



Middle School Program of Studies Course Offerings (2024-2025)

6th Grade Course Offerings

Math 6

In this course, students delve into an array of mathematical concepts, including the study of ratio and rate, as well as the division of fractions by fractions. The curriculum extends their numerical comprehension to incorporate negative numbers, and students gain proficiency in the use of variables among other fundamental mathematical principles. Throughout the course, students undertake significant work to broaden their mathematical foundation, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of key concepts.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th

CATEGORY: Fulfills one year of middle school math requirement

PREREQUISITE: 5th grade Mathematics

LENGTH: 1 year

Language Art 6

In this course, students will explore the world of literature and language through a variety of engaging activities. They enhance their reading comprehension skills by delving into diverse texts, analyzing characters and plots, and identifying literary elements. Additionally, students develop their writing proficiency by crafting narratives, essays, and other forms of expressive communication, honing their ability to convey ideas effectively and creatively.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th

CATEGORY: Required

PREREQUISITE: 5th grade Language Arts

LENGTH: 1 year

Condensed Math 6/7

In this course, students delve into the study of area and surface area concepts before progressing to ratios, rates, and percentages. They develop a nuanced understanding of these concepts through various representations like number line diagrams, tape diagrams, and tables, exploring fractional and decimal representations of rational numbers. The curriculum extends to equations and expressions, including solving linear equations in one variable and basic equations with exponents, paving the way for the examination of proportional relationships with a focus on the circumference and area of a circle. Students also explore percentage concepts, touching on applications such as sales tax, tipping, and markup, and broaden their arithmetic understanding to include negative numbers. The course concludes with a brief study of data and statistics, offering students an optional opportunity to synthesize their learning through various applications.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th (accelerated)

CATEGORY: Fulfills one year of junior high math requirement

PREREQUISITE: Math 5

LENGTH: 1 year



Social Studies 6

In this course, students will explore the diverse cultures, geography, and history of different societies around the world. They learn about ancient civilizations, such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome, and gain an understanding of how these societies shaped the modern world. Additionally, students use an inquiry process to delve into basic principles of government, economics, and geography, fostering a foundation for critical thinking and a broader perspective on global interconnectedness.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th

CATEGORY: Required

PREREQUISITE: 5th grade Social Studies

LENGTH: 1 year

Science 6

In this course, students will explore the fascinating world of life science, physical science, and Earth science. They learn about the characteristics of living organisms, delve into the properties of matter and energy, and investigate Earth's processes, including weather, rocks, and ecosystems. Through hands-on experiments and engaging lessons, 6th graders develop a foundational understanding of the scientific principles that shape our natural world.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th

CATEGORY: Required

PREREQUISITE: 5th Science

LENGTH: 1 year

Physical Education (PE)

In this course, the primary objective is to equip each student with the knowledge, concepts, and skills essential for maintaining a physically active and healthy lifestyle throughout their lives. Through a diverse range of activities, the course emphasizes the development of students' gross and fine motor coordination, engaging them in individual, cooperative, and team-based endeavors. The curriculum also incorporates a focus on health-related fitness, lifetime physical activity, and health/wellness concepts, encouraging active participation in class activities to instill the belief that leading an active and dynamic life is crucial for overall well-being.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th

CATEGORY: Required

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 year

Band 6

In this course, building on experience in 5th grade band, students embark on a musical journey spanning various styles and historical periods, mastering both performance and understanding. They rehearse within regular school hours and receive weekly small group lessons. Throughout the year, the band showcases their skills through two to three public concerts and a district-wide band festival, which are mandatory for course completion. Additionally, students can audition for a spot in the jazz band, and advanced students in the third and fourth quarters have the opportunity to apply for various honor bands, further enriching their musical experience.



GRADE LEVEL: 6th
CATEGORY: Elective
PREREQUISITE: 5th grade band, Band/Orchestra 101, or consent of instructor
LENGTH: 1 Year - will alternate days with PE

Choir 6

In this course, students will engage in a predominantly treble/unchanged voice choir, where they will explore various styles and genres of vocal music, including unison, two, and three-part compositions. The class emphasizes the ongoing development of singing skills and a strong foundation in music fundamentals. Throughout the course, students will also be required to participate in public choral performances outside of regular school hours, providing a culminating experience for their study in this subject.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th
CATEGORY: Elective
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 Year, will alternate days with PE

Music Applications

In this course, students embark on an exploratory journey into the world of music, where they can introduce, review, or deepen their understanding of musical elements through group and individual projects, technology utilization, and hands-on experiences. They will gain proficiency in the fundamental aspects of music by working with acoustic guitar, keyboard, recorder, drumming, and digital music software. Additionally, students will explore various musical genres and artists through audio and video recordings and readings. This course is mandatory for those not enrolled in a year-long performance music class or who don't complete the full year of their performance music class, making it accessible to all 6th graders based on their schedules.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th
CATEGORY: Required (for students not taking Band, Choir, or Orchestra)
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Orchestra 6

In this course, building on experience in 5th grade orchestra, students explore a diverse array of music styles and historical periods, honing their musical skills. Orchestra 6 offers daily rehearsals during school hours and weekly lessons dedicated to technique improvement. Additionally, students perform at least two to three evening concerts annually and take part in district-wide festivals. For advanced students, opportunities to audition for honor orchestras become available in the third and fourth quarters, enhancing their musical journey.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th
CATEGORY: Elective
PREREQUISITE: 5th grade orchestra, Orchestra 101, or consent of instructor
LENGTH: 1 Year, will alternate days with PE



Health

In this course, students build key skills outlined in the National Health Education Standards, including analyzing influences, accessing accurate and credible resources, communicating clearly, resisting pressure using refusal and negotiation tactics, decision-making, goal setting, and self-management. This skills focus helps students build confidence, deal with pressures, and avoid or reduce risk behaviors.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th

CATEGORY: Required

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 6 Weeks

Introduction to AVID

AVID is an acronym for Advancement Via Individual Determination. In this course, students will develop the academic habits they will need to be successful in middle school. Students will learn about organization, study skills, communication, and self-advocacy. The course offers engaging activities for students to participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading to support their academic growth. Additionally, students engage in activities centered around exploring college and career opportunities and their own agency.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th

CATEGORY: Required

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 6 Weeks

Junior Achievement BizTown

JA BizTown combines in-class learning with a day-long visit to a simulated town. This popular learning experience allows elementary school students to operate banks, manage restaurants, write checks, and vote for mayor. Students are able to connect the dots between what they learn in school and the real world.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th

CATEGORY: Required

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 6 Weeks

Unlocking Your Potential

In this course, students learn the skills needed for career exploration, personal development, health and wellness, citizenship, communication, consumer choices, employability, and balancing work and family. In addition, students learn many real-world skills that they can apply in school, college, and beyond.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th

CATEGORY: Required

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 6 Weeks



World of Innovators and Makers

In this course, students learn various high-demand STEM skills. Using microcontrollers with inputs and outputs, they will develop code that brings their physical designs to life. Students will be encouraged to work in teams to solve authentic problems. Throughout the course, students will engage in project-based learning, which promotes creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork. They will be tasked with designing innovative solutions to real-world challenges, fostering an entrepreneurial mindset.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th

CATEGORY: Required

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 6 Weeks

Art

In this course, students will explore the exciting world of visual expression through various mediums and techniques. They learn to use colors, shapes, and lines to communicate their ideas and emotions, fostering creativity and self-expression. Projects may include drawing, painting, and sculpture, allowing students to develop their artistic skills while discovering the joy of creating unique and meaningful artwork.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th

CATEGORY: Required

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 6 Weeks

7th and 8th Grade Course Offerings

Language Arts

Language Arts 7

In this course, students undergo a holistic writing journey, which includes prewriting, drafting, revising, receiving peer feedback, and refining their work. Through a variety of writing tasks, such as argument essays, belief essays, personal narratives, poetry, speeches, and research papers, students explore their creative and analytical capabilities. The curriculum's ultimate goal is to significantly improve students' writing skills across a wide spectrum of genres, offering a comprehensive and skill-enhancing approach to language arts.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th

CATEGORY: Required

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 year

Literacy 7

In this course, students will gain valuable strategies to enhance their reading skills, promoting active engagement, critical thinking, and cultural awareness. The curriculum encompasses a wide array of text types, including informational, literary, and multimodal materials, enabling students to navigate diverse genres in personal and academic settings. Ultimately, this



comprehensive approach aims to nurture well-rounded readers who can effectively analyze and interpret texts in various aspects of their lives.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th
CATEGORY: Required
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 year

Language Arts 8

In this course, students will develop essential lifelong learning skills, promoting independence and collaboration, with a strong emphasis on language as a means of communication, imagination, and meaning construction. The curriculum incorporates a wide variety of activities to continuously strengthen and improve critical thinking, speaking, reading, and writing abilities. The ultimate objective is to equip students with linguistic proficiency that goes beyond academic achievement, enabling them to excel in effective communication and creative expression throughout their lifetime.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th
CATEGORY: Required
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 year

Language Arts 8 Honors

In this course, students delve into an enriched curriculum. Aligned with the regular Language Arts 8 course, the honors level demands higher performance standards and provides students the opportunity to select honors activities for each major unit. As a culmination of their efforts, students will engage in reflective portfolio assessments each trimester, showcasing their achievements in the honors components of the course.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th
CATEGORY: Fulfills Language Arts 8 requirement
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 year

Drama Workshop

(NWJH Only)

In this course, students will engage in a project-based learning experience where they will choose from a variety of drama-based learning projects throughout the trimester. This course is designed to introduce students to all aspects of theatre while providing them with tools to grow as artists, engage with peers in scene work, and create meaningful, passionate works of dramatic art.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th
CATEGORY: Elective
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 Quarter



Writers' Workshop

(NWJH & SEJH Only)

In this course, students explore their individual interests in creative and expository writing, honing both handwriting and typing skills while delving into the realm of photojournalism. Through skill-based mini-lessons, the course inspires and directs students' ideas, offering a platform for experimentation with various writing forms, encompassing both public and personal expressions. Students engage in expressing opinions, emotions, and personal experiences, while also experimenting with fictional scenarios and poetic structures.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Book Club

(NWJH Only)

Too busy to read? Can't find time in your busy schedule to enjoy the latest cool books? Then this is the class for you. Read, talk with others, read, do a project, read, book-talk, read, read, read. This class is for anyone who likes to read and reads independently. In addition to reading, students will participate in classroom activities, which may include literature circles, literary letters, book talks, and book projects.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Theater Workshop

(SEJH Only)

In this course, students actively engage in diverse performance-oriented activities designed to deepen their comprehension of drama and the theatrical arts. Through assignments that encompass both informal performances and reading/writing activities, students gain practical insights into the intricacies of dramatic expression. The course structure facilitates a hands-on approach, allowing students to actively participate in performances while honing their reading and writing skills in the context of dramatic arts.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Quarter



Math

Math 7

In this course, students advance their understanding of rates and ratios, focusing on equivalent ratios and proportional relationships. The curriculum expands their comprehension of fractions to encompass all rational numbers, fostering comfort in manipulating and comparing expressions and equations. Throughout the course, students apply these mathematical skills to solve both theoretical and real-world problems, emphasizing the practical application of their knowledge.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th

CATEGORY: Fulfills one year of junior high math requirement

PREREQUISITE: Math 6

LENGTH: 1 year

Math 8

In this course, students tackle exciting new ideas and concepts in preparation for work in high school. They extend earlier understandings of proportional relationships to study linear relationships and work with linear equations in one and two variables. Among other things, they are also introduced to the idea of functions and have their first encounter with irrational numbers.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Fulfills one year of junior high math requirement

PREREQUISITE: Math 7

LENGTH: 1 year

Condensed Math 7/8

In this course, students embark on a comprehensive exploration of mathematical concepts, starting with transformational geometry, where they delve into rigid transformations, congruence, scale drawings, dilations, and similarity. The curriculum advances to a deeper understanding of linear equations in one and two variables, equivalent expressions, and proportional relationships, leading to the study of linear relationships expressed through equations, tables, and graphs. Students extend their knowledge to systems of equations, apply linear relationships to contextual data with variability, and explore functions as a special type of relationship. The course also covers the extension of exponents to include all integers, orders of magnitude, scientific notation, and the introduction of irrational numbers, concluding with an optional unit allowing students to synthesize their learning through various applications.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th (accelerated)

CATEGORY: Fulfills one year of junior high math requirement

PREREQUISITE: Condensed Math 6/7

LENGTH: 1 year

Algebra I

In this course, students embark on their High School mathematical journey, laying the foundation for further academic pursuits. It marks the first of three mandatory courses for entry into numerous four-year colleges, with Geometry and Algebra 2 to follow. Throughout the curriculum, students develop vital skills in symbolic and graphical reasoning, focusing



on key concepts like equation writing, graphing, and solving linear and quadratic equations. This comprehensive approach, blending visual and symbolic representations, underscores the significance of reading and problem-solving in unveiling unknown variables, setting a robust groundwork for students progressing into Geometry or Geometry Honors.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th (accelerated)

CATEGORY: Fulfills one year of junior high math requirement

PREREQUISITE: Math 8

LENGTH: 1 year

Geometry Honors

This course is designed for students in the accelerated mathematics program. Topics are studied with great rigor and at a rapid pace. Geometry is the study of the properties of figures in space. It includes right-triangle trigonometry, the study of transformations, and three-dimensional geometry. Inductive and deductive thinking skills are used in problem-solving situations, including applications to the real world. Proofwriting is included, as students prove properties of geometric figures, including polygons and circles. This course will prepare students for the study of Algebra 2 Honors.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th (accelerated)

CATEGORY: Fulfills one year of junior high math requirement

PREREQUISITE: Algebra 1

LENGTH: 1 Year

Science

Science 7

In this course, students explore a comprehensive range of scientific concepts, encompassing life, physical, and earth sciences. Serving as the initial part of a two-course sequence, its primary aim is to establish a robust foundation in all scientific disciplines for every student. Utilizing diverse learning modalities, the course ensures accessibility, aligning with ICCSD standards and benchmarks to provide a well-rounded understanding of fundamental scientific principles.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th

CATEGORY: Required

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 year

Science 8

In this course, students delve into a comprehensive exploration of general science, covering essential concepts in life, physical, and earth sciences. Serving as the initial segment of a two-course series, its primary objective is to provide every student with a robust foundation across the spectrum of scientific disciplines. Employing a diverse range of learning modalities, the course prioritizes accessibility, ensuring that science is approachable for all students while meticulously aligning with the ICCSD standards and benchmarks.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Required

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 year



Earth & Space Science

In this course, students have an opportunity to investigate science and its relationship to society and the natural world through laboratories and activities. Emphasis is on the connection of earth and space science concepts to everyday interests and concerns. Topics of study will include Earth's Place in the Universe, Earth's Systems, and Earth and Human Activities. Students will be asked to behave as scientists, think, ask questions, investigate problems, and design their own experiments.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Fulfills high school science requirement

PREREQUISITE: This course can be taken concurrently with Science and Applications 2 if the student has demonstrated excellence in Science achievement and is planning to enroll in Algebra I or Geometry as an eighth grader. If a student's grade in either science course falls below a B at the end of a trimester, they will have to drop the Earth and Space Science course.

LENGTH: 1 Year

Engineering Design in STEM

In this course, students actively participate in interactive and hands-on activities aimed at honing their skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Through collaborative efforts, they navigate a series of dynamic challenges designed to foster the practical application of STEM concepts. The course emphasizes experiential learning, encouraging students to engage with STEM disciplines in an exciting and immersive manner.

GRADE LEVEL: 7-8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Science and Technology of Food

In this course, students actively participate in hands-on activities, projects, and problem-solving exercises that replicate key concepts within the food science industry. Exploring topics such as food chemistry, processing, product development, and agricultural concepts, students engage in practical simulations to deepen their understanding. The course places a strong emphasis on research and experimental design, guiding students through investigative processes to enhance their skills in the field of food science.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th-8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Social Studies

Global Studies

In this course, students examine cultures and geographic characteristics of selected world areas emphasizing interdependence, the scarcity of resources, environmental problems, different governments, and cultural diversity. The concept-focused curriculum features inquiry lessons, role-playing, simulation activities, and skill exercises to achieve the



objectives of each unit. A major goal for students in Global Studies is to understand the world as a global system, see themselves as participants in that system, and recognize the benefits, costs, rights, and responsibilities inherent in such participation.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th
CATEGORY: Required
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 year

American Studies

In this course, American Studies offers students a comprehensive exploration of American history spanning from 1600 to 1900, emphasizing the formation and evolution of the United States. The curriculum delves into the rich tapestry of the American experience, highlighting the diverse array of individuals, events, and perspectives that have shaped the nation. Through this study, students are not only expected to gain a heightened awareness of historical occurrences but also to enhance their abilities in reading, writing, listening, and analytical thinking, fostering a deeper understanding of how past events continue to impact contemporary society.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th
CATEGORY: Required
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 year

PE/Health

Team, Recreation, & Fitness Activities

In this course, students will primarily engage in team and recreational activities, complemented by fitness exercises. The emphasis is placed on fostering participation in both collaborative team endeavors and individual fitness pursuits. Throughout the curriculum, students are encouraged to actively partake in a variety of activities that contribute to their overall physical well-being and promote a balanced and active lifestyle.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th and 8th
CATEGORY: PE
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 year

Performance

In this course, students will undergo training aimed at enhancing their strength, power, agility, speed, and endurance, incorporating a multifaceted approach that includes form and technique training along with weight and agility exercises. The curriculum focuses on a comprehensive development strategy, addressing both the refinement of specific skills and the improvement of overall physical capabilities. Through this combination of training methods, students are poised to enhance their athletic performance and overall fitness.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th and 8th
CATEGORY: PE



PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 year

Fitness & Group Activities

In this course, students will primarily engage in fundamental fitness and wellness activities, supplemented by small group games and activities. The curriculum centers on cultivating basic fitness principles and fostering overall well-being, emphasizing participation in activities that contribute to physical health and personal wellness. Through a combination of fitness exercises and interactive small group games, students are encouraged to adopt a holistic approach to maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th and 8th

CATEGORY: PE

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 year

Personal Development 7 & 8 (Health)

In this course for 7th and 8th graders, the focus is on personal development and health, encompassing critical concepts related to expressing and comprehending personal thoughts, feelings, and opinions. The curriculum extends to fostering critical thinking skills across various dimensions of health, including the physical, mental, emotional, and social aspects. Students are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance their overall well-being, prevent illness, and minimize risky behaviors, empowering them to make informed and healthy decisions throughout their lives.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th and 8th

CATEGORY: 1 Quarter Required

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Art

Artistic Exploration and Discovery

In this course, students embark on an exploratory journey, delving into a diverse array of art techniques and media. They are not only encouraged to think critically and foster their creativity but also to share their ideas, explore innovative approaches, and gain a deeper appreciation for the rich cultural diversity inherent in the world of art. This course serves as a foundational stepping stone, motivating students keen on art to begin their discovery journey.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th- 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Studio Art

In this course, students are offered the opportunity to further explore concepts, and media and develop their own styles for making art. Students will spend time creating art, working in groups, and researching artists. The emphasis is on hands-on production and exploration of uses of media to create art. Students will practice refining concepts, skills, techniques, and creative expression will be emphasized. Inventive, creative, and experimental solutions will be required to fulfill assignments. This course may be repeated for credit.



GRADE LEVEL: 7th - 8th
CATEGORY: Elective
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Digital Media

In this course, students are provided an introduction to digital multimedia, covering principles and processes related to digital media and design, with a focus on production. Students will work on various multimedia projects, such as sports team posters, junior high activity promo videos, and personal identity presentations. This course may be repeated for credit.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th - 8th
CATEGORY: Elective
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Stop Motion Animation

In this course, students will be exposed to Stop Motion Animation over the course of the class. They will create their own short stop motion film. The storyline may be written in their English class, the animation will then be created in Art, and lastly, music for the animation may be composed in Music. This course may be repeated for credit.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th - 8th
CATEGORY: Elective
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Business

Computer Essentials Keyboarding

In this elective course designed for 7th and 8th graders, the primary focus is on keyboard fundamentals, with a substantial portion of the trimester dedicated to mastering the touch method of typing and enhancing speed and accuracy. Additionally, students will delve into desktop publishing, formatting, and coding during the course. Scheduled every other day, this elective provides students with valuable skills in keyboarding and related technological applications.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th and 8th
CATEGORY: Elective
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Personal Finance

In this course, students delve into the fundamental principles of personal finance, gaining invaluable insights that lay the foundation for future financial success. Through comprehensive lessons, participants learn to make informed decisions,



understand potential pitfalls such as debt, and empower themselves to achieve their long-term financial goals. Ultimately, this curriculum serves as a vital tool, equipping students with the essential money management skills necessary to navigate and secure a sound financial future.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th
CATEGORY: Elective
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Family & Consumer Science

Family Consumer Science I

In this course, students will engage in a comprehensive curriculum covering life and career skills, financial literacy, resources, food/nutrition, wellness, workplace safety, sanitation principles, human development, and relationships. The exploration of sewing and design technologies aims to provide insights into potential future career paths. Emphasizing 21st Century Skills and employability practices, the class aims to equip students with practical knowledge applicable to various aspects of personal and professional life.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th or 8th
CATEGORY: Required
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Family Consumer Science II

(NCJH & NWJH only)

In this course, emphasis is placed on developing skills to help students become more independent in their future careers and personal environments. Areas of study include housing/interior design, consumer awareness advertising, sewing and design technologies, foods and nutrition, workplace sanitation, safety principles, and regulations related to the hospitality industry. Each area uses hands-on activities to enhance the experience. This class will focus on 21st Century Skills and employability practices.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th
CATEGORY: Elective
PREREQUISITE: Family Consumer Science I
LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Food & Nutrition

In this course, students will have an opportunity to explore the science behind many food preparation principles, the food production industry, and the structure and function of all of the essential nutrients. They will prepare and learn a variety of food science skills as they apply to food preparation and human nutrition. The students provide workplace sanitation, safety principles, and regulations in relation to the hospitality industry. This course is designed for those students interested in pursuing careers in the food service industry.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th
CATEGORY: Elective



PREREQUISITE: Family Consumer Science I

LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Clothing & Design

In this course, students will study clothing and images, color, fashion trends, fabrics, figure types, wardrobe planning, housing and interior design, and apparel production. Students will design clothing on fashion flats and learn aspects of becoming a designer. Sewing and design technologies will be taught in this class. This course is recommended for students interested in fashion design or fashion merchandising careers.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: Family Consumer Science I

LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Industrial Technology

Applied Technology

This course uses the Project Lead the Way curriculum. It is a project-based course that is designed to teach students the skills they need to develop, produce, and use products and services. Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. Also, units include Career Exploration which helps with students' occupational identity, employability skills, 21st Century Skills, and technical skills by providing hands-on, experiential learning.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Required Elective (Applied Tech or Industrial Tech I)

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Industrial Technology I

In this course, students receive an introduction to woodworking techniques, tools, manufacturing processes, and workplace safety protocols. The curriculum involves hands-on learning, allowing students to build small projects in the workshop while mastering the safe use of both power and hand tools. Additionally, the course integrates units on Career Exploration, fostering students' occupational identity, employability skills, and 21st Century Skills through practical, experiential learning of technical skills.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Required Elective (Applied Tech or Industrial Tech I)

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Quarter



Industrial Technology II

In this course, students delve into the intricacies of woodworking, tools, manufacturing, and workplace safety, advancing their understanding and proficiency in these areas. The curriculum places a strong emphasis on hands-on learning, as students enhance their skills in the secure utilization of power tools and hand tools through the construction of small projects within the workshop setting. This practical approach ensures a comprehensive and experiential learning process for students interested in developing their expertise in woodworking.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: Industrial Technology 1 or consent of teacher.

LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Introduction to the World of Metalworking

In this course, students are introduced to the fascinating world of metalworking, delving into a comprehensive exploration of the diverse aspects of the field. They will gain a profound understanding of various types of metal and the essential principles guiding their manipulation. Through hands-on experience, students will master the art of working with metal, honing their skills with a diverse array of tools and techniques that empower them to shape and craft metal creations with precision and expertise.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th - 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE:

LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Flight and Space

In this course, students explore the exciting world of aerospace come alive. 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. Students learn how to fly drones and how drone technology can be used for practical applications.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th-8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE:

LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Intro to Home Handyperson Maintenance

In this course, students are equipped with the knowledge and practical skills needed for fundamental home maintenance and repairs, covering aspects like safety, tool usage, and project cost considerations. It caters to both aspiring DIY enthusiasts and those considering careers in vocational trades such as carpentry, electrical work, plumbing, and HVAC.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th-8th

CATEGORY: Elective



PREREQUISITE:
LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Information Solutions

Computer Science Discoveries

In this introductory course, students are encouraged to explore computer science as a means of fostering creativity, communication, problem-solving, and enjoyment. The curriculum includes hands-on activities such as disassembling and reassembling a personal computer, where students learn to identify and name all internal components. Additionally, students are given the opportunity to showcase their knowledge through classroom presentations about the computer, enhancing their understanding of computer science in practical and engaging ways.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th
CATEGORY: Elective
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Artificial Intelligence- Generative AI

In this course, students will use machine learning to make predictions, investigate bias in machine learning applications, and use generative AI Tools to create original works of art, to name a few. Generative AI and Machine Learning can be a solid foundation for future research or study in the field of Computer Science and AI. Students will learn to use Bard, OpenAI, Claude, and other tools effectively for research as well as learn ethics associated with using AI.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th - 8th
CATEGORY: Elective
PREREQUISITE:
LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Social Media

In this course, students learn essential social media skills, covering platforms like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn. The course also explores lesser-known platforms and demonstrates how to leverage social media effectively for personal, academic, and professional purposes, dispelling the notion that it's just for social connections and photo sharing.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th
CATEGORY: Elective
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 Quarter



Music

Band/Orchestra 101

In this course, designed specifically for students with limited prior experience in band or orchestra, participants can expect a focused one-trimester program. Meeting daily, the class emphasizes fundamental music reading and instrument-specific skills, preparing students to seamlessly integrate into their regular grade-level ensemble. By the end of the trimester, students will have the tools and knowledge needed to become valuable members of their 6th, 7th, or 8th-grade large ensemble.

GRADE LEVEL: 6th/7th/8th grade
CATEGORY: Elective
PREREQUISITE: None
LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Concert Band (7th Grade)

In this band program, students engage in a comprehensive course of study aimed at cultivating their enjoyment, appreciation, and performance of music across various styles and historical periods. Rehearsals for the Concert Band occur daily during regular school hours, accompanied by weekly small group lessons. The program includes formal public concerts each trimester and district-wide band festivals in the spring, offering students valuable performance experiences that are mandatory for the course. Additionally, students have opportunities to audition for the jazz band in the fall, and advanced students can apply or audition for various honor bands during the second and third trimesters.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th
CATEGORY: Elective
PREREQUISITE: 5th/6th grade band or consent of instructor
LENGTH: 1 Year, may be alternate days depending on the school

Symphony Band (8th Grade)

In this band program, students partake in a comprehensive course of study aimed at fostering enjoyment, appreciation, and performance of music across diverse styles and historical periods. Symphony Band rehearsals take place daily during regular school hours, complemented by weekly small group lessons. The curriculum includes a focus on marching band fundamentals during the first trimester, preparing students for performances at high school football games, and throughout the year, students engage in formal public concerts, district-wide band festivals, and optional opportunities such as auditioning for the jazz band in the fall or various honor bands in the second and third trimesters.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th
CATEGORY: Elective
PREREQUISITE: 7th Grade Band or consent of Instructor
LENGTH: 1 Year, may be Alternate Days depending on the school

Tenor-Bass Choir (7th/8th Grade)

In this course, students will explore the evolving demands of choral music, adapting to the changing voices of choral students. They will delve into various styles and forms of choral music, specifically focusing on compositions written for two and three-part harmonies. Throughout the course, students will prioritize the development of singing skills and a solid



understanding of fundamental musical principles. The culmination of their studies will be showcased through mandatory public choral performances held outside of regular school hours.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th and 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Year, may be alternate days depending on the school

Treble Choir (7th Grade)

In this course, designed for novice choral students, participants will explore a wide array of choral music styles written in two and three parts. The curriculum places a strong emphasis on honing singing abilities and mastering essential music fundamentals. As a culmination of their studies, students are expected to take part in mandatory public choral performances held outside of regular school hours.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Year, may be alternate days depending on the school

Treble Choir (8th Grade)

This course continues the study of many styles and types of choral music written in three parts. Students will work to improve vocal techniques, sight-reading skills, and music fundamentals. Required public choral performances given outside the school day are a culmination of this study.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Year, may be alternate days depending on the school

Concert Orchestra (7th Grade)

In this course, the orchestra program offers a comprehensive study designed to cultivate students' enjoyment, appreciation, and performance skills across diverse musical styles and historical periods. Specifically tailored for 7th-grade students, the daily rehearsals of the Concert Orchestra focus on delivering high-quality musical renditions in authentic styles, supported by weekly lessons during school hours to enhance technical proficiency. As part of their musical journey, students showcase their talents through required evening concerts and district-wide festivals, while advanced learners in the later trimesters can choose to audition for esteemed honor orchestras.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: 5th/6th grade orchestra or consent of instructor

LENGTH: 1 Year, may be alternate days depending on the school

Symphony Orchestra (8th Grade)

In this course, the orchestra program offers a comprehensive study aimed at fostering students' enjoyment, appreciation, and performance of music across diverse styles and historical periods. Specifically tailored for 8th-grade students, the



Symphony Orchestra engages in daily rehearsals during school hours, presenting high-quality musical pieces in authentic styles. Alongside weekly lessons to enhance technical skills, students in the Symphony Orchestra showcase their musical talents through mandatory evening concerts and district-wide festivals, with advanced learners in later trimesters having the opportunity to apply for or audition for various honor orchestras.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: 7th grade orchestra or consent of instructor

LENGTH: 1 Year, may be alternate days depending on the school

Music Technology & Electronic Instruments

In this course, which spans one trimester, students engage in daily exploratory sessions that delve into the elements of music through hands-on experiences and the integration of technology. The curriculum covers a variety of musical instruments, including acoustic guitar, keyboard, electric guitar, electric bass, trap set, and voice processor. Designed to help students identify their musical interests, whether as performers or consumers, the course emphasizes the enduring value of music in their lives.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th or 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Movie and Video Game Music

In this course, students delve into the realm of music theory and analyze the captivating compositions found in video games and movies. The class provides a historical perspective, tracing the evolution of theme music from its origins in opera to its contemporary significance in both cinema and gaming. Throughout the course, students will gain a solid understanding of musical themes, honing their skills in score analysis, and engaging with video clips and recordings. They'll also have the opportunity to apply their knowledge through projects such as crafting an original theme, dissecting a musical score, and presenting insightful reports on their findings.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th or 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Guitar Skills

In this course, students enrolled in Guitar Skills can expect to expand upon the skills acquired in Music Tech. The emphasis is placed on both acoustic and electric guitar, with a particular focus on enhancing chord proficiency and mastering a repertoire of songs. Additionally, the course places a strong emphasis on developing students' music theory skills, providing a well-rounded foundation for their musical journey.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th or 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Quarter



Rock Band 101

In this course, students will delve into the evolution of Rock and Roll, immersing themselves in dynamic learning experiences facilitated by activities, video, and audio presentations. The curriculum emphasizes hands-on engagement, offering students the opportunity to explore and master a range of instruments including acoustic guitar, keyboard, electric guitar, electric bass, and trap set. By fostering both theoretical understanding and practical skills, the course uniquely prepares students for collaborative musical expression in small-group rock bands.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: Music Tech or consent of Instructor for 8th Graders

LENGTH: 1 Quarter

World Languages

Exploratory French & Spanish

In this course, students are introduced to both French and Spanish languages, focusing on fundamental language skills, basic vocabulary, and cultural awareness. The course allows students to decide whether they want to pursue French 1 or Spanish 1 in 8th grade for high school credit after gaining exposure to both languages. Emphasis is on communication using appropriate introductory grammar and vocabulary.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Semester

French 1

In this course, students are provided with the basic foundation of language learning in the four main skill areas (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). Language is taught through a variety of everyday situations and within the context of the cultures where the language is spoken. Emphasis is on communication using appropriate grammar and vocabulary. Students participate in activities and do daily homework to develop language proficiency.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 year

Spanish 1

In this course, students are provided with the basic foundation of language learning in the four main skill areas (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). Language is taught through a variety of everyday situations and within the context of the cultures where the language is spoken. Emphasis is on communication using appropriate grammar and vocabulary. Students participate in activities and do daily homework to develop language proficiency.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Elective



PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 year

Additional Courses

Some of these Additional Courses may not be available at every school.

AVID

In this course, known as AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), students engage in a college readiness program meticulously crafted to foster the skills essential for success in higher education. Participants benefit from supplementary academic, social, and emotional support, tailored to empower them in navigating the challenges of their school's most demanding courses. Emphasizing the development of critical skills such as writing, critical thinking, teamwork, organization, and reading, students interested in the program must undergo an application process for acceptance.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th, 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Year

ELP 7 and ELP 8

ELP 7 and ELP 8 are elective courses for 7th grade or 8th grade students who have been identified to receive services from the Extended Learning Program. The class is designed for students with high academic abilities and strong motivation to exchange ideas in research and discussion formats, and may also include opportunities for project-based learning. ELP 7 and ELP 8 meet throughout the year every other day. Students will work on studies that culminate in individual projects each trimester. Students must meet the criteria for the Extended Learning Program to participate in these courses. Visit www.iowaCitySchools.org/ELP to learn more about eligibility.

GRADE LEVEL: 7th and 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: Qualify for Extended Learning Program

LENGTH: 1 semester or 1 year (Alternate Days)

Video Production

(NWJH & SEJH Only)

In this course, students eager to grasp the fundamentals of television production can enroll in this elective, where they will delve into the intricacies of planning and executing a daily news program. The curriculum spans one trimester, offering a comprehensive exploration of video production, and is accessible to all eligible eighth-graders. Beyond routine class sessions and standard course obligations, participants will actively contribute to the creation of a daily announcement show broadcast every morning.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Quarter, may be alternate days depending on the school



Leadership

(NWJH & SEJH Only)

In this course, students keen on developing leadership skills and applying them in practical scenarios are encouraged to enroll in this elective, which spans one trimester and is available to all eighth graders. A mandatory requirement for those aspiring to hold positions in the Northwest Student Congress, the class is essential for individuals aiming to contribute to the planning of school activities through committee work. In addition to the standard curriculum, students will actively engage in committee participation, collaborating on the organization of events like spirit days, parties, and special assemblies throughout the trimester.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Quarter, may be alternate days depending on the school

Volunteer

(NWJH & SEJH Only)

In this course, students will undergo training in the principles of volunteer work as part of a dedicated program. Participants will be assigned to various work sites within the school building, often involving placements in special education classrooms, where they will collaborate with a staff supervisor. This hands-on experience aims to cultivate valuable skills and contribute to the student's understanding of community service.

GRADE LEVEL: 8th

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Quarter

Additional Programs

English Language Learner Program

The English Language Learner Program offers high-quality English language instruction and support for ELs to meet academic standards through curriculum aligned to IA Core and English Language Proficiency Standards in all subject areas. Students who are not yet proficient in the English language are assessed according to state/federal guidelines and placed in language development courses as part of their general education program. Courses are offered for beginning, intermediate, and advanced English learners and provide explicit instruction in all of the language domains (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) with an emphasis on developing academic language proficiency. Sheltered content courses for ELs provide support in learning core subject matter while promoting language development.

CASL

(SEJH only)

CASL, a cross-curricular Approach to Student-driven Learning, is a cross-curricular project-based learning environment blending science, social studies, and language arts. The 7th grade model includes Language Arts 7, Global Studies, and Science 7. The 8th grade model includes Language Arts 8, American Studies, and Science 8. CASL incorporates innovative instructional strategies as well as community connections within student projects. In addition, the CASL Program incorporates the 5Cs (communication, critical thinking, connectedness, creation, and collaboration), fostering collaboration at both the student and teacher levels. The 7th and 8th grade teacher teams work together closely to provide



IOWA CITY
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Child-Centered : Future-Focused

rich cross-curricular learning opportunities for all students. CASL is a project-based learning initiative that allows students to engage in deep and meaningful learning, moving their knowledge from beyond the individual subject level to life beyond the walls of school. With both CASL programs, the grade-level teacher teams (Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts), work together to determine which standards for each subject area will be evaluated for each project-based learning activity. The teams discuss and develop the path in which they will assess students on their understanding of those standards, incorporating all three subject areas. They also develop formative assessments throughout the unit to be able to differentiate instruction to tailor lessons and activities to reach individual student needs and develop mini-lessons or activities to assist students in reaching the desired outcome for unit standards. Students will have a voice and choice in how they will show their understanding of each unit project, using the guidelines provided by the teacher teams on how their work will be assessed. The CASL program also has the freedom to manipulate the school's daily schedule to meet their needs. CASL uses three class periods as a block of time where they can choose to ignore the traditional bell schedule, as well as the class schedule, allowing the teachers to determine how best to use their time to reach desired standards and outcomes.