have the opportunity to enroll in Honors classes when they meet applicable prerequisite criteria for such courses. For more information please consult the Honors course information of this guide and speak with your counselor.



CONTENT OF THIS PLANNING GUIDE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
For updated information, please visit our web page at
<https://www.rps205.com/parents/academics/middle>

Check out our blog, podcast, videos and news at <https://www.rps205.com/205VIBE>

