

CHISAGO LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOL

8th Grade Course Descriptions

Required Courses:

English / Language Arts - you will have one. These will be assigned based on teacher recommendation and data review.

- **English:** This class emphasizes the areas of literature, public speaking, and writing while developing critical thinking skills, literary analysis skills, reading strategies, grammar skills, and vocabulary skills. Students have the opportunity to apply the writing process and grammar skills to develop a more sophisticated writing style. Different genres of literature are read and analyzed.
- **Advanced English:** This class emphasizes the areas of literature, public speaking, and writing while developing critical thinking skills, literary analysis skills, reading strategies, grammar skills, and vocabulary skills. Students have the opportunity to apply the writing process and grammar skills to develop a more sophisticated writing style. Different genres of literature are read and analyzed. Students receive an advanced emphasis on reading, writing, and discussion while participating in activities based on the units of study.

Math - you will have one. These will be assigned based on teacher recommendation and data review.

- **Algebra:** This is the first course in Algebra. It will help the student to understand Algebra as a study of the structure of the system of real numbers. Topics to be covered include integers, equations, inequalities, fractions, functions, and real numbers.
- **Algebra Concepts:** This is the first course in Algebra. It will help the student to understand the basic foundations of Algebra. Topics to be covered include integers, equations, inequalities, fractions, functions, and real numbers. This course covers the same content as Algebra, but tests weekly to provide students instant feedback of their learning.
- **Advanced Algebra:** This course will cover all of the material in the regular algebra listed above and will also go into more depth and with more rigor on the standards.

Grade 8 Science : Physical Science will introduce students to phenomenon-based aspects of the physical world, focusing first on scientific inquiry (Claim, Evidence and Reasoning) then the basics of physics and chemistry. The course provides an overview of the physical world and gives students tools and concepts to better understand aspects of motion, force, momentum, work and machines, energy, waves, electricity, light, matter, atoms, molecules, chemical reactions. Students will study the structure of atoms; the elements and the Periodic Table; chemical reactions; forces, including gravitational, motion, acceleration, and mass; and energy, including light, thermal, electricity, and magnetism.

Geography: Students will explore the regions of the world using geographic information from print and electronic sources. They will analyze important trends in the modern world such as demographic change, shifting patterns, and intensified cultural interactions due to globalization. Students will participate in civic discussion on contemporary issues. Students will study historical events over the last century that have shaped the contemporary world.

PE / Music Rotation:

Physical Education: The goal of middle school Physical Education is to provide opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge of skills necessary to become a physically healthy, active, and educated person. Students will learn to appreciate and understand the value of physical activity and its relationship to a healthy active lifestyle. Students will participate in a variety of physical fitness activities in order to obtain their optimal level of physical fitness. Students will also develop the skills and knowledge necessary to participate successfully in a variety of lifetime activities and team and individual sports. PE class will emphasize improving individual fitness levels, safety, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Units include: football, soccer, tennis, pickleball, basketball, volleyball, floor hockey, badminton, fitness activities, outdoor activities, and introduction to weight training.

Select One

- **8th Grade Band:** Eighth grade Band is open to all instrumental students who have successfully completed 7th grade Band, or show appropriate proficiency through private study. Band meets every other day for the entire year. There are three concerts each year where attendance is required: One in December, one in January and one in May. Students gain skills in problem solving, teamwork, discipline, and critical thinking, as well as growing in instrumental ability.
- **Choir:** Eighth grade Choir is a performance-based class for students who are interested in learning music through singing. This class meets every other day for the entire year. There are three concerts where attendance is required: one in December, one in January, and one in May. In Choir, students gain skills in vocal technique, ensemble skills, performance technique, music foundations, and music history through the study and performance of a wide variety of choral music.
- **General Music:** General Music is a non-performance based class that meets every other day for the entire school year. There are no required concerts for this class. In this class students explore the world of music through listening, analyzing, creating, responding, and connecting.

Allied Arts - One quarter of each.

- **Health:** Students will learn the wellness approach to good health by stressing the need for balance in social, physical and mental / emotional development. This course will motivate students to improve their health, prevent disease, and avoid or reduce health-related risk behaviors. Students also get the opportunity to discuss current health issues that relate to their everyday life. Topics include: Mental/Emotional Health - stress management and suicide prevention, Drugs and Alcohol, and Sexual Choices and Consequences.

- **Computer Science-Project Lead the Way:** Studies show that the high demand for computer specialists will continue to grow by at least 20% through the year 2025³¹. In this course, students will discover the principles of this fast-growing field by focusing on creativity and an interactive design process as they create their own basic apps using MIT App Inventor. Students will also continue to work on improving their typing skills as part of the course.
- **Art:** Art plays an important role in education as a unique place to express ideas, develop higher levels of thinking, work with your hands to see a project to completion, and practice a growth mindset. In 8th Grade Art, students work with the class to plan out projects as well as learn to work intuitively. Students will make fun and engaging art projects as they explore new clay techniques, weaving/basket work, silk screening and drawing using pencil, pen and colored pencils.
- **Industrial Technology - Automation and Robotics:** Curriculum is designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. Students will use a robust robotics platform to design, build and program a solution to solve an existing problem.

Support / Intervention classes

- **Reading Decoding:** In this class, students practice decoding strategies, word attack skills, vocabulary strategies, and fluency (reading automatically and with good expression) within the context of decodable text. Students work on improving reading comprehension through the use of different comprehension strategies, and vocabulary strategies. Students learn how to answer different types of test questions, and work to improve sentence writing. Progress is monitored weekly. The goal of this class is to give students the practice they need to make progress and eventually read at grade level.
- **Language Arts Interventions:** These are tailored interventions that will be designed and delivered based on the needs of the learners. Progress is monitored and when targets are met the interventions can be adjusted.
- **Math Interventions:** These are tailored interventions that will be designed and delivered based on the needs of the learners. Progress is monitored and when targets are met the interventions can be adjusted.