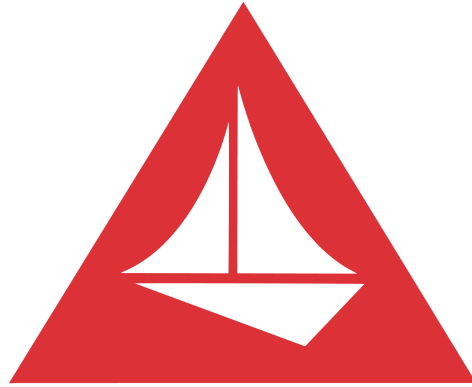


LAKE OSWEGO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Home of the Sailors



Curriculum Guide 2024-2025

2055 Wembley Park Road
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
(503) 534-2335
www.losdschools.org/loj

 **Lake Oswego School District**

Welcome to Lake Oswego Middle School!

To Students:

Welcome to Lake Oswego Middle School, home of the Sailors! We are excited to have you as our student. We offer an instructional program that emphasizes academic achievement and growth through a variety of courses. This curriculum guide has been prepared to assist you and your parents/guardians in planning your academic program. We hope that it will be helpful for you as you make your scheduling decisions.

To Parents/Guardians:

Lake Oswego Middle School has developed a program that takes into consideration the transition period from childhood to adolescence. In looking at the characteristics of middle level students, we realize that they are undergoing many intellectual, physical, social, and emotional changes at this time. Our program of instruction includes required courses in addition to elective options. We hope that this curriculum guide will be useful in helping you assist your student in making decisions about courses for the year.

Students attend Lake Oswego Middle School for three years: grades 6, 7, and 8. Students are assigned to the following required courses: Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, Science, Physical Education (PE), and Health. All students are expected to take these required classes at each grade level. Placement within required core courses is based on individual academic needs. Students also have the opportunity to choose elective courses to complete their individual schedules.

We are here to answer your questions. Feel free to reach out for assistance.

<p><u>Counseling Support:</u> Sara Vogel - 6th Grade Rone Nop - 7th Grade Carrie Trullinger - 8th Grade Danielle Barth - School Social Worker</p>	<p><u>Registrar:</u> Emily Summers</p> <p><u>Student Support Specialist:</u> Amy Espinosa</p>
<p><u>Administration:</u> Kevin Mills, Principal Alix Loeber, Assistant Principal Sally Farrell, Dean of Students</p>	

Nondiscrimination Statement

It is the policy of the Lake Oswego School Board of Education that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, religion, or age (including state and federal protected classes) in any educational programs, activities or employment.

For information on the district's discrimination complaint process go to [Public Complaint Policy](#)

For questions or concerns contact:

Dr. Donna Watson, Executive Director, Human Services and Civil Rights Coordinator

watsond@loswego.k12.or.us

2455 Country Club Road

PO Box 70

Lake Oswego, OR 97034-0070

503-534-2278

Scott Schinderle, Executive Director of Student Services and American Disabilities Act and Section 504 Coordinator

schindes@loswego.k12.or.us

2455 Country Club Road

PO Box 70

Lake Oswego, OR 97034-0070

503-534-2167

Lou Bailey, Executive Director of Secondary Programs and Title IX Coordinator

baileyl@loswego.k12.or.us

2455 Country Club Road

PO Box 70

Lake Oswego, OR 97034-0070

503-534-22305

Dr. Frank Luzaich, Executive Director of Elementary Programs

luzachf@loswego.k12.or.us

2455 Country Club Road

PO Box 70

Lake Oswego, OR 97034-0070

503-534-2122

Required Courses

6th Grade	
Language Arts	Full Year
Social Studies	Full Year
Math	Full Year
Science	Full Year
Physical Education	2 Trimesters
Health	1 Trimester
Study Skills	1 Trimester
Electives Wheel	5 Trimester-long OR 1 Year-long + 2 Trimester-long

7th and 8th Grade	
Language Arts	Full Year
Social Studies	Full Year
Math	Full Year
Science	Full Year
Physical Education	2 Trimesters
Health	1 Trimester
Electives	6 Trimester-long OR 2 Year-long OR 1 Year-long + 3 Trimester-long

Sample 6th Grade Schedule

Per	Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
1	Language Arts		
2	Social Studies		
3	Math		
4	Science		
	Lunch		
5	PE	Health	PE
6	Study Skills	Trimester-long Elective	Trimester-long Elective
7	Choir/Band/Orchestra OR 3 Trimester-long electives		

Sample 7th/8th Grade Schedule

Per	Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
1	Language Arts		
2	Social Studies		
3	Math		
4	Science		
	Lunch		
5	PE	Health	PE
6	3 Electives OR Choir/Band/Orchestra/World Language		
7	3 Electives OR Choir/Band/Orchestra/World Language		

6th Grade Electives

6th grade is an exploratory elective year where students can choose one year-long music elective and be assigned two trimester-long electives or be assigned five trimester-long electives. All electives are designed to be a broad introduction to our elective program and allow students to discover which of our elective areas they would like to pursue in 7th and 8th grades. The course offerings are listed below.

Year-long Elective Options

Beginning Band

Intermediate Band (instructor approval required)

Advanced Band (instructor approval required)

Orchestra

Intermediate Orchestra (instructor approval required)

Advanced Orchestra (instructor approval required)

Beginning Choir

Trimester-long Courses in the Elective Wheel

STEM Exploration

Drama Exploration

Art Exploration

Music Exploration

World Language Exploration

Study Skills (Required Trimester Elective)

Study Skills is a class designed to teach students the strategies necessary to become independent learners. Students will explore foundational concepts of humans as learners, goal setting, study habits, and study skills. Organizational strategies, backwards planning, note taking, flash cards, test taking strategies, and communication skills will be covered in this class. The class is designed to be fun, experiential, and collaborative.

7th and 8th Grade Electives

Year-long Elective Options

<p><u>World Language</u> French 1 French 2 Spanish 1 Spanish 2 Chinese 1 (8th grade only)</p>	<p><u>Performing Arts</u> Beginning Band Intermediate Band Advanced Band Orchestra Intermediate Orchestra Advanced Orchestra Intermediate Choir Advanced Choir</p>
---	---

Trimester-long Elective Options

<p><u>Art Electives</u> 2D Art (Drawing, Painting, and Cartooning) 3D Art (Clay, Crafts, and Sculpture) Animation Introduction to Fiber Arts Digital Photography</p>	<p><u>Science Electives</u> Gardening Extreme Engineering Space Exploration, Engineering, and Design (S.E.E.D.) STEM 2</p>
<p><u>Language Arts Electives</u> Writer's Workshop Publications</p>	<p><u>Social Studies Electives</u> Leadership Civics Speech and Debate</p>
<p><u>Performing Arts</u> Drama</p>	

Course Descriptions by Content Area



LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts includes both content and performance skills. Based upon the premise that performance skills are most effectively learned through an integrated instructional approach, our goals are to provide instruction in language and literature and to create a positive learning environment. All students are given the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential in all areas:

- to read perceptively and analytically
- to listen with understanding and openness
- to think critically and creatively
- to write with clarity and confidence
- to speak precisely and effectively

The following skills are developed and advanced at each grade level:

- Reading (independent and class texts)
- Critical thinking and comprehension
- Speaking (formal/informal discussion, speeches)
- Vocabulary
- Grammar
- Literary analysis
- Writing

The writing curriculum includes argumentative, informative, personal, and narrative modes.

Literary forms, including short stories, non-fiction, poetry, and novels, are used to teach reading and writing strategies. An integrated approach is used, with the performance skills taught, practiced, and applied in the context of the literature studied.



SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 6 (Early World Civilizations)

Sixth grade social studies examines the origin and formation of early world civilizations. Studying these cultures provides an understanding of the lasting influence and impact these civilizations had on world development. As students learn about those who have come before them, they understand more about themselves in this modern age and their connections with past human activity. Throughout this course, students will recognize patterns and themes that connect our modern world to the past. This course will integrate geography, economics and financial literacy, civics and government, and perspectives on current events.

Areas of study will include:

- Geography and Historical Thinking
- Agricultural Revolution + Mesopotamia
- Ancient Egypt
- Economics + Financial Literacy
- Ancient Greece
- Exploration + Canada
- Latin America

Social Studies 7 (World Civilizations: Eastern Hemisphere)

Seventh grade social studies examines the historical impact of civilizations from ancient times through the Renaissance in the Eastern Hemisphere. Students will focus on patterns and themes that connect our modern world to the past. This course will integrate geography, economics, religion, civics and government, and perspectives on current events.

Major areas of study will include:

- Ancient India
- Ancient and Imperial China
- The Golden Age of Japan and Feudal Japan
- The Roman Empire
- Europe in the Middle Ages and the Byzantine Empire
- Islamic Civilizations and the Culture and Kingdoms of Africa
- Europe's Renaissance

Social Studies 8 (United States History)

Eighth grade students will examine the development of the United States from pre-colonial through the Reconstruction eras. Major areas of study include the formation of the federal government, westward expansion, Antebellum era, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. Economic, geographic, political, and cultural perspectives will be provided to enhance the study of this period of American history.

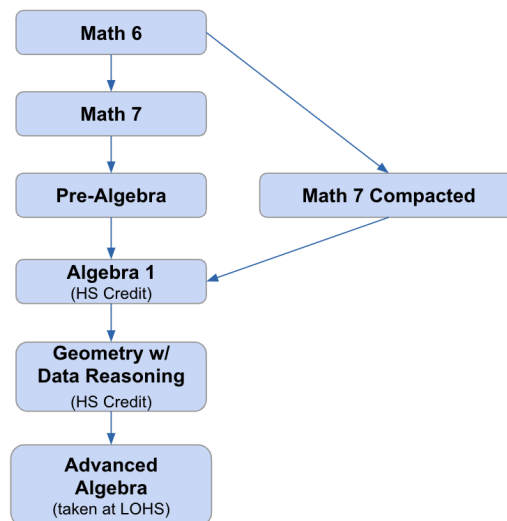
Major areas of study include:

- Precolonial/Colonial North America
- Struggle for Independence
- Creating the US Government
- Westward Expansion
- Antebellum America
- Civil War
- Reconstruction



MATHEMATICS

Mathematics provides a foundation for the learning of science and technology as well as for the interpretation of quantitative information in other subjects. All math course placements are forecasted with a recommendation from the previous year's teacher. The following is the sequence of Mathematics courses at LOMS:



Math 6

The Math 6 course addresses the needs of the middle grade math student with a variety of learning styles through concrete and visual models. Topics to be covered include various models for all of the content strands (fractions & decimals, ratios, rates, percents and introductory algebra). Students will apply mathematical theology to solve real life problems.

Math 7

The Math 7 course addresses the needs of the middle grade math student with a variety of learning styles through concrete and visual models. Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Math 7 Compacted

Math 7 Compacted (7C) will cover all of the Math 7 curriculum in two trimesters and cover the following concepts from the Pre-Algebra curriculum in the third trimester: Multi-step equations, Inequalities with a single variable, Linear Functions, Systems of Equations, Line of Best Fit & Scatter Plots, Angle Relationships, Pythagorean Theorem & Converse, and Exponent Properties. Students that successfully complete the Math 7 curriculum and Pre-Algebra content will have the opportunity to test into Algebra for the following school year.

Pre-Algebra

The Pre-Algebra course builds on mathematical experiences and addresses the needs of the middle-level student with a variety of learning styles through concrete and visual models. Students will maintain and apply computational skills and conceptual understandings of rational and irrational numbers. The following concepts will be introduced and developed: measurement, data analysis, algebra, and geometry. Students will communicate mathematically, use technology, and solve real world problems. Students will be expected to perform basic operations with rational numbers without a calculator.

Algebra (must have successfully completed Pre-Algebra or Math 7C)

This course continues the study of patterns and functions from Pre-Algebra while introducing the language and basic properties of Algebra. Students will explore linear, quadratic, polynomial, and exponential functions and will be expected to solve equations and systems of linear equations through a variety of techniques including using the quadratic formula and factoring. Connections between graphical, numerical, and symbolic representations of functions will be emphasized to build a conceptual understanding of Algebra. Successful completion of this class earns the student an elective credit at the high school.

Geometry w/Data Reasoning (must have successfully completed Algebra)

Geometry with Data Reasoning is a year-long course, fulfilling the revised Oregon standards requirement, with approximately one half of the year emphasizing Geometry and one half of the year emphasizing Data Reasoning. In Geometry, students develop a vocabulary to describe geometric objects and ideas. In addition, students learn to analyze the form of an argument, to construct their own argument, and to recognize relationships in geometric figures. Students will also determine properties of geometric figures and prove relationships between them using given information. In Data Reasoning, students formulate statistical questions

and collect data. Once data is collected, they use statistics to analyze, summarize and describe in order to answer investigative questions. Finally, students use probability models to further analyze and interpret data.

Advanced Algebra A (must have successfully completed Geometry w/Data Reasoning)

This course is an extension and application of the concepts and skills developed in Algebra and Geometry. The concept of function is emphasized. Topics to be covered include linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, polynomial and trigonometric functions. Graphical, numerical, and symbolic representations of real-life applications will be used to build a conceptual understanding of the functions studied in this course. Composition, inverses, and transformations of functions will be thoroughly explored.

(Note: After successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to take Discrete Math, AP Statistics, or Pre-Calculus. It is necessary to complete Pre-Calculus before taking AP Calculus.)



SCIENCE

Middle level science plays an important role in the K-12 experience. Middle School Science students experience a variety of life sciences, earth and space sciences, physical sciences, inquiry based learning and engineering and design.

Students learn that scientists are problem solvers. In seeking solutions to problems, scientists employ scientific methods, which insure reliability and repeatability. This approach to science instruction dictates inquiry, a lab, and demonstration-oriented curriculum since science is doing. The middle level program includes a survey of the major science disciplines while promoting student awareness and an appreciation of the product of science.

Grade 6

For many students the 6th grade year is the first year they have a year-long science program. Students are introduced to the process of scientific inquiry and apply the process as they engage in lab experiences. The topics covered include Energy, Cell Theory, Human Body Systems, Weather and Climate. The science curriculum will feature an outdoor school experience.

Grade 7

In 7th grade science, students build on the foundation established in sixth grade. The topics covered include chemistry, states of matter, ecology, cellular respiration and photosynthesis, plate tectonics and earthquakes.

Grade 8

In 8th grade science, students build on the foundation established in grade 6 & 7 and prepare for high school. Topics include forces and interactions, waves and electromagnetic radiation, energy, natural selection and adaptations, genes and development, and space systems.



PE/HEALTH

Physical Education

Physical Education at the middle level integrates both the physical and social-emotional aspects of healthy living. The physical component emphasizes participation in a variety of activities that include both individual and team sports, recreational activities and lifetime fitness. Fitness concepts and activities are incorporated daily and during all units of instruction. Attention is given to developing and practicing the fundamental skill sets within each activity prior to implementing their use in game situations. The development of positive social behaviors and teamwork skills within small and large group settings is also an integral component of the program.

Health

Health at all levels includes a comprehensive, age-appropriate curriculum which focuses on wellness in the mental/emotional, social and physical aspects of health. The importance of positive mental health, healthy interpersonal relationships (including prevention of bullying, harassment and violence), communication skills, problem-solving, goal-setting, and decision-making skills are emphasized. Units of study include the benefits of physical activity and nutrition, mental health skills, relationships with family and peers, environmental health, unintentional injury prevention, tobacco, alcohol and drug prevention/awareness, and sexual health and reproduction focusing on puberty, abstinence, and disease prevention.



YEAR-LONG ELECTIVES-WORLD LANGUAGE

French 1 and Spanish 1 (7th, 8th Grade)

Students in these courses will begin developing their language skills through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. While the teachers will make it as fun, engaging and inspiring as possible, it must be taken into account that this is a rigorous, **high school** level course that requires discipline, good study habits, and a high level of curiosity. Students will learn the material through songs, authentic text, cultural explorations, guided dialogs, creative projects, and through other activities that have been carefully developed to maximize student learning and language retention. If successfully completed, the course will earn students a full year's worth of language credit at the high school.

French 2 and Spanish 2 (must successfully complete Spanish 1 or French 1)

This course continues to develop students' language skills and cultural knowledge established during the first year. The principles and practices learned the first year are reviewed and students are expected to use them as they work on new concepts, vocabulary and increased complexity of the language structure. Students are expected to be more independent learners. If successfully completed, the course will earn students a full year's worth of language credit at the high school.

Chinese 1 (8th Grade only)

Students learn Pinyin (Mandarin Pronunciation System), basic vocabulary and grammar in Chinese. The emphasis of the course is on pronunciation, handwriting (characters), speaking and listening in a variety of practical situations of self introduction, families, hobbies, making appointments, etc. Students study many aspects of Chinese culture and start to learn to type Chinese characters. If successfully completed, the course will earn students a full year's worth of language credit at the high school.



YEAR-LONG ELECTIVES-PERFORMING ARTS

Beginning Band

Beginning band is composed of mostly 6th graders but is available to *any* student who would like to learn a band instrument. This class is designed to teach the fundamentals of performing music including individual instrument methods, music-reading, basic music theory, culture and history. Students begin the year on either flute, clarinet, trumpet or trombone, and will be given the opportunity to later audition for oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, saxophones, French horn, euphonium, tuba, and percussion. Students will perform several concerts throughout the year (some of which are outside of normal school hours), and will also have the opportunity to perform solos and in small ensembles.

Intermediate Band (must successfully complete Beginning Band)

Intermediate band is open to 7th and 8th grade students with at least one year of playing experience. This class emphasizes the continued development of each student on his or her instrument. Students will broaden their understanding of music theory, culture and history, as well as practice performing more difficult music. Intermediate Band also includes a solo and/or small ensemble component, and performs several concerts throughout the year.

Advanced Band

Advanced Band is open to 7th and 8th grade students who demonstrate a high level of musicianship and responsibility. This class is designed to challenge students with an advanced repertoire in both large and small ensemble settings. Advanced Band performs several concerts throughout the year, including a possible concert band festival in the Portland area. They will advance in music theory and continue to learn about music of different styles, historical periods and cultural contexts.

Beginning Orchestra

Beginning Orchestra is composed of mainly 6th graders and is open to students who would like to learn violin, viola, cello and double bass with no prior experience on a string instrument. Beginning Orchestra students will learn foundational posture and technique, note names of their instrument in first position, and be able to count and read music utilizing eighth notes through dotted half notes in key signatures D, G, and C major. This course is a great introduction to orchestra in the middle school setting, or for those students who wish to improve their note reading skill while strengthening foundational skills. Students in this class will also tour and perform for the elementary schools in a January field trip with the beginning band and choir students. No audition is required for this class.

Intermediate Orchestra (must successfully complete Beginning Orchestra)

Intermediate Orchestra is open to 6th through 8th grade students and is designed for students who have completed one year of Beginning Orchestra or participated in Elementary Strings. Most students in this class are in the 6th or 7th grade. All players should be able to play (and count out loud) music written with a dotted quarter note/eighth note pattern, and 16th notes in 1st position at a moderate speed, within the major key signatures of C, G, D, A, and F. Students will continue to build on the foundations of their first or second year in orchestra. Intermediate Orchestra also includes a solo and/or small ensemble component, and performs several concerts throughout the year.

Advanced Orchestra

(completion of 1-2 years of MS orchestra and teacher recommendation)

Continuing the foundations established in Beginning/Intermediate Orchestra, the curriculum will be composed of the following components: tone production, rhythm, finger patterns, bowing patterns, articulation, scales, ear training, music reading, vocabulary, music theory, and music history. Students should begin to exhibit a characteristic sound on their instrument. This class will emphasize these basic musicianship and performance skills through a study of specific orchestral literature that leads to the understanding and appreciation of music, as well as the development of performance skills. Students in Advanced Orchestra will travel to either Springfield or Bend, Oregon for an OMEA Middle School Orchestra Festival to perform for adjudicators and receive a clinic from one of our talented Oregon collegiate educators and faculty. This class is composed of mainly 7th and 8th

graders. 6th graders will need to email the teacher if they wish to join this advanced middle school class.

Beginning Choir

All 6th grade students who are interested in beginning their development of vocal techniques and musicianship are welcome. Students will develop introductory choral skills including singing in unison and two-part harmony, sight reading music, developing a foundational musical vocabulary, and singing music in a variety of languages and styles ranging from folk and classical to modern pop music. All 6th grade choir students will perform in at least three curricular concerts throughout the year and will have opportunities for solo singing.

Intermediate Choir

All 7th grade students who are interested in continuing their development of vocal techniques and musicianship, as well as 7th and 8th graders interested in taking choir for the first time, are welcome. Students will develop intermediate choral skills including singing in two- and three-part harmony, sight reading harmonic music, developing an intermediate musical vocabulary, and continuing to sing music in a variety of languages and styles ranging from folk and classical to modern pop music. All 7th grade choir students will perform in at least three curricular concerts throughout the year.

Advanced Choir (completion of at least one year of choir)

All 8th grade students who are interested in continuing their development of vocal techniques and musicianship are welcome. Students will develop advanced choral skills including singing in four-part harmony, sight reading harmonic music, developing an advanced musical vocabulary, and continuing to sing music in a variety of languages and styles ranging from folk and classical to modern pop music. All 8th grade choir students will perform in at least three curricular concerts throughout the year, have opportunities for solo singing, and end the year with an out-of-state performance trip.



TRIMESTER ELECTIVES-VISUAL ARTS

Art Exploration (6th Grade)

This art course will introduce 6th graders to the visual arts in a fun and engaging way! Students will learn how the Elements and Principles of Art help us plan and create works of art while using a wide variety of artistic mediums, tools, and techniques. Students will also learn how culture and art come together to tell a story of the people and their times.

Introduction to Fiber Arts (7th, 8th Grade)

The Introduction to Fiber Arts course is designed to introduce middle school students to the exciting world of fiber arts. In this hands-on class, students will explore various fiber art techniques, materials, and processes. They will learn to create beautiful and functional pieces of art using techniques such as sewing, weaving, macrame, and more. This course will foster creativity, problem-solving skills, and an appreciation for the rich history of fiber arts. Students will have the opportunity to work on individual and group projects, allowing them to express their unique artistic vision.

Digital Photography (7th, 8th Grade)

Digital Photography will provide students with an opportunity to learn and refine their photography and digital editing skills. Students will work with a school supplied digital bridge camera (like a DSLR without interchangeable lenses). Students will learn about camera basics, photo composition rules, lighting, digital editing and photojournalism. Students get to work collaboratively, problem solve, think critically and grow in their ability to communicate visually while capturing their world one photo at a time.

2D Art (Drawing, Painting, and other 2D Art mediums) (7th, 8th Grade)

“Every child is an artist.” ~Pablo Picasso Are you ready to release your inner artist? In this studio class, we will focus on a deeper understanding of Elements and Principles of Art in order to create our own masterpieces using more challenging materials and techniques. From drawing to collage to print making, we will study

the art and style of a few amazing artists- some you may know and some new ones. We will learn to ARTiculate our thoughts, feelings, and observations about a work. The process of creating art is exciting, fun, and full of problem solving. So, get ready to release your inner artist and amaze yourself with all of the possibilities!

3D Art (Clay, Crafts, and Sculpture) (7th, 8th Grade)

Get your hands dirty! 3-D Art dives into all things clay, crafts, and sculpture. In this class you will explore many sculpture and craft making techniques, as well as the amazing world of hand-built ceramics. You will learn the ceramic building methods of slab, pinch, coil, and glazing along with trying out other forms of sculpture. This art class is hands-on and will help you explore your creative side.

Animation (7th, 8th Grade)

Lights! Camera! Action! Get ready to work collaboratively! Students will dive into creating animations while learning the basics of lighting, framing and fabrication. Students will work with school supplied iPads and software. Students will get to explore a variety of media and tools such as felt, clay, paper and digital rendering to bring their animations to life. The animation industry is booming in Oregon. Local companies like Laika Studios, Deep Sky and Bent Image Labs hire creative people with animation degrees in this highly competitive career field.



TRIMESTER ELECTIVES-PERFORMING ARTS/MUSIC

Drama Exploration (6th Grade)

This course provides an introduction to theater, including acting technique as well as basic theatrical design. Students will learn the elements of characterization, stage movement and stage projection through exercises, games and scene study. Technical and design skills are introduced through opportunities to do a design project in the areas of costumes, lighting, sound and set design. The course stresses a balance between interpretive and technical theater skills and promotes an appreciation for theater as an art form. Students will practice scene writing as well as scene improvisation. Students will also learn about theatrical forms from other cultures and practice analyzing theater performances from a variety of aspects.

Music Exploration (6th Grade)

Music Exploration takes students through a project-based learning curriculum that focuses on music's role in our daily lives. Students will listen to music from a variety of genres and cultures, explore the music of their family heritage, learn to create music both digitally and in the classroom, and also learn about various careers within the music industry. This exploration class seeks to begin or enhance students' appreciation for music. Students who are interested in performing with a year-long ensemble after completing this course can transition into Beginning Band, Choir, or Orchestra the following school year if they desire.

Drama (7th, 8th Grade)

This course provides an introduction to theater, including acting technique as well as basic theatrical design. Students will learn the elements of characterization, stage movement and stage projection through exercises, games and scene study. Technical and design skills are introduced through opportunities to do a design project in the areas of costumes, lighting, sound and set design. The course stresses a balance between interpretive and technical theater skills and promotes an appreciation for theater as an art form. Students will practice scene writing as well as scene improvisation. Students will also learn about theatrical forms from other cultures and practice analyzing theater performances from a variety of aspects. This course is open to students who have taken Drama Exploration as 6th graders and will provide new opportunities to build upon and extend their previous learning.



TRIMESTER ELECTIVES-LANGUAGE ARTS

Writer's Workshop (7th, 8th Grade)

This class is open to anyone who is interested in writing and developing skills as a creative writer. Students will write their own stories, revise, edit, and celebrate creativity. A wide variety of prompts and techniques will be used and presented, and students will have a great deal of creative freedom.

Publications (7th, 8th Grade)

This course explores principles of digital media as an effective form of communication and self-expression. This course incorporates various aspects of publication, including news writing, photography skills, yearbook production

software, layout and design, and marketing of the yearbook. Students may take the class more than one time, in successive trimesters or across different years, and have the opportunity to display leadership skills through editor positions.



TRIMESTER ELECTIVES-SCIENCE

STEM Exploration (6th Grade)

The class is a project-based, problem solving, student-centered learning environment which incorporates personal relevance and higher-order thinking. STEM students will spend the trimester working on several projects of choice in the traditional STEM categories, and will also use digital art, design, and filmmaking tools to explore the artistic component of many STEM disciplines. Students will produce presentations that encourage communication skills and performance-based assessment in a collaborative environment. The class promotes and requires student responsibility, choice, accountability and reflection in a fun, hands-on STEM project-based curriculum.

STEM 2 (7th, 8th Grade)

STEM 2 expands on what students experienced in STEM Exploration. It builds upon the basic skills learned and takes them to a deeper and more complex level. It also widens the opportunity to explore more STEM focus areas.

Space Exploration, Engineering and Design (7th, 8th Grade) (S.E.E.D) (Rocket Science)

Students design, build, and launch a variety of rockets. Components are digitally designed and custom fabricated using our 3D printers and laser cutter. The history of rocketry as it relates to space exploration as well as the future of solar system colonization are also explored.

Gardening (7th, 8th Grade)

Horticulture is the art and practice of garden cultivation and management. In this elective you will learn about the different areas of horticulture through hands-on projects including: growing mushrooms; propagating different plants from seeds and cuttings; creating terrariums and flower arrangements; building compost and soil; designing gardens; exploring native plants and indigenous cultures; and MORE!

Extreme Engineering (7th, 8th Grade)

Extreme Engineering is an elective class for the students who are fascinated by how things work, are built, tested, and are improved. Projects may include making models, jewelry, simple machines, electronics, and creations in other media. Just as scientists and engineers often work in teams, students will work together to design and create projects.



TRIMESTER ELECTIVES-SOCIAL STUDIES

Civics (7th, 8th Grade)

This course starts with a three week study of the essential question: Why do humans need government? From there students dive into mini-units on topics such as juvenile justice and/or Tort law. Lastly, students gain hands-on experience when they take on various legal roles while conducting mock trials and reflect upon how our society resolves its disputes. This course takes a field trip to the Multnomah County Courthouse and often hosts publicly active citizens as guest speakers. This course involves critical reading and thinking, collaboration, and public speaking.

Speech and Debate (7th, 8th Grade)

Do you want to improve your confidence in public speaking? Do you want to add attributes such as inflections, hand gestures, and pacing to make your speeches sound natural and conversational? Do you want to learn the basics of debating? This speech and debate course will offer a number of speech and debate activities that will get you researching engaging topics, thinking critically, collaborating, and speaking with eloquence and persuasion. Projects include both persuasive and informative speeches and impromptu and prepared debates. You will never fear a class presentation again.

Leadership (7th, 8th Grade)

This class is designed for the student interested in developing leadership skills in a laboratory of practical school situations. This class has academic and activity components, giving students the opportunity to develop skills in organization, communication, problem solving, and group process. Students should be dependable, industrious and have established a record of good citizenship. Students are also required to participate in community service projects outside of class.



TRIMESTER ELECTIVES-WORLD LANGUAGE

World Language Exploration (6th Grade)

Students get an introduction to studying a second language, specifically Spanish and French. They will acquire basic vocabulary for talking about themselves and their families, food, travel, sports, and activities. Students will also learn about the cultures of French and Spanish speaking countries. This is a fun class with games, projects, videos, and food!



OTHER ELECTIVES

Peer Mentor (All Grades)

A Peer Mentor provides peer support for students in our Pathways Program. Responsibilities will include attending class with students who have various abilities in order to support them with their academics and promote positive social interactions. This is a trimester-long elective. Please email your counselor if you are interested in adding this class to your schedule.

Office or Library Aide (8th Grade only)

An Office or Library Aide provides light clerical support for our office or library staff. Tasks may involve shelving books, making copies, running counselor notes, etc. This is a trimester-long elective. Please email your counselor if you are interested in adding this class to your schedule.



STUDENT SUPPORT COURSES

The courses listed below are designed to provide students with support in specific areas of academic concern as the need may arise during their middle school career. A team including counselors, teachers, parents and administrators determine placement in these courses and students can move in and out of these courses based on mastery of skills or an identified need for support. Placement is based on test scores and teacher recommendation. ***Students, parents, teachers or counselors can initiate the discussion about placement in these courses as specific needs become apparent at any time throughout a school year.***

Academic Support Class

ASC is a place for students to develop academic behaviors including: self-advocacy, organization, study strategies, initiation and follow through, as well as subject-specific skills such as reading, writing and math. This class focuses on the whole student and takes into account the many academic, social, emotional, and developmental aspects of acclimatizing successfully to an academic system. ASC is flexible and designed to meet the needs of individual students, with the goal of increasing their ability to confidently meet and overcome academic challenges.

Reading Strategies

This support class is designed for students who show the need for strengthening skills in the areas of word recognition, decoding, morphology, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. Priority is given to students who have indicators of dyslexia, a dyslexia diagnosis, or other evidence indicating the need for improving basic reading skills. Students will receive one on one and small group instruction using a variety of approaches. They will learn how to use district-provided tools that increase access to and success in grade level reading and writing tasks.

The Lake Oswego School District admits students to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to all students in the schools. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, age, or disability in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, athletic programs, or in any other way.