

HORIZON MIDDLE SCHOOL

8th GRADE - COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH 8.....full year

This course covers grammar, the eight parts of speech and their usage, and composition including sentence and paragraph writing as the areas of main concern the first semester, along with drama and the short story. The second semester will include study of the novel, poetry, and the short story, and composition activities with these units. Vocabulary and spelling are an important part of both semesters' work.

EARTH SCIENCE.....full year

This course is the study of the Earth and its processes including: geology, astronomy, oceanography, meteorology, and conservation.

UNITED STATES HISTORY 8.....full year

This course covers the growth of our nation from the Revolutionary War to the present. A special emphasis is placed on the development and details of the US Constitution, citizenship and the 19th Century.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8.....1 semester (extended over the school year, rotates with Career Ed)

Physical education is a required, co-educational semester class. This course contains a variety of movement forms, concepts and principles to develop age appropriate motor skills. It emphasizes the benefits of physical activity and how to develop and maintain a health-enhancing level of fitness through individual, dual and team activities.

CAREER EDUCATION 8.....1 semester (extended over the school year, rotates with PE)

This course is designed to help the student start thinking about the world of work, decision making, goal setting and the preparation that will be needed to help you be successful in a career.

NORTH DAKOTA STUDIES 8.....1 semester

This course reviews all aspects of the state of North Dakota beginning with the early history and includes government, people, economics, current issues, geography, and special topics.

COMMUNICATIONS & COLLABORATION 8.....1 semester

Students will create unique products by determining the appropriate digital resources, tools, and formats for a specific task. They will use technology tools to communicate and collaborate, to access and evaluate information, and to create and present relevant products. Students will apply ethical behaviors and demonstrate responsible use of technology.

MATH 8.....full year

The choice for most 8th grade students, Math 8 is aligned to the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. Students write, solve and graph equations and inequalities. Exponent rules, similarity, radicals, data displays, and the Pythagorean Theorem are also studied.

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ALGEBRA I.....full year

Algebra I is a branch of mathematics that includes the use of variables to express general rules about numbers, number relationships, and operations. This is the first course in the traditional college preparatory sequence. Students in this course earn high school credit, and must have successfully completed Math 7 Accelerated.

FULL YEAR - ELECTIVE CHOICES

MATH AND/OR READING STRATEGIES1 or 2 semesters

In addition to core math and ELA classes, students may have the opportunity to take either Reading or Math Strategies. Each are full year intervention courses that are designed to meet the needs of students whose math and/or reading achievement is well below the proficient level. It is the goal of each course to provide strategic, targeted instruction to help students in reaching proficiency in math and/or reading.

AVID 8.....full year (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

AVID is an elective course which provides students with an intensive preparation for higher education. AVID focuses on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading (WICOR). Students also learn strategies in organization, note taking, and goal setting to enhance skills in preparation for college. Students participate in group tutorials, college visits, team building, service learning and research. AVID is for students who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These are students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum with support and utilize AVID to fulfill their own potential.

Enrollment in AVID requires an application, interview, and contract. If interested in AVID, please contact your counselor.

BAND 8.....full year *percussion fee School instrument (when available) rental fees

Band meets on a daily basis. Emphasis is placed on ensemble playing, music performance and music fundamentals. The band performs throughout the year at concerts and festivals. All instrumental musicians are invited to participate.

CHOIR 8.....full year

Students learn more advanced concepts of proper singing techniques and practice them daily. They are given the opportunity to prepare audition tapes for Middle School All-State Choir. Students learn basic music theory, proper performance techniques, styles of music and singing styles, various eras of music history and various composers from each era. Students are given the opportunity to sing in an all-city music festival and also participate in the All-City Choral Festival.

ORCHESTRA 8.....full year

A full year elective, orchestra is for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. String music, music reading, orchestral playing and technique are stressed. The orchestra performs at concerts and other functions.

SEMESTER - ELECTIVE CHOICES

ART 8.....1 semester

**Lab Fee*

When enrolled in this art course, students build on the basic knowledge learned in 7th grade art. They gain an appreciation for visual art through a variety of media and techniques. The elements and principles of art remain prominent, while students explore: drawing, painting, color theory, ceramics, printmaking, textiles, and multi-cultural projects. In addition, students learn fascinating facts about famous artists, art history and other cultures.

APPLYING TECHNOLOGY 8.....1 semester

**lab fee – depending on project selections*

This course provides students the opportunity to study in a module setting while introducing them to different areas of technology in 7-day rotations. The areas include Research and Design (Co2 Cars), Electronics, a Laser Engraving Machine, Energy-Power & Mechanics, Engineering Towers, Forensic Science, Small Engines, Plastics & Polymers, Practical Skills, and Tools & Machines – students can create a fine woodworking project, and use the mini-lathe to make a pen set. Students will also participate in breakout sessions: 7 days each to complete STEM problem-solving activities. Those include: egg drop crash test vehicles, safety unit, 3D architectural design, model house project, paper roller coaster, and 3D design projects using our 3D printers.

EXPLORING AGRICULTURE 8.....1 semester

This project based course is an expansion of Exploring Ag 7. Didn't take that one? No big deal. We will review the foundational material and expand upon our activities in animal production, agricultural mechanics, and natural resources. We will introduce the concepts of business management and finance through a semester-long class project. Our goal is to provide learning experiences involving agricultural activities such as experimenting, identifying, and constructing different labs. FFA and Leadership is an integral component of this class.

EXPLORING WEIGHT TRAINING 8.....1 semester

Students will begin to learn proper weight training techniques and safety rules. Programs will be provided to teach students how proper weight training can be a beneficial lifetime activity. Some aerobic activities will be included with the lifting programs. This class will also begin to explore basic human anatomy and muscle functions.

FACS 8 (FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE 8).....1 semester

2023-24

This course is designed to incorporate hands-on skills and teamwork to complete activities such as food labs. Students will practice measuring as it relates to cooking and sewing, as well as following directions to create a product. A money management unit will empower students to make smart decisions when it comes to earning a paycheck from their first jobs. ***In addition to the class fee, students will be responsible for purchasing fabric to complete a sewing project as a requirement for this class. Specific information will be sent home prior to starting the sewing unit.**

**Lab Fee*

FRENCH EXPLORATORY 8.....1 semester

French Exploratory is designed to introduce students to the French Language. The emphasis of this class is on building vocabulary. There is also some discussion on French culture. Students can also expect to learn some basic conversational exchanges.

GERMAN EXPLORATORY 8.....1 semester

German Exploratory is designed to introduce students to the German language. The emphasis of this class is on building vocabulary. There is also some discussion on German culture. Students can also expect to learn some basic conversational exchanges.

SPANISH EXPLORATORY 8.....1 semester

Spanish Exploratory is designed to introduce students to the basic grammar and word order of the Spanish language, general vocabulary and expressions, and cultural insights. In addition to daily work, quizzes and tests, students participate in listening activities, oral activities, and vocabulary-based projects.

STEM 8 (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, & MATH 8).....1 semester

This course will empower students to become innovators in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Students will follow the Engineering Design Process to create projects related to energy, robotics, computer science and more. Sample projects will use Lego Robotics, digital science sensors, and online coding platforms. Students will also explore STEM careers.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY.....1 semester

This is a course that uses Lead 2 Feed Curriculum/Leadership lessons on the website Lead2feed.org. The lessons are connected to the 21st Century Skills, 4 Cs, and support sustained inquiry/PBL projects. Students will impact the community while gaining leadership skills.